

## 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.*

## VERY VALUABLE WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—As I take up the JOURNAL month after month, even if I do not know the people, I am immensely interested in what they are doing, and as I am just going to work in a "boys' prison," I thought you might like this little notice of work, which should be of great value.

Boys on remand are not now at Wandsworth or any of the prisons where they might come in contact with hardened offenders; for seven days they wait on remand, and during that time I, with five other ladies taking a different day will have a room at Scrubs Prison. The accused boy of the adolescent period (16 to 21) will be brought to me. My duty will be—

First.—To get such knowledge and information about the boy as will be of use (a) to the doctor making the intelligence and psychological tests; (b) to the authorities and house masters who will be in close touch with the boy in his Borstal institution.

Anything from the boy which turns right on the cause of the offence and the boy's attitude towards his punishment is valuable; his tastes, his habits, his aims.

Was it vice, want, or sheer love of adventure—by himself or with a gang—that he stole, etc., etc.?

To gain the boy's confidence and make him feel he has a friend is a great gain; if a word can be dropped that may tend to change a false standard of values to suggest that there are things in life more interesting and worth while than the excitement of crime, and that these things are within the boy's power to reach, are the work of the lady worker. No lady is appointed by the Home Office under 30—30 to 50 is the age—but it may be even older. Many are university graduates, but all must have graduated and know something of human nature from many aspects—the Sociological Degree that comes from graduating in the School of Life.

I am immensely interested and it will be interesting not only to see inside of modern prisons, but to feel that youth has this priceless possession—it owns to-morrow and can begin again.

Yours sincerely,

JESSIE HOLMES

(An Embryo Elizabeth Fry).

Gordon Court, Ducane Road, W.2.

[Miss Jessie Holmes, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., has been appointed by the Home Office as a Lady Worker at the Boys' Prison, Scrubs Prison.—Ed.]

## THE GROWTH OF INTERNATIONALISM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I still remember the kindness with which you received me at your head-quarters last year when I came to pay you a visit in August.

You courteously showed me everything, all the rooms, the great hall, etc., and answered all my questions. I was very pleased to have a short interview, as one can always learn a lot by visiting such places and speaking with distinguished members of the nursing profession.

Please let me thank you for sending me an extra copy of the B.J.N. (Sept. 1930), to which I am an enthusiastic subscriber since I first knew it more than 20 years as an old "Bart's Special."

Soon after my return here I had the honour of receiving a visit from Professor Effie Taylor. We had a very

interesting intercourse of many hours about nursing conditions in Switzerland and America, especially mental nursing.

It was here that Professor Taylor saw her portrait in the B.J.N.

I am still in correspondence with Miss Macaulay, Matron in Maidstone. Through her kindness I am able to place one of my nurses under her care to profit by her splendid school as a sort of post graduate course.

Last autumn I arranged with great success the first post-graduate course for mental nurses in Switzerland and I intend to arrange a second one next September.

Believe me, dear Madam, yours very sincerely,

MARIE SCHOENHOLZER.

Zurich.

## A LETTER OF APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR EDITOR,—I am exceedingly sorry to be so late in sending this letter of appreciation for the Professional Review that was so kindly given to my book "Path-Finders, the History and Progress of Colored Graduate Nurses."

It was a great compliment and I have passed it on to many nurses who have also enjoyed reading it.

I hope to be in Europe at the next International Nurses' Congress and hope to have the pleasure of meeting you, as I did Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and many other fine nurses at Cologne in 1912.

Trusting that you are very well.

With sincere good wishes,

ADAH B. THOMS, R.N.

The Placement Bureau for Colored Graduate Nurses,  
New York City.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## They Simply Cannot Afford To Be Ill.

A Correspondent writes:—"The ill-considered Bill entitled "Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill," introduced by Mr. Fenner Brockway into the House of Commons, must be fought with vigour.

"Most people, except the wealthy, realise that at present-day costs they simply cannot afford to be ill, and even those endowed with a fair share of this world's goods will think many times before they engage the services of three trained nurses for a critical case.

"No, with the majority of sick people it simply 'can't be done,' and the result will be the employment of the partially trained 'nice woman,' who will gradually oust her registered sisters from their own ground, and the 'dole' will have to be reorganised to include them."

## 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.

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JULY.

How would you render first-aid to a case of fractured spine? Describe the nursing of such a case and the dangers to be guarded against.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)