

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.

"EXPERIENCE IN A FREE STATE."

A REPLY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There can be no question about the wrong of neglecting to care for a sick or wounded person; there are, however, circumstances attending the arrest and subsequent treatment of the Hon. Albina Brodrick, that I beg you will, with your usual impartiality, allow me to state.

Miss Brodrick proclaims herself "a Republican Nurse." As the form of Government in Ireland is not a Republic, it is the same thing as saying she is a rebel against the Free State Government, established by Act of Parliament.

As there is now civil war in that unhappy country, it is but natural that sentries of the Free State Army should perform their duties, and call upon persons to halt, if they have any suspicions of their honest intentions. According to one report, your correspondent was called upon to "halt" two or three times before she was fired upon; had she been wise, she would have obeyed instantly; by not doing so, she asked for trouble. I doubt very much if she would have been molested at all, *in respect of her mission to the sick*, if she had quietly and quickly surrendered to the command. Miss Brodrick's letter is full of self-pity; has she none for all those unhappy people whose houses have been burnt to the ground, all those who—*unarmed*—have been brutally murdered, all the women who have been outraged by the men of the party to which she belongs? People whose only offence has been loyalty to England.

The following figures are from a reliable source:—Private residences burned, or otherwise destroyed, between the date of the Treaty (December 6th, 1921), and the Establishment of the Free State (December 6th, 1922), 89. From the latter date until March 22nd, 1923, 103. Total burnings, 192. There have been others since.

There is a large number of Irish refugees in England to-day who have been rendered homeless and destitute by the self-styled "Republicans." In plain unvarnished truth—*cruel, ruthless murderers and destroyers*. I ask again, Madam, has the "Republican Nurse" no pity for all this *exquisite suffering of persons who have done no harm to any one*, and compared with which, her own misfortunes are trifling? Lest I should be accused of one-sidedness, or imperfect knowledge, I will say at once, that I obtain my information from an impartial source—an authority which holds no brief, either for the Free State Government or for the "Republicans."

I know (who does not?) that crimes have been committed by both parties; crimes can never be

justified. My point is, that seeing the Free State Government has been by law established, rebellion against it is folly of the worst description. I have just been speaking to a lady lately arrived from Ireland, who tells me she has often been called upon to "halt," and she has never failed to do so.

BEATRICE KENT.

[We admit Miss Kent's letter—in proof of impartiality, but no further correspondence which involves discussion of Irish politics apart from nursing affairs will be published—as the Party which to-day supports Constitutional Government were in the rebel camp a few years ago. Our object in publishing Miss Brodrick's letter was to emphasise our sympathy with the humane care of sick prisoners; and we hope those members of the Irish Free State Government, who have read it, will take steps in due course to improve prison infirmary conditions in Ireland. They have long called for reform. At present in all women's prisons there were men governors, deputy governors and male medical officers; further, there were no women inspectors of prisons, nor are there any women prison commissioners. Those who agree with us that such conditions are unsatisfactory should call upon the Government to appoint women to all these positions.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A SURE THING.

Three Years' Cert.—"It is interesting to note that of the five candidates for the position of Interviewing Officer at the G.N.C. office, all the candidates held a three years' certificate of training excepting the lady selected, whose certificate covered a period of two years' training only. If the Council can ignore professional standards, trust it to do so."

WHERE TO REGISTER.

Apply for Application Form to the Registrar:—
ENGLAND AND WALES—12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

SCOTLAND—13, Melville Street, Edinburgh.

IRISH FREE STATE—33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

NORTHERN IRELAND—118, Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Forms should be carefully filled in and the names given for references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

June 9th.—What are the principal causes of nutritional disturbances in the breast-fed infant, and what measures are taken to overcome them?

June 16th.—What is Insulin? How is it produced? How does it affect diabetes?

June 23rd.—Describe the method of administering pituitrin, and any case in which you have seen it prescribed.

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