

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Napoleon's Memoirs." Edited by Somerset de Chair.
 "Grace Hadow." Helena Deneke.
 "Elizabeth Lady Holland, To Her Son." Henry Edward.
 "First Lord Holland, 1821-1845." Edited by the Earl of Ilchester.
 "Rudyard Kipling." Hilton Brown.

FICTION.

- "The King's General." Daphne du Maurier.
 "Three Marriages." H. S. Hoff.
 "Dark Hero." Peter Cheyney.
 "Visit of the Princess." R. H. Mottram.
 "False World, Goodnight." Mary Leigh.
 "Titus Groan." Mervyn Peake.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Leaves in the Wind." Henry Boerlein.
 "Report on Russia." Paul Winterton.
 "Time in the East." Evan John.

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.

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

February 6, 1946.

The President, The British College of Nurses, Ltd., London.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—The President and Executive of the New Zealand Registered Nurses' Association have asked me to convey to you their thanks for your message of goodwill, and also to thank you for the Booklet of "Our Princess in Pictures."

The booklet has been read with interest by the President and members of the Executive, and is a welcome addition to our library.

With kind regards and all good wishes for 1946.

Yours sincerely,
 (Miss) E. S. BROWN,
 Dominion Secretary.

THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, KENTUCKY.

We have greatly missed our "Quarterly Bulletin" which failed to reach us during 1945, and rejoice that its eminent Editor, Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, has arranged that we receive it for the future. The Frontier Nursing Service is full of romance. Mrs. Breckinridge writes:—

Frontier Nursing Service,
 Wendover Above Hyden,
 Leslie County, Kentucky.

"MY DEAR EDITOR,—I can't begin to tell you with how much deep interest I read the Journal month by month. I have always loved it since the days in France when I first knew Margaret Breay and first began getting the Journal.

"I note on page 19 of the February issue of the Journal that a memorial is to be established in memory of Margaret Breay. Please let me know as soon as an appeal is made and give the name of the person to whom a draft should be sent. I do want to contribute to this memorial.

"You will gather from our Quarterly Bulletins that we in Kentucky feel profoundly the deep distress of the world and that we lose no opportunity to call the attention of our readers to the need for action on their part if they want action out of the Federal Government. Of course, we should never have given up the greater part of our food rationing and the quicker it can be resumed, and the more drastic it is, the better. It has always hurt me to know

that you in the old country had to have so much more drastic rationing than ours, and it hurts me that this should continue. Personally, I always want to share and share alike with England and Scotland.

"With kindest regards, I am always yours sincerely,
 "MARY BRECKINRIDGE."

[As soon as the Margaret Breay Memorial is decided we shall report the same.—Ed.]

TERRIBLE SHORTAGE OF STAFF.

March 8, 1946.

MADAM,—It was with some concern I read the "Editorial" in the February issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. The proposed methods of training and the principles underlying them cannot but be detrimental to the interests of nursing. Surely academic traits must be satisfied throughout the nurse's career, and adequate theoretical instruction be the basis of their training if their interest is to be maintained and they are to nurse their patients intelligently and not mechanically. Efficient bedside nursing is essential and can only be acquired by actual contact with the patient, but of what use is a good bedside nurse if owing to inadequate knowledge she undertakes certain nursing procedures adversely affecting the satisfactory recovery of the patient. A nurse must not only be trained to care for the patient, she must know how to prevent disease, and to nurse the patient so that he is able to resume an active life in as fit a condition and in as short a time as possible.

The value of pre-nursing courses cannot be overestimated and should be the channel of entry to all training schools. Instruction in the Preliminary Training School should be confined to Theory and Practice of Nursing. The "Block" System should be universally instituted, weekly clinical classes only being given during the interim period. It is doubtful whether a nurse would gain very much valuable experience during the short period spent at the special hospital while taking her general training. A nurse cannot but benefit by any training she may take in addition to her general training, and therefore any qualifications attained should be recognised, no matter what branch of nursing she eventually takes up, providing she is qualified for the post she is to hold. The Sister Tutor during her special training receives instruction in the principles of teaching. She therefore should undertake the theoretical and practical teaching in classroom and wards. Co-operation between Sister Tutor and Ward Sister is essential in the interests of the patient and the nurse's training. The Ward Sister should qualify for her post by examination following a course of instruction which should include Ward management, organisation, and psychology.

The writer of the article mentioned above dares to suggest that people at home should be nursed with the aid of Hospital Aids and Orderlies. Any form of nursing whether in the home or in hospital must be carried out by trained nurses or nurses in training. The work of Orderlies must be confined to domestic duties. Have we not been fighting to improve the status of the nurse and maintain the standards of nursing? If we cede from our ideals in any form by reducing the training and education of the nurse then the last nail will surely be put in the coffin.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. WALLER,
 S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N.(Lond.),
 Sister Tutor's Certificate.
 Croydon General Hospital, Croydon.

We feel sure Miss Waller's letter will be read with interest and approval by many colleagues. The fact remains that many young women will not agree to sign for a four years' training in a general hospital. Thus our hospitals badly understaffed. To add training in a speciality means six years' hard work before freedom of environment.—ED.

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