

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.

NURSING OF EYE DISEASES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It would appear that ophthalmic nursing is not sufficiently taught in our nursing schools. In interviewing applicants for a private staff three out of five had had no practical experience of nursing eye cases. How can this be remedied?

Yours sincerely,
MATRON OF OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Acorns.

F.B.C.N. writes: "Every year since 1927 I have planted a B.C.N. acorn. Are the Ribbons ready yet? If so I should like one?"

[We regret to reply that the Ribbons are not ready yet, we have some difficulty about the design. As soon as the holidays are over, it is hoped the Council, B.C.N., will again consider patterns.—ED.]

The State Uniform.

S.R.N. writes: "I note the General Nursing Council has been making alterations in the Nurses' State Uniform. Let us hope they will improve it. Personally, I consider it very dowdy, and it is only with very great expense that it can be made to look decent. Apparently it would take a regiment of inspectors to enforce the rules, and as worn by the majority of nurses it is no uniform at all. I regret our neat cloaks and little bonnets, in which we really looked like Nurses, and not like Girl Guides and Ambulance Workers."

Even the Waiters Enjoyed the Dinner.

A Sister Tutor writes: "The Annual Dinner of the British College of Nurses, held at the Monico Restaurant, was the most delightful dinner I have ever attended, and it is quoting the words of many when I say 'I loved every moment of it.' We all thank Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and those who helped her in her untiring efforts to get such interesting and distinguished guests, and in the organising of such a delightful meal.

It speaks well, when we hear even the waiters enjoyed the dinner immensely and stopped one of our members to tell her what a unique and delightful party it had been, and I am sure all will agree the Toast-master entered into everything.

We certainly shall look forward to another dinner with great pleasure."

Echoes of the International Congress of Nurses in Montreal.

Miss Isabel M. MacIntosh, R.N., Chairman of the Private Duty Section of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, who was deeply impressed with the far-reaching effects of the I.C.N. Congress in Montreal, in July, 1929, writes:—

"What a world and wealth of meaning lies in the realisation of having been present at the International Congress of Nurses in Montreal.

One has to live through a Congress of this magnitude to understand the power of it. How intense was the excitement of the moment when our President first rose to address us, and how great was the inspiration of her message as it unfolded. It but presaged the elevating

influence of interdependence recognised throughout the entire programme, reaching a climax at the closing session, when renewed pledges of loyalty and conviction betokened peace for the world.

On the Walls of Memory hangs a new picture—a masterpiece, which time can never efface. Being one of the last members to leave the Forum, I turned at the door for the purpose of recording a lasting impression. In that immense auditorium that had welcomed seven thousand nurses—representatives from all the Continents bordering on the Seven Seas—there were ringing 'echoes of international harmony and peace' resounding from that triumphant Conclusion of Farewells.

Over that vast darkening space, enriched as it was by the multicoloured drapery of the flags of all nations and the gay profusion of flowers, there brooded the spirit of Jeanne Mance, who lighted the torch of nursing care for the inhabitants of the New World. It is a far call across the centuries from her day of small beginnings to the World Congress in Montreal. Small wonder if her spirit was bewildered by the increasing power of the service she honoured.

The joy of personal meetings did not end in Montreal. Five days later, the nurses of Hamilton and St. Catherine's were honoured by a visit from Miss Breay. It was all too brief, nevertheless there was time to pay public tribute to one whose life is an inspiration to the nurses of every nation.

Our gratitude was increased by her visit to the Mack Training School in St. Catherine's, the oldest training school for nurses in Canada. As a fitting climax, there was time for a view of Niagara Falls in the soft glow of the late afternoon's sunshine, then once again the sadness of farewells. We cannot stay on the mountain peaks; we must live in the valleys."

[The unexpected happiness of meeting the leading members of the Nursing Profession of Hamilton, in their own city, their kindness, comradeship and hospitality, is an in-effaceable memory.—M. B.]

The Maternal Death Rate.

Certified Midwife writes: "What can we midwives do to help to decrease the maternal death-rate?"

I think a Conference to consider the question might help."

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

Is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; The British College of Nurses; The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland; The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, and the Registered Nurses' Association. The Official Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is incorporated in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Apply, Manager, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

NOTICE.

As the present issue is a somewhat popular one of the JOURNAL, will those who wish for extra copies notify the Manager, B.J.N. Office, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, without delay. Price 7d. a copy.

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR SEPTEMBER.

What is the importance of examining the urine? Enumerate the common, abnormal constituents, and the conditions in which they occur. Give the nursing care of a patient suffering from one of these conditions.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)