

## WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"Whatever the coming years may hold of hardship and difficulty, we can win through triumphantly if only we will recognise that the future is in our own hands." And, again: "People are looking for a positive aim, and that aim is to be found in the realisation that each man in common service must, and can, work out his own salvation."

*The Prince of Wales.*

## 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 WELL-DESERVED HONOUR.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

Your kind and cordial congratulations in the current issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING enhance the honour conferred on me, and I am writing to ask you to accept my sincere thanks. I do not feel I have done anything to merit the distinction, but I am very pleased about it for the sake of my profession generally and Queen's Nurses in particular.

Again thanking you cordially,

I remain,

Yours truly,

A. M. PETERKIN,

*General Superintendent.*

58, Victoria Street,  
London, S.W.1.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## History of the I. C. N.

*Mrs. Carrington Smith, R.N., Montreal, writes:—"I am very grateful for the History of the International Council of Nurses. I am so interested in its aims and actions, and have read it with so much pleasure."*

*Dr. Helen MacMurphy writes from Ottawa:—"Thank you so much for the volume (The History of the International Council of Nurses 1899-1925). The book is a valuable possession. I was so interested in it, most of all of course in the part that I remember about, and I was so pleased with the pictures, and the whole book is fascinating. I must congratulate you on this additional service to your profession."*

## Unfair Competition.

*From Vancouver a Fellow of the British College of Nurses writes:—"I very much appreciate the card and letters with Christmas Greetings sent from the College. We nurses need to have somebody to look after our interests in these troublous times. Here we have large numbers of unemployed nurses and others accept conditions that they feel almost impossible because the difficulty of obtaining any other.*

*"We have cut down the number of probationers taken on and the educational standard is being raised so that in time the excess of nurses may be lessened, but the prospect of earning sufficient to provide for old age is not good even for a smaller number and superannuation arrangements will be slow to come here. The exacting conditions in any position worth holding are such that the age at which one would require to retire will be less than it used to be. We used to rail against the red tape of the Army but there was something behind us then which is quite lacking in what we call an open hospital here.*

*"In an effort to make nursing more attractive, day nursing is over at 7 p.m. and the night staff take over then—we on day duty having had to rush through the finishing-off. From my point of view, the day staff being on later, at*

*least on alternate days, and with longer periods off during the day, is much to be preferred."*

[We fear Dominion nurses find nursing conditions as unsatisfactory in private practice as our nurses do at home. If medical practitioners would only uphold the Registration Standard—which unfortunately, in many instances, they do not—the women who run nursing institutions composed of semi-trained, unregistered and often incompetent women would be discouraged from making money by such methods and much more work would be procurable by the competent nurses.—ED.]

## Appreciation of the "B.J.N."

*A Male Reader, renewing his subscription to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, writes:—"I should like to take this opportunity of saying how much I appreciate the JOURNAL, and of congratulating the Editorial Staff on its wonderfully high literary standard, apart from the technical articles, of which of course I am no judge, but I have no doubt they are of the same merit as those pages which appeal more generally to the general reader."*

*S.R.N. writes:—"I enclose my subscription to the B.J.N. for 1932. Although owing to years flying along I shall soon have to give up active nursing, I shall still hope to continue my monthly visit from our BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."*

## Recommended Books

*A subscriber for twenty years writes:—"In times past you recommended books in the B.J.N. under the heading of 'What to Read.' Is it too much to ask that this feature may be re-included in our JOURNAL? It is very difficult for busy nurses whose reading time is limited to know the best books from reviews. I am sometimes much disappointed when securing books which have received a good 'blow' in my daily paper. Those recommended by the B.J.N. in the past were sure to be clean and good English."*

[We have complied with this request this month—and suggested one biography and three fine novels. "The Shadows on the Rock," by Willa Cather, the authoress of "A Lost Lady," must not be missed by those who appreciate fine prose.—ED.]

## NOTICES.

AS THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is a monthly paper the Editor will be greatly obliged if items of news which the readers desire included are sent to her as early as possible, as they often arrive just after the Journal has gone to press.

We shall be pleased to insert information and notices and reports of meetings from the Associations affiliated with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, under the heading of Nurses' Organisations.

## "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 MARCH.

Mention the infectious diseases affecting principally the central nervous system, their chief characteristics and the special points in their nursing care.

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