

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.

THE HELP OF GOOD WILL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It was with the greatest pleasure that I read in our last JOURNAL the report of the speech made by the Prince of Wales at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Municipal Corporations in which His Royal Highness made so stirring an appeal for a national effort for the eradication of slums and the rehousing of slum dwellers. It was an appeal which must find a response in the heart of every trained nurse worthy of the name, for nurses, perhaps more than any class in the community, are in a position to know that the housing question is a fundamental one, where "the dignity and greatness of our race" is concerned. Great men and women have no doubt been bred in slums, but how many more, who will always be C3 members of society, might have belonged to the A class if they had had the advantage of good environment and nourishing food in childhood?

It is pitiful to see the patient endurance of so many men, women and little children, in houses which can never be homes in anything but name, houses where disease is bred, and where, as the Prince so truly said, "the psychological harm is at least comparable with the physical evil."

Imagine what the feelings of parents must be who see the children they love—and parental love is as deep in the slums as elsewhere—growing up under conditions in which it would seem that only by a miracle can they grow up strong and healthy and pure in mind and body. If we have imagination, then surely we must bring in the help of good will to bear upon the situation.

I am, Dear Madam, Yours faithfully,
STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

THE RAVAGES OF WAR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

DEAR MADAM,—I know this is rather late, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and our College for that lovely Christmas card and greetings. Those of us far away do appreciate the thought and kindness of those in the old country. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is very welcome and read with interest.

You may like to hear a little about the work I was able to do among the wounded soldiers here last winter. When you think of wounded soldiers and work amongst them, do not think of anything you may have seen in France or England, probably even the Crimean conditions were better than those here. We had a week's fighting here, but the enemy could not gain the city and so retired into the hills and so drew out the army from this city. Then after a day or two the wounded began to pour in from the front. At first we were not particularly concerned as the army were supposed to have made adequate arrangements for the wounded, and the Canadian hospital were only taking in wounded civilians. But the fighting did not stop, and the wounded increased, till in a short time there were reckoned to be 2,000 in this small city alone. The Canadian hospital were asked to take in some but they could only take in a limited number, 30 to 60 odd. Then one day an American missionary went down to one of their larger hospitals and found simply appalling conditions, and so he came to me and asked me if I would go along with him and help them a bit. What could one nurse do amongst 400 odd badly wounded soldiers? We got permission from the military authorities to dress the wounded. It is rather difficult to give you any idea of the conditions under which we had

to work. Imagine how you would manage in an old cow-stable with very little equipment and wounded soldiers to attend to! In fact, many cattle were better off than these men, they just slept on straw on the floor in this old tumble-down temple.

We, of course, took all our own things, anything of theirs would have been far too filthy to use. But I will not burden you with details and anyway they might shock any Queen's Inspector who might perchance see this letter! We did the best we could under the circumstances and the results were gratifying in many cases. 'We' being the American missionary and his wife, my fellow-worker, myself, and occasionally an old missionary; I was the only one who had any medical knowledge, but the American missionary was able to do quite a little after a time. He also gave the anaesthetics for me when necessary. Many of the men had not been dressed for seven or eight days and you can imagine what some of the large wounds were like when the dressings came off! The stench was so terrible that we moved our tables, etc., out into the open, and although it was cold it was more endurable. The men were just dying off like flies and yet some of the worst seemed to pull round well after a few days. I extracted a good many bullets and pieces of shrapnel and set several fractures, but some things were beyond us, as our equipment was not sufficient, and a few we were able to get into the Canadian Hospital.

We went every day from 8 o'clock to 1, 2 or 3 o'clock, usually taking a snack in the middle to tide us over till we could get back to dinner. Every evening there were preparations to make for the next day. Most of the soldiers were very grateful, but after a time the officials felt they were 'losing face' with our doing so much, and so we just ceased to go. By that time their own so-called nurses and doctors were working better, and the men were not being so neglected. Their methods were——!

I may say this was just Christmas week, so our Christmas this last winter did not seem much like Christmas at all. Most days one of our evangelists went to see the soldiers, gave them tracts and sought to help them.

Just at the end of the week I was called away to another station two days away, to nurse a missionary who had a slight attack of typhus, probably contracted from nursing soldiers in that station. Two or three doctors and a nurse or two had very severe attacks of typhus in the capital.

I am hoping later to go into medical-evangelistic work among the tribes and Tibetans in the north-west of this province, and then may have some interesting experiences, etc., to relate to you. Thank you for your kindly interest.

A MEMBER OF THE CHINA INLAND MISSION.

Kiating.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"B.J.N." Appreciated.

S. M. L. writes:—"May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the regular receipt of our BRITISH JOURNAL. I look forward each month with very great pleasure to this splendid magazine. It makes one proud to belong to such a successful organisation and to realise what a living thing the British College of Nurses really is. My only regret is that I have never had the opportunity of visiting the College; to see all the wonderful departments described in the BRITISH JOURNAL, and to join more closely in its various activities.

I have pleasure in remitting my fee for renewal of membership."

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR AUGUST.

Describe in detail the nursing of a case of acute appendicitis during the first week after operation. What complications may occur?

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