

## 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.*

## "CHOICE OF CAREER" ON NURSING AND KINDRED SERVICES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Ministry of Labour,  
Metropole Buildings,  
Northumberland Avenue,  
London, W.C.2.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Ministry of Labour to refer to an article on page 247 of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for September 1938, reviewing the Ministry's pamphlet No. 17 in the "Choice of Career" on Nursing and Kindred Services.

In the final paragraphs, under the heading "Specialised Training after Qualification," the writer of the article is under a misapprehension in suggesting that the Labour Party had any responsibility for the drafting of the pamphlet. The reference is presumably intended to be to the Ministry of Labour and not the Labour Party.

The reference to the "authority" of the teaching profession is not understood, and the suggestion that the opinion of the nursing profession has been ignored is not justified.

This series of pamphlets is intended to assist secondary school children in their choice of a career by setting out in a simple, unbiased and concise form the qualifications, conditions of entry and prospects of certain professions. Although the series of pamphlets are prepared by arrangement with the Incorporated Association of Head Masters and Head Mistresses, drafts of the individual pamphlets are submitted to professional and technical experts from whom much valuable assistance is received. In this case, several leading members of the nursing profession, as well as the bodies mentioned on pages 28 and 29 of the pamphlet were consulted.

I am to add that the Minister welcomes constructive criticism, from whatever source, and that if the pamphlet appears to you to contain inaccurate information the Minister would be glad to be informed.

I am, Madam,  
Your obedient Servant,  
J. G. STEWART.

The Editor,

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,  
39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

[Our reviewer regrets, with us, that towards the end of her comments on the Ministry's Pamphlet No. 17, on the "Choice of Careers" on "Nursing," the words Labour Party instead of Labour Ministry were inadvertently written, and in regretting this error would offer an apology to the Labour Party whose policy has consistently given generous support to the higher education and conditions of nurses in and out of Parliament.

We agree with our reviewer that the "Authority" of the profession of Teaching with which the Ministry of Labour associated itself in issuing the pamphlet as a guide to nursing education is "quite negligible." Any such guide should have been issued after association with and in conjunction with members of the Nursing Profession and not with the "Incorporated Association of Head Masters and Head Mistresses."

The General Nursing Council and the Incorporated Associations of Nurses would appear to be the approved bodies with which the Ministry of Labour should have associated itself in this connection.

Personally we are of opinion that Government inform-

ation to be of any value, should be of expert quality, and also that the Board of Education and not the Ministry of Labour would be a more appropriate source of information on professional nursing education and service.

We wonder if the Minister of Labour has filed a copy of the Nurses' Register in his office. If not might we venture to suggest that he should find a niche for this valuable publication?

It contains the names of upwards of 86,000 qualified nurses, many of whom claim the right, so often denied to them by the present Government, of expressing an opinion on their own professional affairs—EDITOR.]

## REFUGEE NURSES IN BRITISH HOSPITALS.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—May I pass a few remarks with regard to the employment of foreign refugee nurses in the care of British sick? I have met five of these girls, three in one hospital and two in another. In all cases their work was well above the average. Despite language difficulties, their theoretical work was excellent and their lecture books were a credit to them. Their ward reports were very good, all worked hard and were well liked by patients and staff for their kindness and good humour. Their ethics were sound.

Since we cannot find sufficient of the right type of British nurse to care for the sick, surely one cannot wonder that matrons take these refugee girls who are so keen and competent.

Yours faithfully,  
F. IBBETSON.

Prince of Wales' Hospital,  
Plymouth.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

*British Nurse in Paris* writes: "I feel sure it will please you to know that my French friends were delighted with the article on 'Our King and Queen in France,' which appeared in the B.J.N. for August; they were specially gratified with the appreciative and glamorous language in which the article was written. You were quite right in realising that the patriotism of the French people 'soil of its soil' was the well spring of the acclaim. Why are nursing papers usually so academic or futile?"

[Had space not been restricted our description of the great event of the visit of our King and Queen to France might have been even more "glamorous." Here is a note for which we regret there was no space. "It was a flaming, resplendent, glorious episode in the history of France and Great Britain, comparable only with the glamour of the Field of the Cloth of Gold."—ED.]

*Miss Alice Whiteley, M.B.C.N.*, writes from Helmshore, Manchester: "I look forward each month to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and enjoy reading it very much. Being in an isolated district in the provinces you may realise what it means to me . . . Wishing the College every success."

## THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT, FOUNDED 1888,

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## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

What are the predisposing factors in tuberculosis? How can one prevent the spread of infection from an infectious consumptive?

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