

## 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 Editor wishes to acknowledge many kind letters of congratulation received from friends during the past month, and also from readers unknown to her. It is specially gratifying to her to learn of the enjoyment of many nurses attending for the first time a Congress of the I.C.N. We all indeed owe a great debt of gratitude to those who organised the Congress in Paris and Brussels. Alas! time was far too limited for sight-seeing in these two entrancing cities.

From letters we have received we learn, however, that a large number of Congress Members found time to visit the magnificent old Castles, thrown open for their inspection; also Versailles, Malmaison, and many of the historic wonders of Paris. "What I loved," writes one, "was to flash around Paris in its glittering nights—simply gorgeous, and no harm done."

## A UNIFORM STANDARD OF NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in reading the account in your NURSING JOURNAL regarding the decision of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in the matter of the Mental Hospital whose committee recently appointed a Matron without the necessary nursing qualifications for such a post.

It is indeed gratifying to the profession to feel that they now have a Governing Body who not only prescribe a uniform standard of Nursing and recognise it by examination, but also have the authority to support and uphold that standard of nursing by discriminating which hospitals should be recognised as Training Schools in Mental Nursing.

In this branch, perhaps, more than any other, the standard aimed at must react on the psychological outlook of the patient, favourably or otherwise.

It will be interesting to know what view the Royal Medico-Psychological Association will take in the matter, and if the trainees from such a Hospital will be accepted as candidates for its Examinations for proficiency in Mental Nursing.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. L. MACAULAY.

Kent County Mental Hospital,  
Maidstone.

## THE GRENFELL LABRADOR CALENDAR.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We wish to thank you very warmly indeed for the splendid notice you have inserted in your JOURNAL with reference to the Grenfell Labrador Calendar.

It may interest you to know that we have already received an order through this notice.

With many thanks for your help towards the work in Labrador and Northern Newfoundland,

Yours faithfully,

C. E. SMITH,

For the Grenfell Association.

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

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Let us Conduct our own Investigations.

*An Old Internationalist* writes: "I am pleased to note that our representatives voted at the recent meeting of the I.C.N. against inviting the International Labour Office at Geneva to investigate nursing questions on our behalf, on the principle that such investigations should be conducted through our own headquarters at Geneva, and that associating our Council with any one political party should be avoided. I sincerely hope that when the new Executive Secretary is appointed she will be instructed by the Board of Directors to avoid association with Party politics. The mainspring of our policy is humanitarian, and this includes all men without distinction."

## A Word about Everything.

*Miss Warren* writes from Barbados: "Thank you ever so much for sending THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING regularly to me. I appreciated it in England, and ten times more out here, and read it all from cover to cover on mail day. It has a word about everything and really keeps one abreast of affairs."

## From the Edge of Kalahari Desert.

*Mrs. J. M. Erlank, F.B.C.N.*, writes from South Africa: "We are passing through a very difficult time. Of course we are amongst the many, but I do not know if I have mentioned we live on the edge of Kalahari Desert, and this is a trading station and post office. We have not only had world depression to battle against but drought also, and I think the latter has been far worse, and is still. The water question has been just dreadful; it makes one almost cry to see the poor animals—nothing but skin and bone, and dying in thousands. I myself am now feeling much better. I had two lovely little daughters last November . . . You can imagine how I just devour and read anything English. I just cannot tell you how the two beautiful Christmas cards were valued and appreciated—needless to say, I still have them. I am very happy out here, but of course I sometimes get a bad attack of homesickness. However, when better times come perhaps we shall be able to come to England for a holiday. I am sending my subscription to the College. It is awkward to get money orders here. We are 60 miles from rail and head post office. Once a week a mail lorry comes with transport.

It would seem like renouncing England to resign my College membership. I haven't many ties there and the small chain would be broken which binds.

All good wishes to my fellow members and the College."

## "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. Price 7s. annually including postage. Apply, Manager, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Extra copies, price 7d. each, should be ordered without delay.

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

State what you learnt at the International Congress of Nurses.

*N.B.*—The paper should deal with deductions which would result from intelligent observations and new ideas.

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