

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Sydney Holland: Lord Knutsford." John Gore.
 "Time Past." Marie Scheikevitch.
 "Honoraria Lawrence." Maud Diver.
 "Charles Stewart Parnell." Joan Haslip.
 "The Wild Irish Girl." Lionel Stevenson.
 "Ten Africans." Margery Perham.
 "Recollections of Sophia Lonsdale." Violet Martineau.
 "Last Landfall." Desmond Malone.

FICTION.

- "The Weather in the Streets." Rosamond Lehmann.
 "They Walk in the City." J. B. Priestley.
 "London Pride." Shaw Desmond.
 "Fire Over England." A. E. W. Mason.
 "Our Elizabeth in America." Florence Kilpatrick.
 "Murder in Mesopotamia." Agatha Christie.

GEOGRAPHY.

- "The Southern Gates of Arabia." Freya Stark.

COMING EVENTS.

- September 19th.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.
 September 23rd.—Congress Arrangements Committee, I.C.N., 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.
 September 25th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

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.

"FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IS DEAD."

The Editor has received for publication a number of letters dealing with the Address of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London to the Florence Nightingale International Students at Bedford College, on June 26th. As controversy is undesirable in connection with the revered name of Miss Nightingale, these communications will not be published in this journal.

SUGGESTED NEW NURSING SERVICE FOR CIVIL HOSPITALS IN THE EVENT OF WAR.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest the Government's plans for the defence of our country in the event of war, viz., the expansion of the Air Force, benefits to assist in recruiting for the Territorial Army, steps towards the protection of the civil population against air raids and gas attacks, etc., etc. So far I have looked in vain for proposals to deal with the nursing of the civil population when wounded and gassed.

In 1914 on the outbreak of war I remember the gaps left in the nursing ranks of our civil hospitals when Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Reserve and the Territorial Force Nursing Service were mobilised. Hospital Matrons went through a terrible time in those hospitals for over four years through lack of adequate nursing staff.

We must all realise that a war now would consist mainly of air and gas attacks upon the civil population. The Army Nursing Services would be mobilised as in 1914, and again the civil hospitals would be short of nurses, even to a greater extent, because not only is there at present a shortage of nurses but thousands of patients would be crowded

into the civil hospitals, and these patients—war casualties—would not receive adequate nursing attention.

I suggest a scheme whereby a new nursing service could be started, not for army but for civil hospitals in the event of war. This service would require to be supported and financed by the Government, the recruits to be trained in the civil hospitals, then enrolled as willing to be called upon to serve as nurses should war break out. The service might be named "The Home Defence Nursing Service."

I feel certain that numbers of suitable women would enrol when they understood what was required of them, and would be glad to take a training to enable them to bring comfort and relief to their fellow countrymen and women in the event of war.

E. ARMSTRONG,

The Hull Royal Infirmary, Hull.

Matron.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

The Joy of the Nurses' International Congresses.

Member I.C.N. writes: "I am eagerly looking forward to the Congress of the International Council of Nurses next year, and to meeting so many old friends and making new ones of all nationalities, as well as to the stimulation of so many papers by nursing experts on a variety of subjects, the joy of social intercourse, and visits to many interesting places. The enrichment of life and of professional outlook which these Congresses bring to so many of us is a joy indeed, and cannot be expressed in words."

Courses of Instruction for Midwives.

State Certified Midwife writes: "I am very pleased to note two provisions in the new Midwives Act (1) that the Central Midwives Board is authorised to frame rules requiring midwives to attend from time to time, in accordance with the provisions of the rules a course of instruction approved by the Board, and (2) that the Board is given power to frame rules regulating the grant by the Board of diplomas, being diplomas in the teaching of midwifery, to midwives presenting themselves for examination for such diplomas. (1) It is much to be desired that midwives should have the opportunity of attending Refresher Courses, so that their efficiency may be maintained and (2) it is highly essential that State Certified Midwives who are recognised teachers of midwifery should give evidence of their ability as teachers, and that this should be recognised by the Central Midwives Board. The Board has already done useful work by instituting a Midwife-Teachers Examination and the grant of a diploma to those who successfully pass it is a step forward."

A Useful Work.

A Social Worker writes: "In view of the dangers to which girls travelling to London in search of work, or to take up posts offered to them, are subjected, your readers may like to know that ladies called Station Visitors working in connection with the Travellers' Aid Society, 30, Upper Gloucester Place, London, W.1, attend the principal railway stations and docks, to meet girls whose friends have asked the Society to take care of them, and to offer advice or assistance to other girls appearing in need of help. Nurses working in country districts are, I know, sometimes consulted by parents who are anxious about their daughters who are taking up posts in London."

NOTICE.

To ensure insertion in a forthcoming issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, matter should reach the Editor not later than the 1st day of the month.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

Mention four varieties of artificial feeding, apart from infant feeding, and the methods employed in each case.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)