

## WHAT TO READ.

## MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

Lord Vansittart, P.C., G.C.B., *Lessons of My Life.* (Third large edition.)

"The Making of the Indian Princes." Edward Thompson.

## FICTION.

"Loyalist Hero." Oliver Wiswell.

"A Little Season." Diana Patrick.

"The Red Angel." Guy Adams.

"Murders in Volume 2." Elizabeth Daly.

"Imogen Under Glass." Hilda Lewis.

"Royal Ishmael." Winifred Duke.

"Love Never Dies." Countess Barcynska.

"Among these Streets." Struthers Burt.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

"Love and Marriage." *Advice on Sex Problems.* Leonora Eyles.

"Reveille in Washington." Margaret Leech.

"When Britain Saved Europe." Sir Charles Petrie.

"Victors in Chains." Amintor. Published by the Greek Ministry of Information.

## 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.*

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## Shades of Gamp.

M.B.C.N. writes: "Thanks for BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; it always raises my spirits. Here we really put in a very strenuous amount of duty, and have little energy left to protect our professional affairs. And is it worth while now that the days of Gamp are in full fling? The slips with Miss Dock's letter I have scattered around. Our Medical Superintendent is a man of parts, and is up against the Ministry of Health's National Health Service. Pity the doctors didn't help the nurses, they will suffer for it in the end—he quite agrees."

## Unjust Legislation.

*A Health Visitor* writes: "If you ask me, I don't think Registered Nurses realise the injury recent legislation has inflicted upon them. They are never encouraged to take an interest in political affairs. When the election comes, as I suppose it will do after the war, then will be the time to demand to know why the candidate neglected our interests, and does he mean to repay us our cash. I have paid £8 8s. for general and for fever examinations and registration, and £2 for name to be reinserted annually for 10 years on Register—£10 8s. in all. No wonder the Minister of Health rushed his Assistant Nurse Bill through Parliament without financial discussion or an appeal to the Treasury. I note what you say about Rule 19—that the deficit may be paid by Registered Nurses without their knowledge or consent. It is an abominable shame, and sooner or later we must unite to demand that this matter is exposed and our money restored to us."

[The only people who can stop it are the Registered Nurses themselves, and until they unite for the purpose Messrs. Brown and Bevin will continue to finance their Assistant Nurse Roll with our cash, if necessary, as provided in Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943. A most invidious position for any British subject, male or female, to accept.—ED.]

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## THE MIDWIFE.

## THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD REPORT TO MARCH, 1943.

The tendency in this little country for everyone to interfere with other people's business appears irresistible, especially at this time of war—so we turn to stable, well-organised corporations like the Central Midwives' Board, with a sense of relief. The report of its work for the year ending March, 1943, consists of a brief survey of matters that are of importance and interest to those connected with the Midwifery Service.

## The Shortage of Midwives.

The shortage of practising midwives still exists and this shortage continues despite the increase in the number of women enrolled as midwives and a further steady rise in the number of pupil midwives—623 more being admitted to Part I, and 355 more to Part II, compared with the previous year. It is hoped that the recommendations of the Rushcliffe Committee, increased salaries, better working conditions, will secure that the necessary proportion of the pupil-midwives will continue in midwifery practice after qualifying as midwives.

With the approval of the Ministry of Health, the Board arranged for a special survey of Part II training schools to be made by two of its members, Miss E. E. Greaves, M.B.E., and Miss K. V. Coni, O.B.E. In deciding to undertake this survey, the Board had in mind the important rôle of the Part II schools in the training of pupil-midwives, and the influence which the matrons and teachers of such schools can exercise on the view that pupil-midwives take of the midwifery profession. Because about two-fifths of those passing through the Part II schools do not at the present time practise midwifery after they have been enrolled as midwives, special attention was paid during the survey to the conditions under which the pupil-midwives live and work, in an endeavour to assess the extent to which these factors influence the pupils in their choice or rejection of this profession after qualifying. Although the Board did not consider that this loss to the community was due to conditions experienced by pupils in the Part II training schools, the very serious effect of the loss on the functioning of the midwifery service made it desirable that such a possibility should be eliminated. Discussions with the teachers and others associated with the training were also an important feature of the survey, and gave the authorities an opportunity of bringing forward matters concerning the object and conduct of Part II training on which they wanted advice. Consideration is now being given to the surveyors' reports, which yield valuable information and suggest lines along which definite action can be taken.

*Examinations for Pupil-Midwives.*—Examination arrangements proceeded without interruption. The Board has adhered to its war time policy of holding the written examinations at the training schools, and the oral examinations at a larger number of centres than before the war.

The number of candidates who entered for the First Examination was 3,113, and the number who were successful was 2,333, an increase of 501 compared with last year. Of the successful candidates, 2,248 were State Registered general trained nurses, an increase of 530.

At the Second Examination, there were 1,678 candidates of whom 1,389 were successful, an increase of 251 over last year. Of the successful candidates, 1,296 were State Registered nurses, an increase of 283.

*Midwife-Teachers' Certificate Examination.*—Part I of the Midwife-Teachers' Certificate Examination was held in June and July, 1942; 44 candidates entered, and 24 were successful. At Part II of the examination held in December, 1942, there were 31 candidates of whom 22 were successful.

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