

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"The Face Without a Frown" (Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire). Iris Leveson Gower.

"The Great O'Neill." Sean O'Faolain. (Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, 1550-1616).

FICTION.

"Mud on the Stars." W. B. Huie.

"Taras's Family." Boris Gorbatov.

"The Crimson Cat." Francis Grierson.

"Agent Extraordinary." Spencer Bayne.

"Stranger Under Our Roof." Jean Ross.

"Mr. Gurney and Mr. Slade." Warwick Deeping.

"Robert and Helen." Elizabeth Jenkins.

"It Came to Pass." Sidney Fairway.

"Red for the Killing." George Bagby.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"Prisoner of the Japs." Gwen Dew.

"Last Flight from Singapore." Arthur G. Donahue.

"Canada To-day and To-morrow." W. H. Chamberlin.

"This Marriage." Edith Roberts.

"The Plot of Earth." H. J. Massingham.

"Courts and Cabinets." G. P. Gooch, D.Litt.

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.

DEAR MADAM,

I read my BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING from cover to cover, and I have seen no notice or expression of opinion on two very important matters. One: may I ask if there is anything we can do in connection with this new German murder campaign? Personally I do not think such a condition of affairs should have been permitted to arise. Surely it means war in Great Britain as well as on the continent, and the stress laid by the Press on "Southern England" seems ridiculous. I live in London, which for the past fortnight has been bombed and battered without cessation for 24 hours round the clock. We are in the front line of battle, and the poorer people amongst whom I work are suffering terribly from nervous strain, especially those whose husbands are at the front, and whose children have to be left.

May I suggest that we nurses write to our Members of Parliament and make them understand that retaliation must be enforced with the utmost vigour? I have already done so and asked who is responsible for our "Home Security." Many of our Nurse colleagues are dead or injured, and those of us still on duty in this hospital, whilst full of courage, see no reason for the sacrifice of life if vigorous measures can prevent it.

The second matter is more personal—the new danger to our profession. Having de-graded our Nursing Standards by granting academic and legal status to unqualified women and Assistant Nurses, the Royal College of Nursing is now repudiating association with them and has the audacity to propose that our National Council of Nurses should be deprived of its basic standard, as a body of State Registered Nurses, and admit unqualified and semi-trained nurses to membership. I feel sure you will help to prevent this injustice. S.R.N., Health Visitor.

[We have already written to the Member of Parliament for Kensington South on both these important questions

and hope others will let their members know their considered opinions on them. Of course, we shall fight to the death before permitting the de-gradation of our National Council of Nurses.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Keep Sacred the Status of the S.R.N.

DEAR MADAM,—“I was most grieved to hear of the damage done to Queen's Gate. It is indeed wonderful to hear that all the precious and historic things were saved. I appreciate all the news in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING so very much. Out here in India we civilian Hospital Matrons who are serving for the duration in the Army do long for up-to-date news of the Home Hospitals and the thoughts of those who are carrying on so nobly the work of the Nursing Profession at home. I do appreciate personally, and thoroughly uphold the aim to keep sacred the status of the S.R.N.

“My present post is an interesting one. I tour 'selected' Hospitals for the training of the I.A.M.C. Nursing Orderly in this Command. In these Indian Military Hospitals examinations are held by myself and another Staff Matron, comparable with P.T.S. and Preliminary State Examinations at home. Of course, I miss being Matron of a Hospital, especially the care of the sick and wounded and being able to help the immediate Nursing Staff working with one in this. Still, I must not complain; the improvement of the standard of the Indian Nursing Orderly was badly needed, and this is a fine scheme. I have been fortunate in having a charge post on a Hospital Ship, and later as a Matron of a most interesting Indian hospital, where the patients were mostly Gurkhas. Still, like all others, we long for the day when we can return to our own civilian posts and be able once more to carry on with the training of nurses. You will perhaps remember that I am Matron of the West London Hospital in peace time, and now my Assistant Matron is carrying on as deputy most ably.

“My best wishes to all, and hoping you will continue to keep well and safe, C. N. COURTENAY.”

THE KING'S BROADCAST.

In order to meet requests for the reissue of the King's broadcast in a convenient and durable form *The Times*, with His Majesty's permission, has reprinted it, at a very moderate price. All profits from the sale will go to Service charities, and we feel sure Nurses overseas will appreciate a copy sent by colleagues at home.

The Presidents of the National Associations of Nurses of the Dominions and U.S.A. will receive copies from the Editor.

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