

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Old-fashioned Sister: "There appears to be a callous spirit around, jeering at philanthropic impulses, and I do mark less tenderness and compassion in many of the nurses and probationers sent to my ward. But let me be fair. Of course, in looking back there were hard, unsympathetic women in the good old days; perhaps it is in these days I miss the Saints! I read a delightful article in the *Times* last week headed 'Compassion: Works of Mercy' (I wish the modern nurse read good stuff.) To quote a bit:—

"There are many ways in which men deal with what is called the problem of pain. It is best approached by unaffected response to the impulse of sympathy which the sight of suffering evokes in our hearts. Then it will be found that it is through the sorrows of the world that the purest joys are found, not only in the relief which comes to the sufferer, but also in the fullness of life attained by those who render him the service of their works of mercy. It is in this service that we learn best how the world is kept by sorrow from falling into corruption, and how the presence of pain brings its own moral strength to humanity. Blake's poem, 'The Two Songs,' expresses this fact with the weird force of his strange genius. —

I heard an Angel singing
When the day was springing;
"Mercy, pity, and peace
Are the world's release."
So he sang all day
Over the new-mown hay,
Till the sun went down,
And haycocks looked brown.

I heard a devil curse
Over the heath and furze;
"Mercy could be no more
If there were nobody poor,
And pity could no more be
If all were happy as ye;
And mutual fear brings peace.
Misery's increase
Are mercy, pity, peace."
At his curse the sun went down
And the heavens gave a frown."

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

Miss J. B. N. Paterson, West Kilbride, N.B.: "Re the suggested formation of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, is it suggested that this Council limits its activities to England, or is it prepared to act in Scotland and have Scottish Council members? The long distance will, of course, be a trouble, and the chance of being in the minority, and Scottish people 'aye regard thae English wi' suspecion,' and not without cause! (not so far as the bawbees are concerned.—ED.) The idea seems good, yet the P.U.T.N. seems fairly on the watch up here. I should like to hear other nurses' views on this project. And the subscription—another guinea! Nurses are not made of them, and why should 10s. 6d. be devoted to the subscription to the JOURNAL when at present we pay 6s. 6d.? The Political Enfranchisement of

Nurses and Rank for Service Nurses have my warmest support."

[As we announced in the report of the recent meeting when the "Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council" was formed, membership will be open to Registered Nurses and no restriction as to locality is contemplated. Thus every nurse, male and female, registered by the Nursing Councils of England, Scotland or Ireland will be eligible to join. But it is not contemplated for the future that a few nurses shall sacrifice their entire time and pay the cost of protecting the whole profession. Now that Nursing is a Profession it must rise to a certain degree of dignity, and no longer be content to be *done for*. Each member should pay a moderate fee for advancement and protection. This is a lesson registered nurses must learn. Self-support means self-government, and there is no chance of either without a free organ in the Press. The subsidised Press is the bought Press, always commanded by the employer, and the workers' journals for the future must aim at meeting the huge cost of production; this they can do by a little self-sacrifice. We are glad to know that Political Enfranchisement and Rank for Service Nurses have Miss Paterson's warm approval. We hope she will open up the demand for them in Scotland. Parliamentary propaganda needs much time, special gifts of persuasion and experience; that is our reason for advocating a Parliamentary Council. It is also costly, and that is the reason why all must share the burden. Be sure that cadging means economic servitude, and that it is only advocated by those opposed to individual independence. All information *re* the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council will soon be obtainable from the Hon. Sec., 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.—ED.]

DEMORALISING AND BARBAROUS.

Miss G. Simpson, Nottingham.—"Can you do anything to prevent the right of schoolmasters to thrash (caning they call it) school girls? It is most demoralising and barbarous. I know a case in which a girl of thirteen, suffering with violent headache at a certain period, was thus molested. It has apparently had a very disastrous effect upon her temper. Formerly a bright, mischievous child, she now suffers from fits of morose rage, and cannot forget the degradation. Her mother is most anxious about her. 'Some of these days she'll do him an injury,' is what she fears. You cannot *beat* sense into girls, but they usually respond to personal sympathy."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

July 3rd.—What are the causes of swelling of the legs (1) during pregnancy, (2) after labour? How would you deal with such cases?

July 10th.—What do you understand by anti-typhoid inoculation? What is its value? Mention the principal abdominal complications of enteric fever, and state how they should be treated?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)