

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "The Brunels, Father and Son." Cecilia Brunel Noble.
 "Sir John Vanbrugh, Architect and Dramatist." Laurence Whistler.
 "The Witnesses." Thomas Hennell.
 "Memoirs" by Sir George Arthur.
 "James, Duke of Monmouth." Elizabeth D'Oyley.

FICTION.

- "To You, Mr. Chips." James Hilton.
 "The Doomsday Men." J. B. Priestley.
 "The Ambassadors." Frances Parkinson Keys.
 "The Joyful Delaneys." Hugh Walpole.
 "Titanic." Robert Precht.
 "Ruined City." Nevil Shute.
 "Old Motley." Audrey Lucas.
 "As the Sparks Fly Upward." Patrick Alexander.
 "Rebecca." Daphne du Maurier.

TRAVEL.

- "Black River of Tibet." John Hanbury-Tracy.
 "In the East My Pleasure Lies." Theodora Benson.

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.

MIDWIVES' INSTITUTE.

The Association of Certified Midwives.

57, Lower Belgrave Street,
 London, S.W.1.

July 29th, 1938.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been called to the comments on the National Plan for a Maternity Service published in the July issue of your JOURNAL. You ask what is the Midwives' Institute doing to protect the interests of midwives? I hasten to assure you that the Midwives' Institute is fully alive to the many problems confronting the midwifery profession at this time, and is continually taking action both to protect the interests of midwives and to promote an efficient midwifery service.

That this is recognised by midwives themselves, who now realise the value of combined effort, is proved by the steady increase in our membership which has more than doubled in the last five years and has now reached a total of over 8,000, new applications for membership being constantly received.

The Institute is continually in contact with the Ministry of Health, the Central Midwives Board and local supervising authorities, and together with its 166 local branches is recognised by these bodies as the organisation representing the views of midwives through which they are to be consulted and from whose officials all information can be obtained on questions connected with the midwives' profession.

Yours faithfully,

F. R. MITCHELL,
 General and Organising Secretary.

[We are glad that State Certified Midwives are realising the value of combined effort and to be assured that "the Midwives' Institute is fully alive to the many problems confronting the Midwifery Profession at this time." It was because we realised that the Institute has the confidence of State Certified Midwives, and that it is in a unique position to voice and support their interests effectively, that we expressed the desire to know what the Midwives'

Institute is doing in this connection, and, further, to defeat the proposed suggestion of the Trades Union Congress and the British Medical Association, in a conjoint plan, that "any registered medical practitioner" should have the right to have his or her name enrolled on any list drawn up for the main responsibility for the conduct of maternity.

We hope the Government will, in this connection, note the statement of Dr. Summerskill (M.P., Fulham) in the House of Commons on Thursday, July 28th, who said that "it was absolutely essential that inexpert midwifery should cease. One of the things necessary was improved education in obstetrics for medical students.

"I was qualified in midwifery in 1924," she said, "simply by being in a room where 20 confinements were conducted, and I never went near a bed or touched a patient. I was lucky because my father was a general practitioner and I was able to go home and have expert tuition."

Though education in midwifery for medical students has improved somewhat since 1924, we reiterate the contention in our July issue that "the training in midwifery of students of medicine should be much more thorough than it is at present," or that "before a medical practitioner has the right to have his or her name enrolled on the list suggested, he or she should be required to give evidence of the possession of knowledge which will entitle him or her to undertake the responsibility of the conduct of normal and abnormal maternity cases."

We emphasise this not only in the interests of midwives but for the protection and safety of lying-in mothers.—Ed.]

WHO WILL TAKE OUR PLACE?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is with relief I note from time to time in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, a reference made to the difficulties of many Matrons throughout the country, in the performance of their duties—as from personal experience I find these difficulties are becoming almost unendurable, and with you I wish to offer an expression of thanks to Miss Marion Lee, for her courageous stand in this connection, and to congratulate her on the success of her action.

What with one thing and another I am beginning to realise I can't stand it any longer.

Domestic workers coming and going—walking out without notice. Probationers physically unfit, and with little sense of responsibility—many actively disliking their work. As for the young house-men—uncultured, unpunctual, noisy, far from discreet, and never satisfied with good plain food. Always "agin" the Matron and necessary discipline. Then the trades-unions, porters, plumbers, engineers, and other uneducated persons tampering with the conditions of service of the nurses, and many members of the Town Council manufacturing jobs to provide them for their relations. The whole system is rotten, and well educated honourable women cannot endure it. Who will take our place?

Yours sincerely,

F.B.C.N.

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

Give a short description of the symptoms and signs of Tuberculosis of the Hip Joint, and the nursing in its treatment.

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