

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

PRE-NATAL MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Maternity nurses will be much interested in Dr. Albert Westland's teaching concerning pre-natal maternal impressions on the offspring, especially as certain scientists now tend to regard these as wholly imaginary. There is, however, another equally important aspect of the matter, well known to deep students of sidereal philosophy, namely, that the mother to a great extent thinks and feels in terms of the incoming life. This mutual interchange of influence is continuous, and may be clearly traced in the subsequent birth horoscope of the child. Some valuable discoveries in this connection have been made by medical men. All experienced nurses know how the mother's mental and physical state varies, in large families, with each coming child. I have myself thoroughly investigated this in the case of a family of seventeen children, and the results are conclusively in favour of the theory.

This fact should considerably temper criticism of the mother's conduct during pregnancy. At the same time it doubles the demand for self-control on her part.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
M. M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I offer my heartfelt gratitude, firstly, to yourself for your kindest suggestion re the year's subscription for my copy of the *B.J.N.*, and secondly to the kind Sister who generously responded to your suggestion. Her gift will ensure her a weekly blessing from me which cannot fail to reach her.

I should indeed miss the *Journal* terribly. It gives me an outlook on life which I value greatly and have not found in any other journal. It is my intention to leave my complete file of the *B.J.N.*, bound and indexed, to some nurse-training school when my task on this plane is finished. As a work of reference it will prove invaluable to future generations of nurses.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours very gratefully,
EXTERNALLY INCARCERATED.

[Five readers kindly responded to our appeal on behalf of our appreciative reader: we feel sure she will wish us to return thanks to all these generous friends.—E.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

TO KEEP HER MEMORY GREEN.

Member Bart's League.—"It is nice to think that every year something will be done by the Committee of the Isla Stewart Memorial Fund to keep her memory green. When the new Nurses' Home is in existence, and the Memorial Library in use, I vote for a gift of beautifully bound books; and a Founder's Chair, as you suggest, would be a very suitable reminder to her successors to emulate her liberal methods of conducting business, but at present we have nowhere to place it."

EXPLOITATION.

A Nurse Economist.—"On all sides nurses are exploited for the benefit of the laity. Take what is known as the "Nursing Press." The majority of these publications are run by companies, and edited by lay people, who dictate to us on professional affairs they do not understand, and make a good living out of us at the same time. It is the same with most of the higher executive positions in our so-called nurses', midwives', and masseuses' societies. We are always being patronised and our policy controlled by someone who is not a member of the professions. Men's organisations do not tolerate this form of exploitation. Why should we?"

THINK OF WAINWRIGHT.

An Old Londoner.—"I read with very great pleasure the progress being made at the London Hospital. When I was a Sister forty years ago, my salary was £32 annually for a ward of upwards of 50 beds, out of which I had to pay for extra washing, some of my food (we had dinner, 1 pint of milk, and a small loaf of bread daily), aprons, and having the horrid Russian cord uniform dresses made up. I was on duty 11 hours daily according to contract, but more often I did 13 hours. And all the time I was very happy. Thanks to the Jews the markets in Whitechapel were first-class—the best of fruit, butter, eggs, fish and poultry—no adulterated stuff for them. A blow by the river, or on the top of a tram, kept one in health. West-enders did not "slum" much in those days, one of my best friends remarking, "I daren't come and see you, think of Wainwright," as if all the denizens of Whitechapel were murderers! The truth was the poor in the district (other than foreigners) were delightful, breezy people—many sea-faring folks and gratitude itself."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

April 30th.—What congenital defects may be present in newly-born infants and how are they usually treated? What are the toxæmias of infancy, and what are their causes?

May 7th.—How would you care for a patient before, during, and after anaesthesia?

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