

suffering mankind; (2) a wholesome thirst for knowledge; (3) the skill attained by patient application, and (4) good manners, which include a multitude of virtues, such as serenity.

These are traditions of the past upon which the medical profession would, we feel sure, be satisfied to base its modern demands for nursing co-operation.

Furthermore, we call for a sense of professional duty and responsibility. We ask, is the Nursing Profession "seething with discontent in one form or another"? We doubt it. In some respects it would be well if it were; it might then seethe with some communal action and with some hope of attaining its objective. As it is, the lack of moral courage upon the part of the average nurse is responsible for any conditions of servitude from which she suffers. There is no unbridgeable gulf between Registered Nurses, whatever may be their relative positions.

Student nurses have an organisation through which they have power to organise demands in a constitutional manner. Why do they not use it? Or is it only on minor details concerning the things of the flesh over which they seethe? Less work, more freedom, better food?

Justifiable reforms are obtainable without revolution.

At the present time the profession of Nursing, its standards and status are in danger. Let the young reformers realise this and unselfishly combine to protect and preserve the rights they already possess owing to the courage of the "antiques" of 1919.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

No Work More Honourable than Domestic Service.

A *Hospital Matron* writes: "The domestic staff in this hospital were indignant when I read to them the Circular from the Ministry of Health belittling their honourable work. They decline to be plastered with badges inscribed 'Hospital Service.' They realise, as we all do in this institution from highest to lowest, that 'domestic work' is the very basis of the well-being of the patients and all concerned. It is to be hoped some of these invaluable workers will inform the Minister of Health, as he does not appear to know it, that the national health depends more upon skilled domestic service than on any other work in the country. I feel sure you will 'say a word' in next month's B.J.N. Why will men interfere with women's work? Never at any time have so many foolish circulars emanated from the Ministries as during this war." [See page 210.—ED.]

Words of Appreciation Valued.

Miss *Jessie Murdock* writes from New Jersey: "It has been such a satisfaction to have the Journal coming so regularly during these years of great strain. Our thoughts go out to our Sister Nurses while they carry on with such courage and fortitude."

[We have to thank several correspondents for interesting communications for which we regret we are unable to find space in this issue, but hope to give publicity to them in the near future. We greatly appreciate such evidence of interest in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.—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.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JANUARY.

What do you understand by the following terms:—
(a) Surgical cleanliness; (b) Asepsis; (c) Antiseptics; (d) Disinfection?

THE MIDWIFE.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

The Secretary of the Central Midwives Board announces that Part II of the Midwife-Teachers' Certificate Examination will be held on December 17th and 18th, 1941, instead of on December 15th and 16th, as previously published.

THE COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES.

It is reported that the Midwives' Institute, which has done so much to encourage women to qualify for the profession of midwifery, contemplates adopting a new title—that of "The College of Midwives." We hope the report is true, as it will encourage midwives to unite for educational and communal purposes, their work is invaluable, and should receive all the honourable recognition possible.

Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, speaking on December 11th at the diamond jubilee luncheon in London of the College of Midwives, praised the heroism of midwives who worked on in heavy air raids, and said:

"People are sometimes apt to take the wonderful work of the midwives for granted. Yet midwives are in attendance at 90 per cent. of the births in this country, and in the case of 63 per cent. of the births they are in sole charge."

He announced that he was appointing a committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Rushcliffe, to make recommendations on the salaries of both district and hospital midwives.

THE BELL.

A matin bell which cleaves the mist
Cutting its way with care,
To show the few,
The very few,
The House of Prayer.

A hopeful bell which swings aloft,
Cheering the feet that pass,
And crush the dew,
The quivering dew,
That crowns the grass.

A solemn bell with thrice rung stroke,
Telling the world at morn,
That here a Prince,
The Prince of Peace,
Is truly born.

Though many sleep and dream at will,
Maybe some shepherd hears,
Breaking his bread,
No more the bread
Of bitterness and tears.

A. M. M.

LAST WORD FOR 1941.

To the men who have passed over in defence
of Righteousness.

*We live in deeds, not years—in thoughts, not breaths,
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.*

*We count time by heart throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.*

P. J. BAILEY.

Into one beautiful and perfect whole—
And life's long night is ended, and the way
Lies open onward to eternal day.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD.