

WHAT TO READ.

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

- "Viscount Halifax." Robert Hale.
 "Memories of Victorian Oxford." Sir Charles Oman.
 "The Heathen are Wrong." Eugene Bagger.
 "I, Too, Have Lived in Arcadia." Mrs. Belloc Lowndes.
 "Hospital Nurse." Doreen Swinburne.

FICTION.

- "Rough Passage." Gilbert Hackforth Jones.
 "Pack Clouds Away." Bernard Darwin.
 "Frenchman's Creek." Daphne du Maurier.
 "To-morrow to Fresh Woods." Rhys Davies.
 "Common Clay." W. Riley.
 "The Timeless Land." Eleanor Dark.
 "Faro's Daughter." Georgette Heyer.
 "No Common Glory." David Pilgrim.
 "They Watched by Night." John Rhode.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Last Words in Westminster Abbey." Bishop Hensley Henson.
 "Under the Iron Heel." Lars Moen.
 "They Fight for Poland." F. B. Gzarnowski.
 "Occupied Territory." Polly Peabody.

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.

Definite Military Rank very Essential.

A *Military Matron* writes from West Africa, generously sending her subscription for two years: "I read your Editorial, 'After Many Days,' in the July issue. I only hope it is within the power of many of the nurses who have been given the military rank of officers to uphold their status, and keep it and use it as they should. As regular Sisters, we have, of course, ranked as officers, and always been treated as such in peace time by the Regular Army, but it is different in war time. A definite military rank is very essential with so many A.T.S., W.R.N.S., etc., all holding commissioned rank, and I am glad that it is now *un fait accompli* for the Nursing Services.

"Life out here is a question of always being ready for eventualities and at the moment we deal with local 'sick,' there always being with us, the scourge of West Africa, namely, malaria, in its varied forms. We are situated in as good a station as any; what dreadful days we are living in, with no immediate prospect of an end to all the carnage and misery Hitler is causing in so many countries. I shall be grateful if you will make a special note of my address for the JOURNAL, and post it optimistically! With my kind regards and best wishes for all you try to do for the Nursing Profession to uphold its best standards and traditions."

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Lowering the Bars."

A *Westminster Nurse* writes: "It is indeed a blessing to have the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on the side of the Registered Nurse, in this world-wide struggle to maintain efficient standards of nursing. I see several so-called nursing journals from the Dominions, and regret that, apparently, those who conduct them fail to support the rights and privileges of the Registered Nurse, as against the ever-growing claims of what is termed 'nursing aids' fostered

by St. John Ambulance Association and associated Red Cross Societies. The truth is that there must be something radically wrong in the organisation of the Training Schools if the supply of regular probationers falls short, and our professional nurses have to carry out the following instructions. To quote from a New Zealand Journal, 'Registered Nurses have a definite place in this scheme promoted by the Red Cross, since it is laid down that instruction in home nursing must be given by a Registered Nurse. The aptitude of the nursing aid during her subsequent period in hospital will depend very largely upon the quality and thoroughness of the lectures and demonstrations given and the ethical standards presented. It becomes a duty as part of the War effort for Registered Nurses not only to come forward to do the work, but where necessary to undertake preparation for it. . . . In this way the foundation is laid for really useful work later.' It amazes me that Matrons and Nurse Editors appear leagued together to compel Registered Nurses to cut their own professional throats. If 'aids' are indispensable, let them be instructed by the Societies which utilise their services; it is surely waste of a Registered Nurse's time and skill to be compelled to train persons who have no intention of fitting themselves for real nursing, but only for exciting war work. No other professional women would be called upon to create semi-trained competitors, and I regret to note the substitution of expediency for efficiency. What Miss Goosetray realises is 'lowering the bars.'

"It is high time the Training Schools put their houses in order, and fulfilled their duty to the sick community and to the conscientious young women prepared to sacrifice time to qualify themselves as Registered Nurses, and who are not out on the ramp for exciting war service. We hear of Reconstruction Committees for the Nursing Profession; it is to be hoped they will realise that some of us are taking the bit between our teeth—*vide* 'Hospital Nurse' "

[It is high time Registered Nurses awoke and realised their precarious position in the body politic. How many more thousands of pounds are we to supply to be utilised for our degrading?—ED.]

"Released."

A *Nurse interested in Literature* writes; "What I cannot understand is, if you could write 'Released' in your 'teens, why ever you became a nurse? "

[Fate! We were destined to become a nurse to qualify as the first professional Nurse Editor of a professional Nursing Journal in the world, and incidentally as the journalistic historian of Nursing for the past half-century. See the 88 volumes of the *Nursing Record* and the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which are extant for reference and maintenance of truth. It has been a vastly interesting career, bringing us into touch with the most brilliant brains in the nursing world and of service in the record of nursing events all the world over. The printed word stands, and thus truth prevails.—ED.]

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

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR DECEMBER.

State what you have learned recently of the up-to-date care of Wounds.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)