

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.

ANOTHER SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—On hearing of Miss Beatrice Kent's visits to the Communist Sunday Schools, I came to the conclusion that to sit by my fireside on Sunday afternoons, and leave one brave woman "to carry on alone" was unthinkable, so I offered my services as her aide-de-camp, when she sallied forth on her next expedition, on the following Sunday.

Our destination was a certain bye street off Lisson Grove. Having arrived too early, we decided to go and rest in a very forlorn-looking barrack of a Church in a gloomy street close at hand.

The church was empty, but an elderly man appearing at the vestry door, I went forward and explained to him the reason of our visit to his neighbourhood and to his church.

Imagine our joy when he told us that, owing to the vigorous and persistent efforts of one man, that Communist Sunday School had been closed.

He added, with pride in his voice: "The man who accomplished this is a Borough Councillor and a Roman Catholic."

Whilst speaking, a number of nice-looking, merry boys from the streets trooped in, and were greeted with a kindly smile.

"My Bible-class boys," he informed me. So, thanking him warmly for all the information he had given us, we silently left the church, thanking God that there are men still to be found in Old England who love the Faith, and are ready to fight for its defence, and to save the children of the Empire from moral corruption.

ANNIE E. HULME.

SECOND SIGHT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to apparitions, may I point out that a human apparition generally wants help in some form. The teaching of the highest authorities on the subject is that the manifestation should be regarded as an opportunity for service to a fellow-creature, and a privilege for us. The right attitude is to ask kindly and calmly what we can do for him.

He may maintain materialisation with difficulty, and have not a moment to spare. He may even disappear, but will remain near and hear what is said to him. If he cannot speak he may be able to express himself by a simple code of signals such as raps, if this is arranged for him. Failing that, we may assure him that we will be at his service on his own plane when we fall asleep at night so that he can easily explain what he wants from us.

Many souls on the astral plane are earth-bound by anxiety over some matter which could be put right by a friend in the physical body. There is on record the well-authenticated case of a Roman priest who haunted the scene of his anxiety for eighty years before he could find someone who had the sense to ask him what he wanted, and to offer his help.

It is an interesting commentary on our belief in immortality and the communion of saints, that, directly we have proof of this, most of us are terrified and run away!

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

THE AGE OF RICKETS IN EUROPE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder if any of your readers can give an earlier date than the later Bronze Age [1,000 to 500 B.C.] for the incidence of rickets in Europe?

In the current number of the *Antiquaries' Journal* there is an account of the finding of an ancient clay beaker and a skull in a stone cist at Gellygaer, Glamorgan.

The skull is described by experts as being that of a rachitic child, probably a boy, aged about three. Not only are typical "Parrot's nodes" present, but areas of inflammatory bone are found on the hinder part of the skull. Also an unerupted upper lateral incisor tooth showed constrictions in two places due to an attack about six months of age, and another one at a year.

The question arises, was rickets in the Bronze Age caused by malnutrition, overcrowding, or a damp sunless atmosphere? Clearly, we cannot, in face of this evidence of rickets among primitive men, lay the blame for rachitis on our modern civilisation alone.

Yours faithfully,

G. FIRTH SCOTT.

KERNELS 'FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"THOUGHTS ON THOUGHTS.

E. E. P., Reigate.—"The article headed as above interested me greatly, and I felt so pleased to find one of my pet plans put forward, which I have never mentioned to anyone, but merely done: that is storing up things and scenes to think of. I am much alone; and I have a big read, so that when I am sitting hours at work, I have something to think of, apart from myself. And I go miles, and see so much in my worktime. It seems dreadful to see so many people so wrapped up in themselves, that they have no interest in anything else. The worst is, these are the ones least worth thinking about! Books, Pictures, Nature—what am I to come first!"

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

February 10th.—What do you know of the after-care and treatment of infantile paralysis?

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