

NEWS FROM CHINA.

We have received the following kind note from Miss Cora Simpson from Nanking, and we are all glad to learn of the safety so far of dear old friends.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
Nurses' Association of China,
Nanking, China.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK.—During the last days of last year as our postal conditions were not quite normal we had the great misfortune to miss the November and the October issues of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. We want to bind the year for our Library. Can you supply these two numbers? Thanks indeed if you can.

No use to go into details for you read the papers. We are all very busy, and grateful to God that our buildings are intact and our work continuing. We trust that you have received our Journal regularly. One of our splendid young men nurses is *en route* to London for P.G. work—Mr. Stanley Wang. I hope you may meet him and he have the great pleasure of meeting you, too.

I am well. God bless you always.

Faithfully yours,
CORR E. SIMPSON.

LIVE QUESTIONS FOR CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note the N.C.N. is to hold a Conference in November. I wonder if live questions will get a hearing, such for instance as:—

(1) How are we to keep our souls alive in this latter day atmosphere of materialism?

(2) How much is the organisation of Nurses costing them all told, and what do they get for it?

(3) By what means can we stand on our own feet, and cease being dominated by hospital managers, house governors, secretaries, the medical faculty (male and female), matrons, sister tutors, school marms, patronesses and the T.U.C.?

In reference to question (1), why must we undress, dance, motor, be a sport, leaving no time for literature, art, mental culture, and "polite conversation"? In reference to question (2) the enormous cost of organisation, the General Nursing Council (£51,237 6s. 8d.), College of Nursing, including 12s. per head from Student Nurses, upwards of £650 per annum for the International Council of Nurses, and unprofessional Associations usually managed by men. I note that the National Council of Nurses expends an infinitesimal sum, so presumably it is largely supported by voluntary service.

Anyway, when we have paid through the nose, can we call our souls our own?

We cannot.

Let us hope the N.C.N. will have the courage to discuss these questions. We have had enough of platitudes.

Yours,
G. S. C.

ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you give publicity to the following matter, as I note from the B.J.N. that schoolmistresses are very busy offering professional nurses advice as to their professional education?

To quote *The Times*:—

"Patrick Ryan, a schoolboy, suing through his father, claimed damages at Liverpool Assizes yesterday from Miss Ellen Fildes, now headmistress of the Lancashire County School and formerly assistant mistress of the non-provided St. Austin's Boys' School, Thatto Heath, and from the managers of this school. He was awarded £211 9s. 6d. It

was stated that Miss Fildes thought it necessary to correct some of the children, and gave Ryan, who was 10, a blow on the back of the head and then struck him with her open hand on the face and over the ear. As a result the drum-head of the ear was ruptured and his hearing had been permanently impaired. Miss Fildes denied in evidence that she did anything more than reasonable correction, and she denied striking him on the face or the ear.

"Mr. Justice Tucker said the blow exceeded reasonable and proper punishment, but one could not but feel sympathy with Miss Fildes. She had done something which was natural in the circumstances and something which 999 times out of 1,000 would not have had serious consequences. A stay of execution for 12 days was allowed."

Natural or not, would it not be wise for school authorities to insist that school teachers should be taught the elements of anatomy—so that when administering punishment they should avoid the possibility of depriving pupils of their essential senses—by striking them on the head. It is high time the Board of Education issued an instruction to this effect. Also Mr. Justice Tucker might be advised as to the physical damage likely to result "999 times out of 1,000" by striking children on the head.

It is high time corporal punishment was prohibited in schools. Teachers who cannot control pupils through personal influence should be relieved of authority.

Yours truly,
SISTER TUTOR.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Night Hawks.

A Sister writes: "I was glad to see your allusion to 'night hawks' in connection with after midnight leave for young nurses—a danger by no means imaginary. I am told by a friend who lives near a hospital that the Matron has yielded to pressure and late leave is allowed, not only to mature nurses, but to probationers. The result is apparent—a string of motor-cars drawn up in the lane awaiting the issue of a flock of young nurses from the hospital gates—after 10 p.m.—when they return is an unknown quantity. Parents of young girls will have a real grievance with hospital authorities if this licence continues."

A Matron writes: "I note your remarks *re* after midnight leave for young nurses and the B.M.A. apparently urges the relaxation of discipline in hospitals. What is to be done about burglars in nursing homes unless a night watchman is added to the staff? This is no imaginary danger; there are thefts enough even in the daytime. Personally, if the Home is to be open till the small hours, I for one shall lock myself in."

To Serve.

A Fellow of the British College of Nurses writes: "Will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting. Needless to say I am sorry. In these days, when the ideals of our profession are eclipsed by commercialism, unity of the faithful means so much. Though we realise in the trend of progress much must be sacrificed, the ideal which has raised us to the highest pinnacle 'To Serve' must always be retained."

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