

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.

NATIONAL MILK CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see in last week's Journal that the National Clean Milk Society has convened a National Milk Conference, to be held in London in November. A variety of interesting and important subjects are put down for discussion, but there is a very important one which I do not see mentioned, and which might with advantage be discussed. I refer to clean cans, for it is obvious that however great and scrupulous care may be taken to keep the milk supply clean, if it travels from country to town in cans which are not above suspicion such care is unavailing. From information given to me when staying with friends in a pastoral county, who are in a position to know, many milk cans are not only not above suspicion, but are in a condition which renders them a danger to the community.

I understand that frequently no attempt is made to cleanse cans before they are returned, and consequently they arrive with decomposed milk clinging to them, and in a condition, in short, in which it is almost impossible to render them really sterile. If only some plain cold water were put into them they would not, it is pointed out, be so bad. As it is they are in a highly dangerous condition.

May not this condition account for some of the cases of what is known as "epidemic diarrhoea" when the milk supply is not above suspicion? It is easy to understand that milk may quickly become tainted during a long and hot journey if the cans in which it is contained are not immaculately clean, and arrives at its destination in a really dangerous condition. No amount of bottling in sealed glass bottles will then avail.

I commend this point to the National Clean Milk Society. It is so important that it might well be the subject of legislation. Perhaps one of our women M.P.s would take a hand.

So far as the infantile population is concerned it affords just one more lesson as to the supreme importance of breast-feeding and the resulting avoidance of the dangers which beset our babies from contaminated milk.

Yours faithfully,
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Mother of Probationer.—"My daughter, who is in training in one of the leading general hospitals, and very happy in her work, writes how difficult it appears to secure the right type of girl for training, and how the probationers come and go.

In this district many of the likely girls are throwing themselves heart and soul into the Girl Guide movement; they love the variety, jaunts, uniform, and authority. Girls in their teens become officers and have no real drudgery. I have spoken to several about the shortage of probationers; but nursing, with its long and arduous probation, does not appeal to them at all. The fact, that the Girl Guides, like the V.A.D., is a Society movement, has very great influence with those on the fringes of Society. Snobbish, but a fact."

Matron writes: "What is wrong with nursing? I know that the discipline and regularity of the training is distasteful to many modern girls; but those who have persevered and obtained their certificates write over and over again, 'I am giving up nursing.' The popular alternative seems to be poultry farming. Of course, after a time that too may pall. On the face of it, it seems that the income to be made from poultry farming is negligible to that which can be secured by practising nursing, even if the old proverb, 'Cobbler, stick to thy last,' were not a very sound one, and worthy of observation."

REGISTRATION OF INTERMEDIATE NURSES.

The only Nurses who are now eligible for registration are what are termed Intermediate Nurses—those who have completed their three years' training and been awarded a Certificate since November 1st, 1919. The term of two years' grace for Existing Nurses has terminated.

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.

September 1st.—Describe the daily care which should be given to the feet to keep them in good condition, and the principal indications for consulting (1) a chiropodist, (2) a medical practitioner.

September 8th.—What are the causes of malnutrition, its effects, and some of the remedies?

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