

rather appropriately just now, as discussion on the subject is rife. Miss Searle avers that within the theatre ballet girls have no temptation. They are busy—too busy. It is for idle hands Satan finds mischief. Besides, strict discipline is of necessity kept behind the scenes. They are tempted outside in the streets. But all working women are equally liable to such temptation, the only difference being that ballet girls, as a rule, have the misfortune to be pretty.

THE other day a mother told me she would like her daughter to get something to do on the stage. I was rather surprised, for, though poor, she is highly respectable, and very devoted to her children. I asked her if she would not be afraid of the life for her child. She replied, "She can take care of herself. When she first went out to work she was only fourteen. The factory she was at was some way from our home. She is very pretty. One day she lingered to look at the shops, and a gentleman came up and said to her, 'My dear, I will buy you anything you like, earrings, brooch, or locket; which will you choose?' 'Mother says, sir, I am not to speak to strange gentlemen,' replied she, whereon he quickly disappeared, and my child flew home to tell another. She is a good daughter is my Bertha. But you see it will not be more dangerous for her on the stage."

To translate poetry is always difficult, so much of the original beauty must of necessity be lost in the transfer; but the Hon. Florence Henniker has ably translated several foreign poems, principally those of Spanish and German writers, and published them under the title, "Poesies from Abroad."

VEVA KARSLAND.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

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.

Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am much obliged to you for directing the attention of your readers to the subject of "Rural Nursing," and I shall be more beholden to you if you will allow me to reply briefly to the remarks made upon it.

First, let me heartily endorse what is said in one of your Nursing Echoes, suggested by the Hon. Mrs. John Dundas in her letter to the *Times* about the

necessity of Trained Midwives in rural districts. In many of these the Doctors live in towns at a distance of several miles away from outlying villages and hamlets, and the whole of the ordinary attendance upon poor women in child-birth rests in the hands of entirely untrained, grossly ignorant women, who are unfit for their duties when everything goes well, but are totally unable to cope with the emergencies that arise so quickly and so frequently in child-birth cases. I do not agree that a Trained Midwife "must be drawn from the people amongst whom she is to work." Besides training, women who are Nurses should have (as I am sure you will agree) valuable mental and moral qualities, which it is by no means easy to find in one person, and it is certainly not common to find the possessors of these qualities in every village or group of villages where nursing services are needed.

Every added power, every mental or moral characteristic which makes a Nurse superior to those she serves, would increase her influence, not only in the management of sickness, but in teaching village people regard for the laws of health.

Who, knowing country villages, with their picturesque but sadly defective dwellings, their absence of sufficient water supply, their need of good sanitary conditions, shall say such an influence is not urgently needed?

My own experience leads me emphatically to assert that although at first village women have some shrinking from a stranger Nurse, and a tendency to cling to the services of the ignorant old Midwife they have had perhaps with several children, such feelings disappear before the opinion of a person they like and respect, and there springs up with slight experience, grateful appreciation of better tendance than they have ever before experienced.

Who is so prejudiced as not to prefer comfort to discomfort, and the alleviation of suffering which follows good nursing to the roughness and carelessness of ignorant service?

"I suppose God Almighty puts it into the heart of some people to look after others," a village woman said to me after lamenting the great need of a Trained Midwife in the neighbourhood. I know there is difficulty in collecting money enough for the expense of a rural District Nurse, but this again is to be conquered by patience and sufficiently strong conviction of the need of such help. It is true that "gentlewomen" trained as Nurses often prefer the interests of Hospital life, or work in a town where the relief of congenial society is at hand; but there are many ladies who "bury themselves in out-of-the-world villages" by choice, or who find themselves naturally so buried. And as Mrs. Dundas most truly suggests, such women would find a hitherto unknown happiness in preparing themselves with the "self-devotion and self-sacrifice" necessary to take up "the holy work of alleviating pain and suffering."—I am, yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH MALLESON.

(Hon. Secretary to the Rural Nursing Association.)

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Esther Gairdner.—Your letter is too long. If you can shorten it by four-fifths we will insert it. We quite approve of your "sentiments."

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