

all future correspondence to me at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, as I go there on July 1.

I decided to write to-day, for we are having a lovely Garden Party in the grounds of Nurses' House, and it is a great success. The proceeds will go to the relief of British war nurses. This is a beautiful estate, with a lovely house to which nurses may come for a holiday or to recuperate following an illness. It is very comfortable and well managed.

The American people are following the course of the war with deep concern and great plans are afoot to aid Britain. Industry has speeded up and production is greater. American nurses are answering to the call and large numbers already have gone to the Army camps.

With best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,  
JESSIE B. BLACK.

#### A ROLL OF ASSISTANT NURSES.

PORTSMOUTH, HANTS.

DEAR MADAM,

This month's B.J.N. is, as usual, of great interest.

I am not surprised that the Association of Hospital Matrons has voted for a "Roll of Assistant Nurses." If you were in hospital these days you would realise that cheap labour is the great aim.

The "Cadet" and "Student" classes also, as they provide this.

I trained a long time ago, but I never had to sweep, wash up and clean as the present-day junior and, in many cases, senior probationers have to do now.

I also hope with you that those permitted to wear the C.N.R. outdoor uniform will do it justice. One wonders when one sees it in the streets of this city. Odds and ends of aprons, overalls and mufti dresses hanging below coat, especially at the back, hat crowns folded in all round and worn tilted to one side, and so on.

It is good to know references are to be more carefully scrutinised in the future. If some of the Auxiliaries had been enlisted for cleaning purposes they would have been more suitable for that than for nursing. One wonders if there is any intention of accepting Auxiliaries as candidates for the Roll of Assistant Nurses in the future when one sees the placard "Nursing is War Work with a Future Career."

I could say much more about the lack of discrimination between the treatment of the State Registered Nurse in the Civil Nursing Reserve and the unqualified, but will refrain. Incidentally, the State Registered Nurse in the Reserve has received a rise of pay of 2s. 4d. a week, instead of £15 a year as announced in the Press.

BON ACCORD.

[It is to be hoped, now that there is a Nursing Department at the Ministry of Health, that the Civil Nursing Reserve will be reorganised and reformed by experienced professional supervision from top to toe.—ED.]

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

##### Family Life of National Importance.

A *Matron of a Little Hospital* writes: "I have been Matron here for many years; it is my dear home, and everyone around is a friend. I was much interested in the scale of salaries advocated by the Royal College of Nursing which appeared in the last issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and hope my colleagues will receive the remuneration they place upon their services. But as you surmise a *quid pro quo* will be required, and to judge from some of their letters, spelling and calligraphy might receive consideration; also a course in the conduct of business would not come amiss. I have to thank our admirable Secretary for tuition in preparing minutes and reports;

his salary, by the by, is less than claimed by the Matrons, and he is an ex-officer who has served his country overseas for many years, and, with his pension, provides a comfortable home for his wife and family. You made no mention of wives and families in your last issue; but they really are of national importance in these days of maternal evasion—if the British people are expected to protect the world alone from predatory and prolific barbarians. I dare not mention what my little salary amounts to; it suffices, and as I do not intend to ask for a rise, I hope I shall not be classed as a blackleg. The truth is, we live in a world of false values, self-indulgence and avarice, and this terrible war is a result of these vulgar proclivities."

[We did not criticise the demand for higher salaries for members of the Nursing Profession as advanced by the Royal College of Nursing, but of course it is open to criticism on certain points. Any demand for equality of salaries with men at once brings the question of family life to the forefront. No doubt Dr. Summerskill will advocate "family life" for nurses, but that requires further consideration.—ED.]

##### The Rights of the Patients and British Nurses.

Another *Hospital Sister* writes: "I deeply sympathise with my colleague whose opinion you published in last issue—in her determination not to 'take orders' from alien German doctors and to resign should such an official be appointed in the hospital where she is serving.

"We are quite used to this lack of consideration in L.C.C. Hospitals, as for the duration of the war we have been placed under the control of an alien-born Matron-in-Chief. And I note that Dr. Somerville Hastings, Chairman of the Hospitals Committee of the L.C.C., is actively engaged in pushing the claims of alien doctors in hospitals, and was on the deputation which recently approached Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, to urge more hospitals to employ them, to which the Minister replied that the procedure had already been speeded up and nearly 300 foreign doctors had been found employment in hospitals and promised to consider a proposed alteration in the method of registration.

"So that's that; and it would seem that those nurses who object to 'take orders' from Germans and Italians must eat dirt or resign.

"No wonder Nursing is no longer a popular profession for patriotic women.

"It is good to note the Royal Military Nursing Services are calling for additional Registered Nurses. Surely in those Services we shall be safe from the dictation of what our oriental friends call us 'foreign devils.'

"I also intend to leave this hospital should a German doctor be placed over me."

[We entirely sympathise with the feelings of these hospital Sisters.—ED.]

##### We Wonder.

An *ardent patriot* writes: "How about it? Perhaps the *debauche* in France is punishment for having roasted Joan of Arc at Rouen. We did it: one of the greatest crimes in history."

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##### PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR AUGUST.

How would you nurse an adult male patient who is suffering from a severe attack of Mumps? Mention any points which would lead you to suspect the occurrence of complications.

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