

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 TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
REGRET THE PRIMATE'S REMARKS RE NURSING
IN INDIA.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Abram and I have read the beautiful address of the Archbishop of Canterbury printed in your Journal for August with the greatest appreciation, but we very much regret his remarks with regard to nursing in India.

Like so many other things, Nursing is new to India, and it is hardly fair or true to say that "The blessings of skilled and devoted nursing, alike in hospital and home, have still to reach . . . India." It is these thoughtless remarks that lead to misunderstanding and hurt and annoy the Indians so much. We are sure the Archbishop spoke only through lack of knowledge, but it is a great pity that such an unfortunate remark should have been printed.

Hundreds of well-educated girls are coming into the Nursing Service and many Brahmin widows are becoming nurses, with the sole idea of making their lives useful and relieving suffering.

The people are pouring into the Hospitals so fast that it is impossible to keep pace with them, therefore there is a good deal of overcrowding and understaffing, which makes the work very difficult, and the general public still need some education with regard to the professional standing of nurses.

We have many difficulties, but "Rome was not built in a day," and we look forward to a time, not far ahead, when the Indian Nursing Service will be able to compete with any other in the world. Great strides have been made during the last three years.

It seems very hard that India and Africa should be made the scapegoats of the nursing world.

Yours faithfully,

DIANA HARTLEY.

Editor Nursing Journal of India:

Secretary, Trained Nurses' Association of India.

[The Address of the Archbishop of Canterbury, delivered in St. Paul's Cathedral on the opening of the International Congress of Nurses on July 18th last, was, by the special kindness of his Grace, sent to us and published in full. One of the few regrets in connection with the Congress was that not one Indian nurse was included in the delegation of the Trained Nurses' Association of India. All five delegates were British women, and a very fine team too. This representation should be predominantly native and national in 1941.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

MOTHER'S MILK.

Old England writes: "In my youth half a century ago splendid boys and girls were to be seen in every country village suckled on mother's milk—full of life and spirits—yet taught their manners, who when they went out into the world (and there were uncivilised places in those days) brought credit on the Empire made by their fathers. These children learned how to meet the rough and tumble. But how about the bottle-fed youngsters of to-day? Our present Minister of Health is up and at standards of the National Health—with remedies and what not—but so far he has not tackled the mothers for depriving their offspring of their rightful nourishment, and stuffing their poor little tummies with untested milk. A campaign for

"Mother's Milk," if it were successful, would do more for the health of the nation than the various contortions in which, according to the pictorial press, boys and girls are compelled to overstrain their muscles—at the dictation of lovely ladies in diaphanous garb. Feed the pregnant mother and prepare her to feed her young."

All Nurses should be certified Maternity Nurses.

S.R.N., S.C.M., writes: "I note with pleasure that under the new Midwives Act the salaries of Midwives will be raised, and it is suggested that they shall be approximately the same as those of health visitors, about £200 a year usually. The annual income which, in the past, midwives have been able to secure has been for the most part scandalous when we think of the immense responsibility and the exhausting work which is entailed.

Nurses are often found fault with that after having obtained their S.C.M. they do not permanently take up this branch of work. It appears to me as unreasonable as to expect all medical practitioners to do so. All nurses should, in my opinion, be certified maternity nurses. But by no means all need wish to take up this branch permanently nor is it feasible that they should do so."

Love the Primary Need of the Child.

State Registered Nurse writes: "I read with much interest the paragraph in the June Journal in connection with child psychology at the English-speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, recently held at the British Association House, which reports that a high authority like Dr. J. A. Hadfield could say that psycho-pathologists were agreed that the various phobias with which people were afflicted could be traced back to the first three or four years of life. It had been estimated that there were about 4,000,000 people in this country who required treatment for neurosis, the primary cause of which was a feeling of the deprivation of love and affection. Love was the primary need of the child! Think of it, and then marvel how many people bring children into the world, who feel no obligation to supply that primary need. We nurses see much of it, and it makes one ashamed for human nature."

One Reason for Trade Union Charters.

Private Nurse writes: "In my Club there is a good deal of gossip about the proposal of the College of Nursing to control the private nurses' life and practice. I wonder if the average superintendent of a Co-op. quite realises what this autocratic demand means? As far as I can see neither she nor her staff would have a shred of freedom left. No wonder we hear of Trades Union Charters! We have just had the pleasure and privilege of meeting our colleagues from all over the world. In every country, as far as I could learn, private duty nurses hold a much more responsible position and are much better paid than we are."

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

How may infectious diseases be communicated? What precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease?

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