

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"Pseudo-Philosophy at the End of the Nineteenth Century. I. An Irrationalist Trio, Kidd—Drummond—Balfour," by Hugh Mortimer Cecil.

"Mr. Blake of Newmarket," by Edward H. Cooper.
"Education of Girls and Women in Great Britain," by C. S. Bremner, with a Preface by Miss E. P. Hughes.

"The Outgoing Turk: Impressions of a Journey through the Western Balkans," by H. C. Thomson.

"Ivan Alexandrovitch: a Siberian Romance," by Andree Hope.

"A Woman of Thirty," by H. de Balzac. Translated by Ellen Marriage. Preface by George Saintsbury.

"The Jessamy Bride," by F. Frankfort Moore.

"The Sound of a Voice," by Linda Gardiner.

"An Australian Duchess," by Amyot Sagon.

Coming Events.

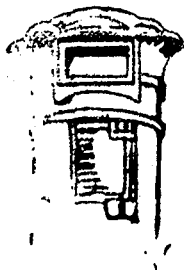
March 26th.—Fifth Sessional Lecture Royal British Nurses' Association. "Bacteriology" (with demonstrations), by F. G. Wethered, Esq., M.D., 8 p.m.

March 30th and 31st.—Sale of Work, St. George's Mission Hall, Great Ormond Street, for Samaritan Fund, London Homœopathic Hospital; 11 a.m. till 8 p.m.

March 31st.—Crystal Palace.—Mrs. Fenwick Miller will lecture on "Progress of Women in the Victorian Era?"

April 2nd.—The Duke of Connaught presides at the Festival Dinner of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, at the Hotel Metropole.

The Duke of Westminster presides at a meeting for the purpose of raising a national memorial to Edward Jenner in the theatre of the University of London.



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 PECULIAR PEOPLE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In reference to a "Nurse Haley," whose conduct is criticised in this week's issue of your journal, you will, perhaps, permit me, in justice to the institution of which I have the honour to be the medical superintendent, to say that a young lady of the name of Healey was here from October 12th, 1896, to February 1st, 1897; as a second-class assistant nurse, a position, as you know, analogous to a Probationer, and, as far as I know, never saw an enteric patient during the period of her service.

I regret to see that the estimation of medical men by "Nurse Haley" *alias* Healey is of such a low standard.

Yours faithfully,

W. GAYTON,

Medical Superintendent.

Metropolitan Asylum Board,
North Western Hospital,
Haverstock Hill, N.W.,
March 22nd, 1897.

[We have much pleasure in publishing this letter. It completely confirms our anticipation of the nursing status and knowledge possessed by the woman in question. We would call the attention of our contemporaries in Dover to this excellent illustration of the Nurse à la mode, who, with sublime self-confidence, born of crass ignorance, undertook the serious responsibility involved in the sole charge of a dangerous case, neglected to obtain medical advice, and yet evidently was unfitted herself to render the slightest efficient aid. The public are slowly awaking to the dangers to which the sick are exposed by persons of the Haley type.—ED.]

"BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Many matrons of country hospitals will have read your remarks in relation to the position of the senior house surgeon at the Macclesfield Infirmary, with interest and approval, and will thoroughly agree with your views. Only those matrons who have worked in country hospitals where the obsolete rule still exists, of constituting a young inexperienced medical man "the responsible head of the institution" can truly appreciate the difficulty which such a rule causes to the matron in the performance of her duty. No doubt such rules are a remnant of a now obsolete organisation, and were framed and found necessary in the olden time—before the advent of the trained matron—and I imagine it has been the evil results of such regulations, which have caused the reform of placing a trained nurse, in the position of head of the female staff, and of the nursing and domestic arrangements in all modern hospitals. The sexes are not yet sufficiently developed morally to make it advantageous for an institution to place one sex in power over the other. Under such circumstances I feel sure most women will agree with me, that the worst traits (evolved after centuries of tyranny upon the part of the strong, and the resulting duplicity on the part of the weak) are brought into play, and "the head of the institution" would be speedily found under the thumb of the scheming and unscrupulous. Detailed organisation is absolutely necessary in a public institution, and any interference upon the part of the medical staff with the personal discipline of the nursing staff, is sure to result in friction and inefficiency. I write after personal experience of an attempt to make "bricks without straw."

Yours truly,

COUNTRY MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Your remarks relating to the regulations in force at the Macclesfield Infirmary, in connection with the relative positions of the matron and house surgeon, are timely and indisputable, and all sensible

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