

"I wish I were in England at this time; I'm sure there is much that I could do to help that would be of real service. Hoping that all your efforts will be crowned with success. I greatly enjoy the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which comes regularly, and trust your health will be maintained for the sake of nursing standard throughout the world."

[It is such women as Miss Mary S. Jacobs, known for her great work in the past at London, Ontario, whose conscientious convictions will inevitably save our profession from demoralisation and extinction.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

The Servitude of the Assistant Nurse.

S.R.N., writes: "I read the spirited letter from 'An Assistant Nurse' in a recent issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. We need no slave class in our profession. It is now upwards of a hundred years, as you have reminded us since slavery was abolished in the British Empire, and the present Parliament has done evil service in attempting to resuscitate it in compiling a Roll of semi-trained nurses and shooing them into a compound. We Registered Nurses, however much we resent the injustice of the Nurses Act, 1943, so far as we are personally concerned, must protest with all our power against the outrageous assumption that any Minister of the Crown has a right to draft laws and push them on to the Statute Book, which practically enslaves thousands of women workers, deprives them of free action and reintroduces serf conditions in this free Empire. I have every sympathy with the Assistant Nurse who does not mean to conform to such conditions, and hope the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as usual, will be on the side of human freedom. Down with Ministerial autocracy!"

Retribution.

A Nurse friend writes: "Do you know the game of 'Vignettes'?"

"It may interest you to know I won the Prize at a recent competition, and here it is. The subject was 'Retribution'—you will remember the tragedy—a dear girl blasted in a meadow—headless body retrieved—and later her sweet damaged face—so well beloved. Somehow I just can't write these days, so am surprised to win this competition; thought you would like to know as you have always encouraged my pen."

RETRIBUTION.

Oh! Come to the shimmering meadows
In your glistening gown of blue,
And whirl with me through perfume
With grace as you used to do.

* * *

But when we came on the body . . .
There was no head in view.

* * *

The larks have flown high in their questing.
"God's in His Heaven" they knew,
And He will arise in His might they surmise,
And give the Devil his due.

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.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Other Men's Flowers." A. P. Wavell. (Field-Marshal Viscount Wavell.)
- "William the Silent." C. V. Wedgwood.
- "Autobiography of a Chinese Girl." Hsieh Ping-Ying.

FICTION.

- "White Wool." Naomi Jacob.
- "Lambs of Morning." Kathleen Noakes.
- "House Enduring." Eileen Tremayne.
- "There Was No Yesterday." John Stuart Arey.
- "Prophet by Experience." Jack Tams.
- "The Little Cages." William Kean Seymour.
- "Fresh Heir." Joan Butler.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Being Met Together." Vaughan Wilkins.
- "Yugoslavia." Robert Daniel Hogg.
- "The Story of Doctor Wassell." James Hilton.
- "Memories of Moor, Stream and Woodland." D. R. H. Williams.
- "The Men of the Burma Road." Chiang Jee.
- "The Crusade in the Late Middle Ages." Professor A. S. Atiya.
- "Britain at War." Arthur Stanley.
- "The Tool of Ch'ien Lung." Lady Hosie.
- "Overture to Life." John Michael Townend.

THE MIDWIFE.

THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

An instructive leaflet has recently been issued to Welfare Authorities (England) and the London County Council by the Minister of Health, who requested his Advisory Committee on the Welfare of Mothers and Young Children to look into the question of the care of the premature infant in view of the important bearing on this matter on the problem of neo-natal mortality.

The Minister has accepted the recommendations of the Committee. A number of them involve questions of staff and accommodation with which the Minister recognises that it will not be possible for Welfare Authorities to deal adequately at the present time, but he thinks it desirable to bring the recommendations to their notice in order that they may take such action as is practicable under present conditions and bear the outstanding points in mind in considering possible future developments of their services:—

(1) The provision of more accurate information is a necessary preliminary to action. The Minister suggests that information as to weight at birth should be obtained when this is 5½ lb. or less and that space should be provided for this purpose on the notification of birth cards.

(2) When the mother and infant are kept at home the Committee attach importance to—

- (a) a separate bedroom for the mother and infant;
- (b) the provision of adequate and suitable equipment in the home.

—Where required, special equipment for each infant should be lent by the Welfare Authority and should include draught proof cots with detachable linings, warm and suitable clothing, hot-water bottles (stone or reliable rubber), electric blanket pads, special feeding bottles, thermometer and mucus catheters;

(c) a supply of expressed breast milk where this is necessary;

(d) the services of a paediatrician;

(e) the giving of particular attention to the babies by midwives or health visitors, preferably with special training and experience with premature infants;

(f) the services of a home help.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)