

"Doubts" are too long for quotation here, and to take a verse out would be to mar the whole; they express, in wonderfully few words, the dominant note of a certain school of thought—the physical pleasure of living, with every sense awake to the beauties of earth—the cold shudder with which the natural man anticipates death—the reluctance to leave the stars, the twilight, the influences that make up such happiness as animals know. But it seems certain, from other poems in this volume, that the writer does not think these things are all: one is sure that the vision of truth has come, or will come, to her; and then, if she speaks in as musical a voice as now, the world must needs pause awhile to listen to her, and to be the better, because the higher, for her song. G. M. R.

Bookland.

"The Modern Marriage Market," by Flora Annie Steel, appears in the *Lady's Realm* for September.

The *Strand Magazine* for September contains a story entitled "Her Only Chance," by G. M. Robins.

We reprint from the *Indian Medical Record* the following

GOOD ADVICE TO EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

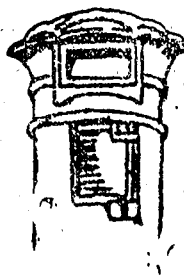
- ' If you've got a thought that's happy,
Boil it down ;
Make it short, and crisp, and snappy—
Boil it down.
- When your brain its coin has minted,
Down the page your pen has sprinted,
If you want your effort printed,
Boil it down.
- ' Take out every surplus letter—
Boil it down.
Fewer syllables the better—
Boil it down.
Make your meaning plain—explain it,
So we'll know, not merely guess it ;
Then my friend, ere you address it,
Boil it down.
- " Boil out all the extra trimmings—
Boil it down.
Skim it well, then skim the trimmings—
Boil it down.
When you're sure 'twould be a sin to
Cut another sentence into,
Send it on, and we'll begin to
Boil it down."

WHAT TO READ.

- ' The New Fiction," by H. D. Traill.
- " England and India: a Record of Progress during a Hundred Years," by Romesh C. Dutt, C.I.E.
- " Tales of the Rock," by Mary Anderson.
- " Jetsam," by Owen Hale.
- " By Right of Sword," by Arthur W. Marchmont.

Coming Event.

September 14th.—Congress and Health Exhibition of the Sanitary Institute opens at Leeds, under the presidency of Dr. R. Farquharson, M.P.



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 don't IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE R.B.N.A.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Having been absent from town, I have only recently seen the issue of *London* of the 5th ult., giving an account of the interview of its representative with Mr. Fardon, the medical honorary secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association. As hon. secretary of the Members' Rights Defence Committee, and as one who has taken a deep interest in the Association from its earliest days, I hope you will allow me to traverse the statement made by Mr. Fardon, that the Association was founded by matrons, assisted by doctors, who had the interest of the nursing profession at heart.

As a matter of fact, as you are of course aware, no doctor, with the exception of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, did anything to found the Association, and no others were present at the first meetings at all. The whole scheme was discussed by a few matrons, and the by-laws defining the principles upon which the British Nurses' Association should work were all adopted before Mr. Fardon became a member of the Association. I may also say that Miss Thorold, the matron of the Middlesex Hospital, was not one of the matrons who took any part in initiating the scheme.

Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who are still in sympathy with the objects for which the Association was founded, consider that Mr. Fardon betrayed their interests in voting for a resolution, at a public meeting, that legal registration of nurses is "inexpedient in principle and injurious to the best interests of nurses," and that, therefore, the only honourable course open to him, after taking that action, was to have resigned his post as medical honorary secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association, which from its foundation openly proclaimed that to obtain legal registration of nurses was the main object of its existence.

It is true that Mr. Fardon was not representing the Association on that occasion. He was, as he has publicly stated, representing the Middlesex Hospital; and he repudiated legal registration on the authority of the Committee of that hospital. Of course this was in itself perfectly legitimate. The Committee of the Middlesex Hospital have a right to hold what views they please on this important point, but—Mr. Fardon cannot serve two masters. He could not loyally support the Middlesex Hospital in opposing State registration, without at the same time acting *disloyally* to the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which he was a prominent official. It must, I think, be obvious that it is most unfair—the views of the Middlesex Hospital on this essential matter

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