

## 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.*

## The Blunders of Bounce.

District Nurse writes: "A patient I visit is much interested in my copy of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. She is a widow and in great distress because her only son, longing to be a soldier, has been cast for the mines, as he is physically and temperamentally totally unsuitable for such work. She hates him being termed a 'Bevin Boy,' which naturally is very degrading, and, indeed, this form of advertising by Labour Ministers should not be tolerated. Can anything be done? My poor patient fears the boy may take the law into his own hands and be sent to prison, as so many of these unfortunate lads have been already. Can you give us any advice?"

[We sincerely sympathise with the mother's distress, but hesitate to give advice which would inevitably end in further suffering both for herself and son. The "Bevin Boy" tyranny is a disgrace to the nation, for which there was no necessity whatever, if from the inception of war the importance of the miner's craft had been estimated at its relative value in organisation—which it was not.]

We note in *The Times* that the powers arrogated to himself by the Minister of Labour, compulsory work by ballot, is being contested in the Courts as illegal by the legal advisor of a youth refusing to work in the mines.—ED.]

## Field-Marshal "Monty."

*A Health Visitor* writes: "I know you like little stories. How about this"?:—

Invalid Mother: "We are all for Monty in this 'ouse. He's played the puffit gentleman from the fust."

"What is a puffit gentleman?" I ventured to enquire.

"It's 'im as 'as 'is 'eart and 'is 'ead in the right place; 'im as loves God and honours the King."

"Yes," chimed in Young Hopeful, "glad to hear that the King has done his dooty by him."

[We quite agree with "Invalid Mother."—ED.]

## Funds to Help War Nurses.

*Broken in the War* writes: "Thank you for addresses and Funds to help Nurses broken in the wars. I have received very generous help as I am quite worn out, what with shelters and one thing and another."

[Apply to the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, or the Royal College of Nursing. Both have a large sum of money given by colleagues in the Dominions to help Nurses in England.—ED.]

## No De-grading of Standards in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

We thank Registered Nurses for promise of support in opposition to de-grading the standard of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, as suggested by the London Branch of the Royal College of Nursing, by admitting unqualified Assistant Nurses. Societies of Registered Nurses are alone eligible for affiliation.—ED.

## Looking Forward.

*Member of B.C.N.*: "What a relief to be free of bombs! I have lived for weeks in one of the most devastated districts and the tragedies cannot be swept away for years, death is not always the worst result. The sight of dear faces, so smiling and gay—now almost unrecognisable is a life sentence."

## STATE CONTROL.

## THE ROAD TO SERFDOM.

Those of us, and we are many, who are determined to oppose serfdom, should communicate with Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P. for Chislehurst, whose warning in the Press on the subject of State control should be taken to heart. He states that Professor Hayek, in "The Road to Serfdom," shows how the same forces and tendencies which were at work in Germany 25 years ago, and which produced a totalitarian State and this ghastly war, are at work in England to-day. Sir Waldron writes:—

"Bill after Bill is being introduced (or envisaged) in the House of Commons which provide for more and more State control and compulsion in post-war England. During the war we have loyally submitted to the regimentation of our lives. But to pass such Bills now, especially when so many of our men and women in the Services are away fighting for freedom, is sowing a tempest to reap a whirlwind. Much of my heavy correspondence consists of complaints that the bureaucrats 'bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.'

"The farther England goes down the totalitarian road the harder will it be to turn back. In a democracy the people have the last word. Let the people speak now with no uncertain voice and say: 'We are fighting a war for freedom; we will not lose that battle on the Home Front.'"

The Registered Nurses throughout England and Scotland, some 150,000 skilled women, are an example of the professional demoralisation of a great profession through the Nurses Acts, 1943, promoted by Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., late Minister of Health, and Mr. Ernest Bevin, M.P., the Minister of Labour. In thrusting these iniquitous Acts through Parliament without consulting the 150,000 Registered Nurses, which not only deprived them of status but annexed their cash, we have an example of serfdom which cannot be excelled.

## WHAT TO READ.

## BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

"What Fools We Were." Sir George Cockerile.

"Before the Storm." I. M. Maisky.

"Red Surgeon." George Borodin.

"A Twentieth-Century Bishop: Recollections and Reflections." Bertram Pollock.

## FICTION.

"The Heart of Jade." Salvador de Madariaga.

"The Rock and the Wind." Vivien Rutherton.

"There was No Yesterday." John Stuart Arey.

"Where Helen Lies." Margaret Lane.

"Fly Envious Time." Lou King-Hall.

"Dark Peril." John Creasey.

"The Harvey Girls." Samuel Hopkins Adams.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

"Don't let German Business Men and Civilians Win the Peace." Support Lord Vansittart.

"China and Britain." Sir John Pratt.

"A Prisoner in Germany." Robert Guerlain.

"Why was I Killed?"

"With Pennants Flying." David Masters.

"Surgeons Symphony." George Sava.

"English Social History." G. M. Trevelyan, O.M.

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