

'what are you thinking of?' 'Thinking? Oh! I was thinking about the thirty-nine Articles,' she answered without hesitation. . . . 'Tell me, Archie, and tell me truly—I mean don't explain matters till I can't understand what you mean—but tell me, yes or no, whether you actually believe in the thirty-nine Articles or not?'

This is very funny. The Bishop, in vain, does try to "explain," but his sceptical sweet-heart will have none of his attempts to reconcile the ancient literature of the thirty-nine Articles with modern thought; so, after a series of afternoon teas, dinners, and drives, interspersed with religious arguments, Miss Constable finally breaks off the marriage; her father dies shortly afterwards, and she is left a lonely heiress with a yearning heart, for, in the last chapter, she hears her Bishop preach a sermon which divides them more than ever from each other.

"So they stood, this man and woman, who loved each other beyond all the world, who loved each other for time and for eternity, and who were utterly and irrevocably apart for ever."

There is one very good scene, when the Bishop and Miss Constable are buying presents for each other in a jeweller's shop, and a humble worshipper of the prelate's watches them wistfully. This is so good that it makes one hope that the writer will return to her pleasant stories, for it is certain that the "Soul of the Bishop" proves that she does not excel in the higher regions of ethical thought.

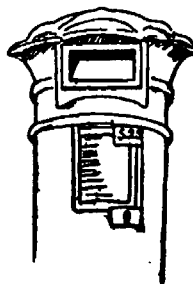
Margaret Deland, in John Ward Preacher, has described with a masterly pen, and with a sorrowful simplicity that goes straight to the heart, the overwhelming grief that came to Helen Ward, when her love of truth forced her to believe differently from her beloved husband, who, in hopes of saving her soul, sent her away from him to live out her sad life alone; but Miss Constable's shallow and crude speculations about her creeds can hardly be considered improving reading, and most certainly are not amusing.

## Inventions, Preparations, &c.

### THE MINEHEAD PRIVATE NURSES' HOLDALL.

"THE NEEDFUL AT HAND."

This "Holdall," designed by Miss Marion Pincoffs, which has been awarded a Medal and Diploma at the Chicago Exhibition, is a most complete contrivance in the form of a basket, and deserves to be widely known. It was designed to enable the Private Nurse to have at hand material to carry out the doctor's orders as quickly as in a Hospital. It contains practically everything required in nursing an acute case, which would not be found immediately available in an ordinary private house, besides many small items tending to the comfort and well-being of the patient. In addition to drugs, stimulants will be found, and also the concentrated and prepared foods, so difficult to obtain quickly in country places. Though primarily intended for Nurses, the Holdall will prove an invaluable possession in any house, in serious illness or sudden emergency. It can be obtained from Messrs. Arnold, West Smithfield, E.C.



## Letters to the Editor.

(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.*

### THE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Madam,—It is with much pleasure that I have read the able letter in this week's RECORD from the Matron of the Maternity Hospital, Manchester.

Allow me to make a few remarks on the vexed question—"Shall Midwives be ended or mended." They may be mended, but certainly never ended, as long as there are poor women who need the attentions that a doctor cannot give in their hour of trial, and afterwards to their babies.

The name Midwife seems to be the objection, and, the extract from the journal mentioned in the RECORD of Oct. 14th suggests, that they should be called Obstetric Nurses. Why? Perhaps it is that some medical men feel that they are the usurpers of it.

By whatever title we are called, the poor women that are unable to pay a doctor and Nurse will still require our services in preference to the medical man that would demean the profession by only charging the paltry sum of 7/6. When I require the aid of a medical man, I send for the cleverest and best I know, and have never been refused, even when they knew the case to be an unremunerative one.

I also find that they are often glad to request my services for their own patients when things have gone wrong, owing to the imperfect nursing and lack of cleanliness after labour.

Again, "Massacre of the Innocents" is indeed a grave mistake, as a still-birth has seldom to be registered by a qualified woman. And I would add my testimony to the truth of every word in the letter before mentioned, by the Matron of the Maternity Hospital, Manchester.—I remain, yours sincerely,

ELEANOR R. WILLIAMS,

*Certified Midwife of the Board of Examiners for the Lying-in Charity, Birmingham.*

Leicester, October 21st.

### SANTA CLAUS SOCIETY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Madam,—I am sending you the Report of the Santa Claus Society, hoping you may be able to help our work in some way.

We wish to send gifts to many Hospitals this Christmas, and therefore need a large supply of dolls and toys for children, and presents suitable for adults.

We are holding, in connection with the Society, the following Prize Competitions:—

One for dolls in ordinary dress...	...Rules 1d.
One for dolls in fancy dress ...	... Do.
One for cake-making ...	... Do.
One for sweet-making ...	... Do.
One for boy competitors ...	... Do.

The Entrance Fee for the Society is 8d. for one competition, or 1s. 2d. for two. I am glad to enter names and receive entrance fees now. Trusting you may be able to help us.—Believe me, yours truly,

JANIE F. CHARLES,

*Manager and Secretary Santa Claus Society and Home.*

Stormont, Hampstead Lane, Highgate.  
October, 1893.

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