

The book is rather too full of preaching. Once or twice I was conscious of feeling a weariness creep over me, somewhat akin to that of the immortal sermon-taster of Drumtochty. But Mr. Macdonald's own conviction is so real that one can forgive him for having his pen full of it, and a little preaching of repentance is a change now-a-days.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

It is to be regretted that, owing to ill health, Olive Schreiner will be unable to speak or write on South African affairs. She is leaving town for absolute rest.

The following books of interest will be published at an early date: an English translation of Professor Ribot's "The Psychology of the Emotions," a new novel by Mr. Gilbert Parker, "The Pomp of the Lavillettes," and a work by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett.

There is a touching reference to Mrs. Oliphant in the July number of *Blackwood*. "How," says the editor, "shall we estimate the personal loss of a tried friend and brilliant contributor?"

WHAT TO READ.

"British Central Africa: An attempt to give some account of a portion of the territories under British influence north of the Zambesi," by Sir Harry H. Johnston, K.C.B., H.M. Commissioner and Consul-General in British Central Africa. With six maps and 220 illustrations. (Methuen and Co.)

"An Old Soldier's Memories," by Capt. S. H. Jones-Parry.

"In the Tideway," by Mrs. Flora Annie Steel.

"The Winds of March," by George Knight.

"The Craftsman," by Rowland Grey.

"The Way of Life," by Mrs. Oliphant.

"The Folly of Pen Harrington," by Julian Sturgis.

Coming Events.

July 5th.—Grand Garden Fête at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 3 to 7 o'clock, on behalf of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association.

July 7th.—The House of Commons goes into Committee on the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill.

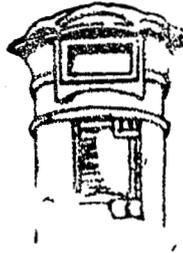
Princess Christian, on Her Majesty's behalf, opens the new General Hospital at Birmingham.

July 9th.—General Council meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, 5 p.m.

July 12th.—Opening of the new Park Hospital, Hither Green, by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, 4.15 p.m.

July 15th.—Princess Christian lays the foundation stone of the Cancer Wing of the Middlesex Hospital.

July 22nd.—Annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the Conference Hall, Imperial Institute, South Kensington, at 11 a.m.



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.

PROFESSIONAL DEGRADATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad indeed to read in the last NURSING RECORD a letter from one of the general public on the subject of a minimum standard of education, and also of a standard of examination for nurses. The advantage of these is perfectly obvious to an impartial observer who is tempted to wonder at our slowness in attaining them. It is only those in the nursing ranks who can form any estimate of the complex machinery which is set in motion to prevent our attaining these reasonable demands, or of the wheels within wheels which make our "masters" determined that we shall not have them. I say our masters advisedly, for these the medical profession practically are, inasmuch as our relations with them are those of employers and employed. This being so they can, and a certain section of them (a very small, but very noisy one) do, boycott those nurses whose opinions upon nursing matters differ from their own. The result is that we nurses have to choose between our principles and our bread and butter, and many of us, I am sorry to say, think that it is incumbent upon us to sacrifice the former for the latter. The choice is undoubtedly a hard one to have set before us, and the necessity for having to make it should never arise, but this being so "Not a Nurse" will see how grateful we are to anyone who is independent for taking up the cudgels on our behalf.

I believe that the question of nurse-training is one which will have to be fought out by the public, and that the time has come to decide whether nurses are to have the right accorded to every other professional body of managing the affairs of their profession which directly affect themselves, or whether they are to be compelled to put their neck under the heel of "the masters." I do not of course mean that the relations of medical men and nurses with regard to the *patients* should be in any way altered. It has been said, untruly, and purposely, that nurses are now advised not to carry out the orders of medical men, but to use their own judgment. It is unnecessary to say that this is not the case; the better trained a nurse is the more exact she is in carrying out medical orders. What nurses do ask is that matters in which medical men are in no way concerned, such as the organisation of their profession, and its philanthropic schemes, shall be left in the hands of the leaders of the nursing profession, and that these matters shall not be interfered with, and even mismanaged by, persons whose interests are by no means identical with, and indeed are often diametrically opposed to, their own.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

AN OLD NURSE.

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