

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Victoria and Albert." Hector Bolitho.
 "Marlborough" (Vol. IV.) Winston Churchill, M.P.
 "Insanity Fair." Douglas Reed.
 "Lichtenberg's Visits to England." Translated by
 Margaret L. Mare and W. H. Quarrell.

FICTION.

- "William and Dorothy." Helen Ashton.
 "God and the Wedding Dress." Marjorie Bowen.
 "Expert Evidence." Cecil Freeman Gregg.
 "The Golden Spaniard." Dennis Wheatley.
 "Royal Regiment." Gilbert Frankau.
 "Dr. Bradley Remembers." Frances Brett Young.

COMING EVENTS.

September 13th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, Conference Sub-Committee, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

September 17th.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

September 30th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 23, 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.

THE QUESTION OF THE REFUGEE JEWS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It was with an unexpected pang of pain and sorrow that I read the paragraphs in the JOURNAL of July on the question of the refugee Jews.

It is not for me to know what English hospitals should do as to the admission of foreign-born women, but I may say that here our Jewish nurses work as hard and well as any others. It is well known that many are of distinguished ability and self-devotion.

Aside from that, can we feel aught but pity and horror for the persecutions of unexampled cruelty and extent that are now shocking the world? Can we imagine ourselves driven from home, denied our native land, robbed of property and forbidden to earn a living—worst of all, blasted with jealous hatred and vindictiveness—where could we go, and what could we do?

Surely the world should protest against this treatment of a gifted, intellectual and friendly people; a peaceful people, yet they have helped your country and mine through wars of independence. Surely the moral conscience of the world, if steadily exerted, must finally bring about a cessation of race hatred.

I am, dear Madam, sincerely yours,

LAVINIA L. DOCK.

[All her colleagues in England are, we feel sure, in sympathy with Miss Dock's pity for the persecution of Jews in Central Europe and her horror at their suffering, and the Committee in England is attempting to help refugees driven from home and their native land, but we fear that an attempt to place Austrian and German Jewesses in any numbers in our hospitals, would not be for the happiness of the patients. When sick and suffering, away from their homes, foreign attendants of an alien creed and race would, we feel sure, only be successful in exceptional cases. We agree that the world should protest to those who inflict it, against the cruel treatment of innocent people, but so long as Great Britain and the Dominions, together with the

United States of America, fail to unite to enforce justice we fear cruelty will be inflicted on the innocent and helpless by those who believe in and fear nothing but force.—ED.]

THE MINIMUM LETHAL DOSE.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your reviewer, in her kind notice of my book "Fever for Nurses," has fallen into the trap, against the baiting of which (for Nurses) I protested in the preface. The term "minimum lethal dose" does not, alas, refer to drugs at all, nor will Dr. Johnson be able to help her. Instead, it may be defined as "that amount of toxin derived from any given strain of any given organism, which, on subcutaneous inoculation, will cause with certainty the death of a guinea pig weighing 250 grammes within four days."

The "m.l.d." is used as a convenient unit in measuring the strength of various antitoxic sera, by laboratories which prepare such sera, and is, in fact, what I defined it as—"a technicality of the research laboratory." Many practitioners, who are using serum every day, have not the least idea of what it is, and incidentally are not a bit the worse for it. That nurses should be expected to know it seems ridiculous, and any examiner who expected them to define it would, in my opinion, merely reveal his own complete lack of any sense of proportion.

Faithfully yours,

G. E. BREEN.

London County Council,
 Public Health Department,
 Brook Hospital,
 Shooter's Hill,
 Woolwich, S.E.18.

[N.B.—We have referred Dr. Breen's letter to our reviewer, who states that she certainly understood the phrase "I have seen, as a criticism of Fever Nurses, that they were mostly ignorant as to the meaning of the 'minimum lethal dose,' to mean the 'minimum fatal dose,' and was of opinion that it was important nurses should possess this knowledge in relation to the drugs they administer." If, as Dr. Breen explains above, it refers to 'that amount of toxin derived from any given strain of any given organism, which on subcutaneous inoculation will cause with certainty the death of a guinea-pig,' then she entirely agrees with Dr. Breen's criticism.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

APPRECIATION OF THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Miss J. Binnie, M.B.C.N., writes:—"Bermuda is very lovely and the climate very pleasant. I like it very much I have received the B.J.N., and look forward to having it more than ever out here, with all the interesting news. It is very interesting to read and have the news of the nursing world at home. I enjoy the work here, although it is hot now to go around, but I am looking forward to a little colder weather in September, when I take a holiday in Canada."

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

What precautions should be taken by a nurse to protect herself and others against infection when nursing (a) Enteric, (b) Cerebro-spinal Fever, (c) Gonorrhœa?

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