

Gardenia," which, though it hardly does justice to the wit of the book, yet hits off with considerable success its style of epigrammatic conversation. But having paid full tribute to the brilliancy of "The Green Carnation," I think every one, after reading it, must feel thoughtfully sorry that it has proved such a success, for it is abominably personal, and nothing can excuse the bad form of the constant allusions to eminent writers of the day. I refrain from quotation, but when such honoured names as those of George Meredith and Henry James are alluded to with ribald jest and pert personalities, and without even the thin disguising veil of a pseudonym, all people who appreciate the art of reticence are bound to uplift their voices and protest. The author of this last Pioneer volume, I have been told, is very young; let us hope he will outgrow his faults, and soon give us another volume as amusing as "The Green Carnation," but free from its sins against good manners and good taste.

A. M. G.

Reviews.

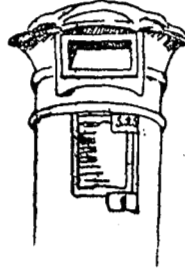
"Children: Their Health, Training, and Education, with Valuable Hints for Young and Old," is the title of a book which has just reached us. The author, Mr. G. W. Bacon, F.R.G.S., is to be congratulated upon the interesting way in which he has treated the subject. He goes into its branches very thoroughly, not merely confining himself to the child's physical well-being, but devoting a chapter to its education as well; and, of course, discussing the best methods of recreation and exercise. The book runs to 140 pages; there is a capital index; the subject matter of the paragraphs is clearly stated at the beginning; and all this for a modest sixpence. The book can be obtained from Messrs. Bacon & Co., Limited, 127, Strand.

Yet another book on First Aid. "Ambulance Lectures" is the title, and a most useful text-book it will prove to those who are taking up the subject. The author, Sam. Osborn, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to The Hospital for Women, Soho Square, says in the preface: "The syllabus of the St. John Ambulance Association has been strictly adhered to, these pages being in fact Lectures given to classes organized under the control of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem." The publisher, H. K. Lewis, 130, Gower Street, has certainly sent the book out in an attractive coat—blue with the red St. John's cross in the centre. The book is well illustrated; the frontispiece being ingenious, not to say artistic.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

THE DUPLEX TEAPOT.

Tea is a matter which Nurses are never tired of discussing, especially when combined in a mixture with milk and sugar. They will, therefore, be much interested in a new teapot which has been recently patented by Mr. John Crabtree, of Witham Lodge, Bracebridge, Lincoln. It practically consists of two chambers, the upper one holding the leaves through which the water strains into the lower compartment, from which it is poured off as required. The new form has obvious and valuable advantages in that it prevents the tea being stewed to the extraction of the tannin, and the detriment of the drinker's mucous membranes and nerve-tissue. Nurses who are wise over "the cup that cheers" will fill the latter from a Duplex Teapot.



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.

HAVE NURSES CRAMPED MINDS?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The question has been raised in your columns: Why have Nurses cramped minds? Why, I would ask, has anybody a cramped mind? Simply and solely because they have ceased to absorb fresh knowledge or sufficient even to supply that which has been lost by evaporation in the course of time. It is the old, old story of a person straining every effort to qualify, first at school for prizes, then later to pass some examination; then, later still, to attain some position in life by which a living can be made; or, in the case of girls with matrimonial longings, spending hours at the piano or some other ornamental veneer, in order to charm amenable young men. Then when these have succeeded in getting their *niche* in life, they forthwith forget the steps by which they did ascend. What does it matter? I've got what I want. The underlying evil is that people work chiefly with eyes fixed only on the result, and forget that the work itself should be a sufficient stimulant. The Hindoos have a worthy aphorism, "Ne'er work for recompense; let the act's motive be in the act itself." Perhaps some Nurses have cramped minds because they take little or no interest in what is going on in the world at large. They care not for politics and all this means. They may perhaps regard with lofty disdain women suffragists, whom they would like to call unfeminine. Perhaps the fault is that Nurses are given so little leisure. Hospitals and similar Institutions, then, should see to it, and by establishing debating clubs, a good library, and plenty of current literature, supply a remedy. Those who have a limited horizon should endeavour to realise the fact that there are regions above and beyond—in short, another dimension of space. Then, perhaps, they would be more tolerant. It would be interesting to study the lessons of humility to be learnt from the various dimensions of space. Let me, however, be permitted to recommend a most charming fairy tale, written by the late head master of the City of London Schools, the Rev. Edwin Abbot, which would give many valuable hints to those who have cramped minds.—Yours faithfully,

W. HOGARTH.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The question which appeared in a recent number of the RECORD as to the "cramped mind" of the trained Nurse has aroused much attention and interest. Such sweeping statements and such hasty generalisations are apt to be unjust, but there is undoubtedly more than a grain of truth in the assertion. It will be interesting to get at the "First Causes" of this narrowness of issue. And we must naturally begin with the early training of the average girl. And this is unquestionably narrow. In an anxiety to shield their daughters from the "knowledge of evil," and to keep them what is called "nice," mothers are apt to cramp the young mind down to the average false standard of propriety. The girl is apt to think that a severe criticism of others' shortcomings is an evidence of her own goodness; and she is taught to believe that the only way up the straight path is one bounded by a trim set edge. In the growth of plants

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)