

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"Allenby." Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell.
 "The Story of J.M.B." Sir James Barrie, Bt., O.M.
 Denis Mackail.

"Lord Halifax: An Appreciation." Stuart Hodgson.
 "Bid Time Return." Margaret Ferguson.

FICTION.

"The Dark House." Warwick Deeping.
 "Not for Love." Alice Duer Miller.
 "Mrs. Tim." D. E. Stevenson.
 "Formidable to Tyrants." Phyllis Bottome.
 "The Mill of Circumstance." Gerard Fairlie.
 "The Cap of North." Naomi Jacob.
 "For My Enemy Daughter." Leonora Eyles.
 "Sick Heart River." John Buchan.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"A Prophet at Home." Douglas Reed.
 "A Friend of France." Ian E. Black.
 "The Problem of Pain." C. S. Lewis, M.A.
 "I Lived These Years." Eric Baume.
 "England Was an Island Once." Elswyth Thane.

Have you read "Black Record," by Sir Robert Vansittart? If not, why not? 350 thousand already published.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"A Call to Action."

Sister Tutor writes: "May I thank Miss Dorothy M. Dickinson for her admirable letter headed 'A Call to Action.' Surely we are not going to accept the Royal College of Nursing's policy of foisting the semi-trained Assistant Nurse upon a State Register to compete with the efficient Registered Nurse. The claim that if guaranteed by our Governing Body, the G.N.C., they can be controlled and rendered harmless, is nonsense—these workers may have their uses—and if the Royal College fears to accept responsibility for a Roll to compete with their trained members which *sub rosa* they are pushing for all it is worth, why should not the Labour Office and Public Authorities undertake the job? Personally, I strongly object to be degraded and deprived of privileges which have been granted by the State—to say nothing of the loss of fees."

[It will be remembered that during the term of office of Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the recent Minister of Health, he issued a circular to hospital authorities withdrawing to a large extent the limitations wisely made earlier on the employment of German and Austrian refugees, and informing them that persons of German, Austrian, and Italian nationality might be employed as doctors, students, nurses, or in other capacities in all hospitals included in the Emergency Hospital Scheme, provided certain safeguards were observed, such as a preponderance of British staff in each category. . . . Alien nurses would no longer have to obtain sanction for employment from the Ministry of Labour or the Home Office.—EDITOR.]

"It's Very Disheartening."

Sister Tutor writes: "I note you are as ever trying to arouse us to help ourselves in the very difficult position in which we trained nurses find ourselves—owing to semi-trained competition—I wonder if you realise that the modern nurse cares little for all the professional advantages she enjoys. The one thing Registered Nurses might unite over would be a regulated scale of salaries. There is now such a wide difference between the L.C.C. Matron-in-Chief's £900 to £1,200 per annum, or the £600 and £800 salaries of Matrons, alluded to by Miss Horsbrough, and the £30 or £40 salary of Student Nurses, that I feel sure Registered Nurses might unite for more equality of pay.

"As you say, women know little of economics, and are not encouraged in the Training Schools to study political economy. I try to interest my pupils in their duty as citizens, but alas! only one here and there appears interested. It's very disheartening."

The Rights of the Patients and British Nurses.

A Hospital Sister writes: "I note public interest has been aroused in the employment of friendly alien doctors, and a correspondent in the *Times* complains that although a temporary register has been approved very few appointments have been made, and he argues that as the demand for doctors is so urgent that every obstacle to their employment should be removed. There are approximately 1,400 of these aliens in this country, including 750 Germans, Austrians and Italians, 250 Czechs, and 350 Poles. The writer of the letter states 'that these aliens are all refugees from totalitarian tyranny, anxious to help the Allied Cause, and their dossiers have been with the Home Office for months.'

From my personal experience there is another side to this question, and that is that many patients in hospitals strongly disapprove of being treated by alien medical officers of enemy birth; indeed, would rather leave the hospital. Is this to be wondered at? I think not. Many of my patients are suffering from blast injuries, and not a few have lost their nearest and dearest from the horrible attacks on their homes—and it seems adding insult to injury to *compel* them to be treated by enemy aliens whatever their reason for taking refuge in this country. Surely the injured have a right to be considered in this matter and their feelings saved from further distress."

We are not an imaginative people and apparently it is very difficult for officials to estimate the bitter feeling of the "next-of-kin"!

Naturally feeling has been intensified by the death of the 1,300 valiant men lost in our defence in the North Atlantic by the ruthless destruction of H.M.S. "Hood." Personally, after this tragic sacrifice nothing would induce me to *take orders* from the most "friendly" alien of German nationality, and I intend to resign my post if any such appointments are made in this hospital—and I should not be the only one."

"The Dear Animals."

Landgirl writes: "'Army Horses in Sickness,' interested me greatly. Do keep an eye on 'the dear animals.' I note in the Press what would appear to be suggestions that we should put down our dogs, owing to the cost of their keep. We know the Germans have slaughtered thousands, but they are no example to follow. Personally, so long as we are largely rationed we are presumably at liberty to share our food with our faithful companions. No milk in my second cup of tea means pussie will have a saucer, and doggie-wog will come before pigs. Certain classes of people are eating less heartily, but who can control food on farms. No one. Butter and cheese have never failed in many homesteads where they can be made at home. Anyway, I rely upon the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to demand that the domestic animals shall live out their short blameless and helpful lives."

THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT, FOUNDED 1888, is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Price 7s. annually, including postage. Apply, MANAGER, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret that no Paper of sufficient merit was received for our Prize Competition for May.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JULY.

Describe fully the Nursing Management and Diet in a case of Gastric Ulcer with Hæmorrhage.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)