

## UBALDESCA.

Miss J. C. Child, S.R.N., *Hove*, writes: "I must send my thanks to you as Editor of the B.J.N. Surely, the August copy contains a great page of history, and I want to send a copy to my friend, Miss Mary Browning, in South Africa. I am thrilled with the article on 'Ubaldesca,' by Miss Isabel Macdonald, as all St. John's Medallists will be. We all do so appreciate the B.J.N."

## A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,  
19, Queen's Gate,  
London, S.W.7.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was intensely struck by a letter in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of July last, from Diana M. Thompson, V.A.D., to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, asking for recognition in this, what is most splendid and loyal work for their country in this terrible war, which would give them new courage and confidence for the future in what this writer puts forth so ably and clearly, and which I need not repeat, as her letter speaks for itself.

I can see what it would mean in their having to train for three or four years *in full* after their training as V.A.D.s, for those who are young and others perhaps not so young, and might mean the loss to the nursing world of many who have the true spirit of nursing. May I say that I trust you will be enabled to use your invaluable influence in this matter. I know so well what it means to have the urge to become a trained nurse. And after my 50 years of happy and secure years in nursing, guided for most of that time by your earnest and successful endeavours to have us properly fitted for taking our right place in the nursing world.

I remain, with every good wish,

Yours most sincerely,

ELIZA THOMPSON, S.R.N.

[Preferential treatment for V.A.D.s is a very difficult question for the Training Schools. The status, power, and independence accorded to many V.A.D.s in war work would be greatly restricted in routine hard work in general hospitals, and only the most sensible girls would submit to the necessary restrictions and discipline.—ED.]

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## Breach of Contract.

"One who values efficiency and status" writes: "I read with relief in August Editorial 'Good News' that it is unlikely that Parliament will deal with the 'Assistant Nurse' question during the war, but those who wish to cheapen the profession of nursing by instituting a course for women either too stupid or badly educated to attain the present standard, are eagerly pushing their scheme for two standards of 'registered' nurses, which if legalised means a cheaper service for the *poor* for whom public bodies, controlled by the laity, are responsible. This degrading of standards cannot be attained without grave injustice to the efficiently trained registered nurses and presumably depriving us of the status for which we have worked so hard for three years. No sophistry can alter this fact. The demand is for cheap nursing labour. This being so, presumably should Parliament at the instigation of employers deal us this deadly blow, all Student Nurses now in training will have the right to terminate their contract with the Training Schools which they entered on terms defined by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, whose scheme for State Registration provides legal status and protection from competition with lower-grade practitioners—working as nurses. I think those of us who realise the economic competition of cheap, semi-trained nurses, should claim their release from three years' service, under justly defined regulations, and enter other professions where conditions are just."

[We agree that should the General Nursing Council institute two grades of Registered Nurses, thereby breaking faith with the three years' standard, those women who entered for training upon the present guarantee will have the right to terminate their contracts with the Training Schools should they wish to do so.—ED.]

## Memorial to Miss Margaret Huxley.

An *Irish Nurse* writes: "I am sending you a cutting about a memorial to our Miss Huxley, and well she deserved it. What controversy you appear to be enjoying in Old England on the "Assistant Nurse" question. We should be up in arms here if they attempted to flood the Nursing Profession with competitive ignoramuses.

"You see now why we prefer to govern ourselves. You remember the late Mrs. Kildare Tracy laughingly said: 'How can you expect the clever Irish to be governed by the stupid English?'"

[All the same, Margaret Huxley was English and did more to raise nursing in the Emerald Isle than any other woman.—ED.]

## Miss Brownlow's Cause.

The *Matron of a Home for Sick Children* (and "proudly F. B. C. N.") writes: "I must tell you how very much I appreciate your Editorial in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING this month; also, I was so pleased you are continuing to take up Miss Brownlow's cause. I feel I am able to do so little practical work, as I am so very tied, and last September we suffered from enemy action and had to close the Home . . . but now we have rebuilt it, and I hope to get going again at the end of this month, as there are so many children in London still requiring treatment and the hospitals keep asking for beds. This by way of explanation for not being present at meetings, etc. My heart is with you, and I am always more than grateful to you for all you have done and are doing still for us. I am so very glad you still keep up the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in these difficult times."

[A free voice in the Press is our only hope; it wrenched legal status for the Nursing Profession in the past from a very determined autocracy, and will continue to claim self-determination for nurses, a right conceded to our colleagues throughout the Dominions and in the U.S.A.—ED.]

## A MESSAGE FOR TO-DAY.

Our fathers to their graves have gone;  
Their strife is past, their triumph won;  
But sterner trials wait the race,  
Which rises in their honoured place—  
A moral warfare with the crime  
And folly of an evil time.

So let it be. In God's own might  
We gird us for the coming fight,  
And, strong in Him whose cause is ours  
In conflict with unholy powers,  
We grasp the weapons He has given—  
The Light and Truth and Love of Heaven.

WHITTIER.

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## PRIZE COMPETITION.

We regret that no Prize Paper of sufficient merit has been received for publication.

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

Give the preparation for operation and post-operative nursing treatment of a patient who has had complete excision of the breast.

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