

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.

A DOUBLE STANDARD OF MORALITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I have not answered the few letters I have noticed in the Press criticising my speech on divorce in the Church Assembly. But I will make an exception of your correspondent, "Anglo-Catholic Nurse," as her letter is so evidently written in good faith.

I do not gather that she questions the truth of my specific statements as to the inequality of men and women with regard to sexual morality—and, indeed, who could?—but she places an interpretation of her own upon them, an interpretation very far from my meaning, and then proceeds to criticise this interpretation. Who spoke of "a double standard of morality"? Will it content your correspondent if I say that adultery and fornication are deadly sins, whether committed by men or women? As to the measure of guilt attached to any particular act, that is for God to judge, not for us.

With regard to divorce, I believe, following the rules of the Church of England, that marriage is indissoluble, and consequently any fresh alliance during the lifetime of either party sinful. No Act of Parliament can repeal a divine law. Why, therefore, should I welcome the Act of 1915? If the rich sin why should we offer facilities to the poor to sin too? I am not going to argue here in defence of the Church's marriage law, but simply to state my own position.

As your correspondent is a lady may I conclude with a compliment to her sex, that the glory of the woman lies not in her physical and mental strength but in her modesty and chastity? A normal woman shrinks naturally from all contact with impurity; I wish I could say the same of men. But we are as God made us and to be good we need His merciful and all-powerful grace.

ATHELSTAN RILEY.

Manoir de la Trinité, Jersey.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Ellen A. Jones, Kensington, writes: "I was extremely interested to read the account in the B.J.N. of your visit to Hughenden Manor. I was one of the fortunate members of a Primrose League Delegation who were invited to the Manor House on Primrose Day, and both Mr. and Mrs. Disraeli were most kind in opening out the whole of the house to us, and entertained us royally, and we were shown all the State robes of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, and all the many gifts, etc., from Queen Victoria, and were told many amusing incidents. Lord Titchfield was our Chancellor, so went with us as our guest of honour, and Miss Diana Churchill made her maiden speech on the Terrace after tea; altogether it was a very pleasant day, and the reading of your interesting article, so vividly expressed, brought it back to my mind. Every Habitation represented took a wreath, so the grave, and indeed the whole churchyard looked like a beautiful garden, as we (quoting your words) "followed the uphill path" towards the Manor. We had luncheon on our way at the Red Lion Hotel, from the porch of which Disraeli made his maiden speech. It was my privilege to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Disraeli, the present owner of Hughenden, at the request of our Secretary, Sir Reginald Bennett, which I did with great pleasure. So you will understand, on returning from my

holiday, how your article and photographs attracted my attention at once, and recalled the memorable occasion with pleasure."

A *Private Nurse* writes: "It has come at last. I wondered how long American trained nurses would remain inarticulate concerning the competition of foreign nurses from Canada and Great Britain. Of my own personal friends upwards of a dozen nurses have gone to work in the States during the past year, and now the Board of Directors of the American Nurses' Association has notified the nurses of the world that there is great unemployment amongst nurses in the United States. Of late years Canada, South Africa and Australia find that they can supply their own nursing needs and do not require us, unless just here and there to fill certain positions such as Sister-Tutor. We constantly hear of the difficulty of getting well-educated girls to train as nurses in England, and in many Mental Hospitals foreigners are being trained. The fact is there is a great scarcity of well-paid administrative positions for Registered Nurses, and private nursing work is growing less and less every day. How about the future? Well-educated girls will not enter a profession where promotion is so slow, and, if the 'adventurers' in our ranks are no longer needed overseas, the future appears very uninspiring."

From Miss D. A. Turner, F.B.C.N., Palwal, India: "I greatly enjoy THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and follow the progress of the College with great interest. . . . I always try to point out the advantages of a College controlled by Nurses and run for Nurses to those of the profession whom I meet out here."

From Miss Healey, F.B.C.N., Bolton: "I hope the General Meeting and Annual Dinner were a great success. We Fellows and Members residing in the North are so far away it is somewhat difficult to avail ourselves of the pleasure of attending, and must content ourselves with the report in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which is always pleasant reading."

Miss Mary Roberts, Editor of *The American Journal of Nursing*, writes: "Miss Clayton's death was a dreadful blow to all of us. I know you would have been interested could you have observed, as we did, to see how the spirit of that great woman continued to function through our great Biennial even though the visible presence was not here. Many of us had dreaded that week but it proved to be one of the most productive Biennials we ever held."

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.

We regret we are unable to award a prize this month. Competitors are advised to study the question carefully. One otherwise admirable paper was disqualified because the writer omitted to answer the first part of the question.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

Describe in detail the nursing care and general management of a child of six years who has been severely burnt on the neck and chest, from the moment of the accident to the end of convalescence.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)