Motes by the Wayside.

By Our Peripatetic Correspondent.

ALAS! for the ignorance and carelessness of mothers with regard to their children's health. Two experiences of last week will suffice to partly illustrate what I intend to convey by my opening sentence. Having a spare afternoon, I bethought me of two old friends whom I had not seen for some time, so I set off with pleasant anticipation to remind them of my existence. At the first house, while at tea, I noticed that the elder little boy looked suspiciously ill, and when I spoke of it, the mother calmly said: "Oh, yes, Robbie has measles! This is the fifth day, so he is nearly well." I found that he had been running all over the house from the first during bitterly cold weather; he had been sleeping in the same room with two younger children; and these two younger ones came in shortly from the pantomime, which they appeared to have much enjoyed. And then we wonder how epidemics are spread and why there is so much pulmonary trouble after measles.

SLOWLY and sadly, I moved on to my other friend, and as I entered the front door, my

attention was at once arrested by seeing one of the daughters, a girl about fifteen, sitting on the stairs in a regular paroxysm of whooping-cough. The whole family was "down" with it, and they were running about promiscuously in draughty corridors and in rooms without any fires. The mother was very cool and indifferent, and turned a deaf ear to my Nursely remonstrances; her argument being that it was "natural" for children to have whooping-cough, and so much better for them all to have it at the same time: "You see," she said, "it saves so much trouble to get it all over together!"

With such experiences as these does it sound despotic or unreasonable for me to say that I should like to see a law passed which would prevent any girl or woman marrying until she could produce a certificate of at least one year's Hospital training?

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