

realising that these people must have the true devotion to duty, and leave it to those in authority to see that they have a 'square deal.'

"Forgive my pouring an opinion on you, but I feel so strongly on this subject."

THE ECHO OF THE PILGRIMS.

We quote from a letter from Miss Alice G. MacDonald, R.N., of Plymouth, Mass., U.S.A., to Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., in London.

"MY DEAR BRAVE KINSWOMAN.

"We can lie down to sleep in quietness and peace, while you are under perpetual torment . . . Many of our nurses are in camps with our boys who are training for soldiers in advent of a call for man power. We are called upon for sacrifices and retrenchment, which I call no hardship. We have been careless with prosperity. Those of us who had less could see the extravagance of others who never knew want.

"We read your article on Death in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, it was grand. Our prayers do follow you. We get radio from London, I am sure I heard Big Ben.

"As you say, perhaps the time has come for 'humanity to find its way into new paths of evolution,' but at what a terrible cost in life and property.

"What a wonderful thing for Premier and President to meet face to face. We feel sure Hitler will lose out."

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

National Duty First.

T.F.N. Reserve writes: "I study every word of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; it is so difficult in these wilds to keep in touch with nursing politics otherwise. As a Member of the British College of Nurses, I noted in the last issue, with sincere satisfaction, the action of those present at the annual meeting in sending a note of sincere gratitude and admiration to the Fighting Forces of the Empire. Indeed, great heroes all, they well deserve our thanks that England lives and will live.

"That in these tragic times the nursing profession is wasting time demanding privileges for themselves when all our thoughts and efforts should be expended in doing our national duty with every atom of energy we possess, is to me insufferable.

"What more do we nurses want in these hard times? We are well housed and cared for in the majority of hospitals and institutions, we have our regular pay and all found, not an anxiety. Compare our circumstances with thousands of our fellow men and women who have lost their all, are literally ruined, and many hungry. Those Matrons and Nurses demanding in these difficult times huge salaries, emoluments, and pensions, are doing our profession a great injury. It is no excuse that politicians are exploiting the country, all the world over they are the same. We Registered Nurses are proud to give, and not to take, and I hope our representative on the Salaries Committee of the Ministry of Health will oppose salaries of £1,000 a year, emoluments and pensions, for Matrons in high places. There is no need for these ladies to run cars and cottages in the country at the public expense, and those I know have no wish to do so. The claims of the Royal College of Nurses for excessive remuneration for the higher grades of the Nursing Profession is arousing widespread condemnation. The charitable public is not going to agree to any such scale in hospital finance. It would mean closing down the voluntary hospitals and their invaluable work free from the ignorance and extravagance of public bodies which squander our ever rising rates like water. Let us hope the Salaries Committee will do justice to our

colleagues of all ranks, without 'killing the goose that lays the golden egg.'"

Final Examination should be Simplified.

A Registered Nurse forwards the following letter, which she has sent to the Chief Clerk of the London County Council.

"DEAR SIR,

"I am taking the liberty of bringing to your notice an idea which has occurred to a few in the Nursing Profession, which will attract more applicants as probationers in training, and eventually do away with the necessity for employing Assistant Nurses.

"The L.C.C., as we all know, employs thousands of nurses, trained and otherwise, and Matrons in L.C.C. Hospitals must have met candidates who wished to become State Registered Nurses, but have not quite been able to pass their examinations. Had these girls passed their finals, they would have been quite content to remain as Staff Nurses, with, of course, a decent salary and standard of living, and would not have wished to aspire to higher posts. As they have not qualified—they have sought ways and means of earning a living by nursing—and have become a menace to our sick community and to the Profession as a whole.

"These girls, if they are otherwise fit to be nurses, must be encouraged to enter for their training, and the Final State Examination must be simplified and made more practical, so that these applicants may pass their examinations and become registered, and thus have a profession at their fingertips, and feel that they belong to a decent and professional body of women, which will thus increase their self-respect and efficiency.

"From this body of State Registered women nurses make their own progress by further experience and examinations; and higher posts, better salaries and pensions will be the reward of their own personal endeavours.

"I shall be extremely obliged if you would kindly bring this letter to the notice of the L.C.C., and I shall be glad to receive your comments.

"Yours sincerely,

"MATRON."

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

We have received two long lists of successful candidates who have passed the First and Second Examination of the Midwives Board in August and September.

The record was as follows:—

CANDIDATES EXAMINED:—

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| <i>First entries</i> | ... | ... | ... | 493 |
| Passed | ... | ... | ... | 381 |
| Percentage of failures | ... | ... | ... | 22.4 |
| <i>Re-entries</i> | ... | ... | ... | 120 |
| Passed | ... | ... | ... | 81 |
| Percentage of failures | ... | ... | ... | 32.5 |

We note that Bristol South Mead Hospital heads the list, with 18 successful candidates, followed by 13 at the Royal Derby and Derbyshire Nursing Association, by 13 at the Bristol Maternity Hospital, and by 12 at Leicester Training Scheme, 12 at Sunderland Municipal Hospital, and 12 at Sheffield Nether Edge Hospital.

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

What is meant by Peritonitis, and what is the commonest cause? Describe the post-operative nursing treatment of a generalised Peritonitis.

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