

recommendation of their Medical Officer of Health who, in his special report on the Prevention of Venereal Diseases, produces a restrained and logical argument in favour of such a policy that is most convincing.

The resolution of the Portsmouth Health and Housing Committee submitted to the Portsmouth Borough Council, which has been confirmed by them, was as follows:—

"That this Committee, having carefully considered the Medical Officer of Health's Special Report on the Prevention of Venereal Diseases approves and adopts it, and in view of the established fact that these diseases cause suffering and death to many innocent women and children, and further, realising the duty of the Health Authority to protect the health of the inhabitants urges the Council to empower the Committee at once to take the necessary steps to disseminate a knowledge of the methods of prevention indicated in the Report among the male population of the Borough, and to impress upon men their duty to the community in this matter."

Yours, &c.,

H. WANSEY BAYLY,
Hon. Sec., S.P.V.D.

143, Harley Street, W.

SHOULD WE BE TAXED TO BRING GERMAN CHILDREN TO ENGLAND?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to your correspondent's enquiry about the Government grant to relief funds for the children of Europe, the following statement was made in the House of Commons by the financial secretary on April 26th: "It is not possible to give a separate figure for the relief of children as apart from general relief, for which £12,500,000 was granted in 1919-20, and a further £10,000,000 (for Austria and Poland) is included in the Estimates for 1920-21. Grants to voluntary societies under the pound for pound scheme amount to £424,723. These societies deal primarily with the relief of children."

The enclosed list of allocations will show that famine stricken and underfed children in all countries benefit under this scheme. The permanent value of the work lies in its importance as a Child-Saving movement, which will undoubtedly result in Child Welfare Centres being established in all those areas touched by starvation, tuberculosis and "osteomalachia," from which over 1,000,000 children have already died.

Yours faithfully,

B. GILBERTSON.

7, Hogarth Hill, N.W.4.

[B. Gilbertson does not reply directly to the question of our correspondent "Mother of the Dead." She asked "if mothers bereaved in the horrible war by German and Austrian barbarity were being taxed to entertain hundreds of enemy alien children coming to England?" We gather

from the reply that bereaved English mothers with other citizens are being taxed for this purpose under the "pound for pound scheme," so far to the extent of £424,723; but we are not informed how much is being expended in the most undesirable scheme of entertaining these alien enemies in England—than which nothing can be more obnoxious to the feelings of those whose nearest and dearest have fallen in the war, or who have died of suffering and ill treatment from brutal German and Austrian barbarians. Neither does B. Gilbertson state how much is being paid for the huge campaign of advertising in the daily Press—whole and half-pages of displayed pictorial "ads" appearing constantly in quite a number of daily and weekly papers. We always doubt this enormous expenditure of presumably charitable appeal funds in advertising; it is not possible for the publications which admit them to maintain an impartial attitude.

We don't want German and Austrian children up to the age of 15 brought to this country. It certainly is a gross outrage upon the feelings of "mothers of the Dead."—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Sister Martha.—"May I suggest that all those who have been faithful registrationists as members of the Society for State Registration of Nurses and have helped to win the Nursing Acts should be entitled to wear a badge—just a bar or something like that, with the words 'State Registration' and date, inscribed in gilt letters on an enamel ground. After all we deserve some mark, considering all the opposition we have overcome." [What do the members of the Society think of this suggestion?—ED.]

Trained Nurse, Cornwall.—"I note Sir Arthur May said at the recent meeting of the Cornwall County Nursing Association that the spirit of service had vanished. If it has the County Nursing Associations have done much in the past to kill it, by under-training, underselling efficiency, and sweating. It would be well if these society associations themselves vanished, and the trained women were encouraged by fair terms of service by the Ministry of Health. We district nurses ought to be free from social patronage in these days; it is quite out of date."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS. QUESTIONS.

May 15th.—What are the symptoms of the presence of adenoids and diseased tonsils in a child? What ill results may follow their neglect?

May 29th.—Flatulence after operation; give causes and treatment.

June 5th.—What is blood? What is its composition? What causes it to clot?

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