

## 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.*

## TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the September issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, in the section entitled "Outside the Gates," there is a paragraph on the League of Nations, in which the following words occur:—" . . . as British women are equally taxed with men to support its *very costly deliberations* . . ."

May I mention the following facts, which possibly may not be known to some of your readers?

The world spends on armaments about £720,000,000 a year. The whole cost of the League of Nations, including the International Labour Office and the Permanent Court of International Justice, is £1,128,410. Great Britain's share of this total is £114,000, or about one-tenth of a farthing out of every pound that the Englishman pays in taxes.

Can this contribution to World Peace and World Organisation be thought "costly," when the following facts are borne in mind:—

The British Navy's annual stationary and printing bill is £200,000, nearly *twice* Britain's contribution to the League.

One battleship costs between £6,000,000 and £8,000,000.

The Great War is estimated to have cost the world £50,000,000,000.

In conclusion, the amount contributed annually by Great Britain to the League is less than the interest on the £2,000,000 which Great Britain lent to bankrupt Austria in 1922, and which the League's rescue of that country has now changed from a bad debt into a first-class security.

Yours faithfully,

R. COLLES, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

99, Ennerdale Road,  
Richmond.

[The paragraph to which our correspondent alludes, appeared on page 249 of our last issue. The pith of the paragraph was a plea for effective representation of British women on the League of Nations Assembly and Committees, as they are equally taxed with men in support of "its very costly deliberations." We consider £1,128,410 a high expenditure for what has been accomplished by the League, and learn that expenditure has leapt up to £1,265,000 in the past year, and when the magnificent Palace at Geneva is built and equipped, in which the League will deliberate in the future, up will go the price of bureaucracy. A huge sum has just been allotted for pensions of the secretariat of the League. We are a strong advocate for economy in Government, and hope when women are allotted their rightful place and power in the government of the League of Nations, they will discourage the present grandiose gesture. It would be interesting to know what the cost of the present Socialist Government delegation to our over-burdened taxpayers will be. Magnificent motors for family parties from London to Geneva and back, lavish entertainments, and excessive hotel charges. (A British peer informed us that he left his hotel because he could not get a shirt washed under four Swiss francs!) Battleships may be costly (they are also at present indispensable), so long as U.S.A., France and Italy are furiously building to capacity, and loans foolish; but to return to our "muttons," we want women tax-payers recognised and given their just share of power in international deliberations, so that they may exercise their special talents for the benefit of peace and peoples, *with due respect to economy*.—ED.]

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Edith M. F. Pritchard, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., writes from Cape Town:—

"My journey across seas is complete, and I have now been on South African ground for five days, which has given me time to gather a few impressions of my new life and surroundings.

First of all the amazing beauty on all sides leaves one spellbound. On arrival here everything was shrouded in a 'Scotch mist,' and there was very little to be seen, but that soon passed, and now wherever one turns there is some new beauty to be seen. Of course I have not yet had much time to explore.

The people here are all most warm-hearted, and the hospitality wonderful, and they give one a feeling immediately of having come home rather than left home, which soon disperses any feeling of strangeness.

My hospitals are all within easy reach of each other, beautifully situated, and well equipped.

Surgery is a great thing here, and they are all very busy with long waiting-lists.

The standard of teaching for the nurses is very high as far as I have gathered, and the nurses appear intelligent and well educated, the larger percentage having matriculated. I have not yet settled down to definite lectures as there is much to arrange, but I feel sure I am going to like my new work immensely. Of course there is much to get used to, and as time goes on I cannot fail to miss London and my friends, but I feel certain I have come to the right place, and am going to enjoy every moment of my new life. It is very wonderful to see the English spring flowers in profusion everywhere. Arum lilies grow wild everywhere and every garden here is a miniature Kew. Of course it is really winter time and very cold at nights, but the sunshine during the day is wonderful. The air is like champagne and gives one an extremely buoyant feeling and I already feel a new person as far as health is concerned.

Please convey my sincere regards to all my friends of the B.C.N. I will write many of them in due course. Trusting you keep well."

*Sister Tutor* writes:—"It may interest you to know that I found my pupils very disinclined to read a professional paper. Until now they had been brought up on the unprofessional nursing press. Now things are changing, and I encourage them to read and *study* the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and take an intelligent interest in world nursing. Of course, they still turn first to the Echoes. With Matron's consent, I question the pupils on the history of nursing and on National and International nursing, as reported in the Journal."

[It interests us greatly to learn of this new educational departure, and congratulate our correspondent on interesting her pupils on current affairs in the Nursing World.—ED.]

## The Cow and Gate Factories.

*The Matron of a Hospital for Tuberculosis* writes of the visit to the Cow and Gate Factories:—"It was a most interesting visit and made the more enjoyable by the thoughtful arrangements and kind hospitality of the Directors of the Company. I shall remember 'Cow and Gate' products which are prepared under such ideal conditions."

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER

Name and describe the most practical appliances you have used in the past year.

The fact that so many nurses have been on holiday during September and others have been so busy doing extra duty is, we presume, accountable for the almost unprecedented fact that we have received no competition papers this month.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)