

form a committee to consider nursing conditions, and present a report.

When agreed, this report should be available for consideration by the General Nursing Councils, the Ministries of Health, English and Scottish Chairmen of Hospital Committees, and Members of Parliament.

SPRING NETTLES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—At this moment there is a great shortage of spring greens throughout the country. Spring greens are essential to ward off those early forms of disease which show themselves in skin eruptions and other pre-scurvy warnings.

Our great-grandmothers told us, and I would remind you of their teaching, that until garden greens appear, we may go to the hedges and rubbish heaps where nettle tops are everywhere to be found.

Take a pair of scissors in a gloved hand, and cut off the young nettle tops. Throw them into a bucket of cold water, stir them round with a stick, and then put them wet as they are, with no other water, into a saucepan, put on the lid, and cook quickly.

This will give a delightful tender dish almost equal to spinach, and if beaten up with a little milk or fat will provide a dish not only tasty and tender, but valuable to ward off spring anæmias and post-winter ailments.

JOSIAH OLDFIELD,
President of the Fruitarian Society,
8, Harley Street, London, W.1.

[Large quantities of drug plants—dandelion roots, nettles, or meadow saffron corns—are needed for medicinal purposes, and during the summer months a drive is being organised by Boy Scouts to collect the plants.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Trunkless Heads.

Old Queen's Nurse writes: "For years a kind colleague has sent me the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, knowing my income is very limited, and it is the greatest treat possible. May I endorse the sentiments of 'R.N.S.' in March issue. Horror at cruel barbarities of the enemy will live with our people for ever. It may be wise, or it may not, that the Press minimises the ghastly results of raids as known locally. Personally, it would be far wiser in my opinion, to let the whole world know the extent of the cruelties inflicted on innocent people. After a recent raid near here, people rushing to inspect damage, saw two heads without bodies in the road! Surely nothing so appalling could meet sight since the work of the guillotine in the French Revolution! Rescuers were at work for hours digging shattered bodies from the rubble. I am not ungrateful to the American nation for sympathy and material gifts, but may I express the opinion that had they been fighting side by side with us for the past year, those heads might not have been severed from their bodies."

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THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret that no Paper of sufficient merit was received for our Prize Competition for April.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

How are burns classified? What are the most dangerous kinds, and why?

THE MIDWIFE.

A correspondent writes as follows in *Una* on "Midwifery Training."

MIDWIFERY TRAINING.

I believe midwifery training is the most important of any and regard it as of national and spiritual as well as of professional importance. The type required for such should be of particularly clean hands, pure hearts and clear minds, such as will influence for good, young mothers. The blameless, defenceless little new life should receive the aseptic touch on reaching this plane, indeed more so than articles required in the nursing.

Mental troubles often could be prevented in later life if midwifery experts were of first-class order, knew the full meaning of their responsibility and so the foundation of at least some mental ills would be prevented. Prevention is better than cure. There are various reasons for mental ills, various ignorances perhaps, not only of the afflicted themselves but those who are responsible, to know and to act for their welfare, even of husbands, parents, etc., who may shirk responsibility or in circumstances which place unavoidable strain.

Start of Life is most important and the duty of those guiding the early life should be gifted and fully awake to their duty, really spiritual guardians who impart knowledge wisely. Even after childbirth the young mother expects guidance and rightly too. Babes should be received into the hands of such guardians of Life. So few realise fully the sacredness of this work and perhaps they use what could be a gift for national improvement as a means to accumulate money or excel in professional skill. They serve Ambition and so this extra certificate is misused.

Warfare experience calls for many unexpected incidents in obstetrical and surgical nursing and asepsis is required in every emergency.

Christ sanctified poverty with His humble birth ages ago, but in our present state of intelligence this could not be continued in a huge population. The strictest asepsis must be carried out by the best type of doctor and nurse. Enlightened gifted souls whose ideals are of the highest order should give the guidance necessary for the mother and her babe. Each individual then could or should be her own mental nurse thinking aright and following the laws of life sanely.

Hitler's powerful Germany was started in its cradles, the proper care of mothers and infants was encouraged. The new world of to-morrow must be enlightened as well as powerful. This is the world of which our Princess Elizabeth spoke in her recent broadcast to the Nation and it will start from our cradles. The protective dominating influences that surround them will be the most intelligent spiritually-minded doctor and nurse with gifts of the spirit as important as education or professional skill. Ideals are above money or ambition, those who work for spiritual progress are indeed in the service of sacrifice.

I believe the midwifery nurse with the necessary knowledge and power holds a trust from our Saviour and Friend for little children, to bring about such a world of to-morrow, to exercise a calling to service for Humanity, for future Peace, for the protection of innocent Motherhood and the little children in our homeland. She can guard and guide our future generations through spiritual understanding.

Many comforting arrangements are being made all over the country for mothers-to-be. The Princess Royal recently visited Farnley Hall, the home of Major Horton Fawkes, which has been converted for use as a maternity home under the West Riding County Council. Her Royal Highness spoke to each of the 23 patients, and also visited the nursery, where there were nine babies, who we hope are all flourishing.

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