

felt, when Percivale left me the next morning to return by a third-class train to his ugly portrait, for the lady was to sit to him that same afternoon, that the idea of home was already leaving Oldcastle Hall, and flitting back to the suburban cottage haunted by the bawling voice of the costermonger.

But I soon felt better, for here there was plenty of shadow, and in the hottest days my father could always tell where any wind would be stirring; for he knew every out and in of the place like his own pockets, as Dora said, who took a little after cousin Judy in her way. It will give a notion of his tenderness if I set down just one tiniest instance of his attention to me. The forenoon was oppressive. I was sitting under a tree, trying to read, when he came up to me. There was a wooden gate, with open bars, near. He went and set it wide, saying—

"There, my love! You will fancy yourself cooler if I leave the gate open."

Will my reader laugh at me for mentioning such a trifle? I think not, for it went deep to my heart, and I seemed to know God better for it ever after. A father is a great and marvellous truth, and one you can never get at the depth of, try how you may.

Then my mother! She was, if possible, yet more to me than my father. I could tell her anything and everything without fear, while I confess to a little dread of my father still. He is too like my own conscience to allow of my being quite confident with him. But Connie is just as comfortable with him as I am with my mother. If in my childhood I was ever tempted to conceal anything from her, the very thought of it made me miserable until I had told her. And now she would watch me with her gentle dove-like eyes, and seemed to know at once, without being told, what was the matter with me. She never asked me what I should like, but went and brought something, and if she saw that I didn't care for it, wouldn't press me, or offer anything instead, but chat for a minute or two, carry it away, and return with something else. My heart was like to break at times with the swelling of the love that was in it. My eldest child, my Ethelwyn—for my husband would have her called the same name as me, only I insisted it should be after my mother and not after me—has her very eyes, and for years has been trying to mother me over again to the best of her sweet ability.

(To be continued.)

APPRECIATION.

YOUR magazine gives us great pleasure. It is so nice to be well informed as to the progress Nursing is making in England.—R. K., *Egypt*.

The "Nursing Record" POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 14.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings will be awarded to the best answer to the following question, addressed, "Nursing Record Post-Card Competition," St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C. All answers to this question to reach us not later than the morning of Saturday, February 21st, 1891:—

"Give a Description of what you consider should be the Ideal Corset for Nurses' wear, stating the kind of material used most suitable."

(a) The answer must be written (neatness and distinctness count to credit) in ink, on a *thick* post-card, with the full name and address of the candidate at the *top*. The successful candidate's answer will be printed in *fac-simile*.

(b) All associated with nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a "tie" a subscriber will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the *bottom* of the post-card, "I am a subscriber," or "I obtain the NURSING RECORD from—"

(c) The decision of the Examiners to be final.

* Give name and address of newsagent where obtained.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-THIRD COMPETITION.

A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon the following subject:—

"Describe for a Hospital containing fifty beds the number of Nursing Officials, Staff, Pupils, or Probationers, required; mention their duties, their hours, and the regulations necessary for satisfactory working."

RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than Saturday, March 7th, 1891, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope; and in no case will he be responsible for any loss of same during transmission, &c. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

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