

"Europe in the Sixteenth Century," by A. H. Johnson, M.A. (Periods of European History.)

"The Choir Invisible," by James Grant Allen.

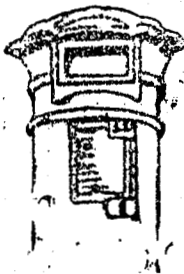
"A Welsh Singer," by Allen Raine.

"The Fascination of the King," by Guy Boothby.

"The Wisdom of Fools," by Margaret Deland.

"The Adventure of the Broad Arrow," by Morley Roberts.

"Temptation," by "Graham Irving." This story is by a famous novelist, who, however, has adopted a pseudonym on making a striking departure in the character of his writing. Those who have read the novel predict that it will create one of the sensations of the season.



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.

NEMESIS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MY DEAR EDITOR,—I am sending you, by this mail, a document that I think will interest you,—the report made by Dr. Barry, of the Indian Medical Service, on the sanitary condition of Poona.

The Poona Municipality seems to resent the tone of the report, and there is no doubt the style is much more piquant than is usual in a Government paper, and it is perhaps likely to give offence to those of the native officials who have conscientiously tried to do their duty.

But Dr. Barry has written a report that will be read and remembered by every English-speaking man in Poona, and it is far more likely to produce lasting results than a lot of dry statistics.

His description of Poona is heartrending, but Poona is no worse than any other native Indian city. They are all in the same state, and, if they could be burnt down and rebuilt with wide streets and sanitary houses, they would be as bad again in a month, simply because natives believe nothing and care nothing about overcrowding or uncleanness. It is not so very long since our European cities were in the same state. I doubt if Constantinople is very much better even now.

Since the murders of Mr. Rand and Lieut. Ayer, there has been a great deal in the English papers about the desirability of employing natives to do the inspection work instead of Europeans. If natives had been employed the work might just as well have been let alone. No native, for instance, would have entered another man's zenana; consequently, any case of plague existing in a house where the women were in Purdah would have been carried away into the zenana as soon as the inspecting party came in sight, and no cleansing or segregating would have been done.

As Dr. Barry points out, some of the *élite* of Poona native society live in houses whose open drains,

meandering through their compounds, have not been emptied since the time of the Peshwes. How is it possible to give cleansing or plague inspection work to men who are content to have their own premises in such a state as that?

To my mind it is a very grave question whether we English are justified in forcing our views on a thoroughly unwilling subject race at the expense of outraging all their strongest feelings. Their caste and Purdah prejudices are stronger than anything the Western races have any experience of, and if the whole race deliberately prefer death to having these feelings outraged, what right have we to force on them a disgraced life—a life that is not worth having?

Next time we get such a visitation will it not be better for us to put a military cordon round the city, set up a segregation camp outside, and let no one leave the city without spending ten days in the camp, and then let them have their plague as they like it without interference?

We should prevent it from spreading, we should not outrage their feelings, and we should not get shot as an acknowledgment of very trying, very dangerous, and very conscientious work.

I remain, yours truly,

K. THOMSON.

Filgate Lodge, Sangam, Poona, Bombay,
August 26th, 1897.

[We shall deal with Dr. Barry's Report next week—it is of great interest.—ED.]

PROTECTION FOR THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent, "E. G. C.," drew attention to a point of much interest, when she pointed out that so-called nurses are introduced into private families by medical men, some of whom, at all events, circumstances would seem to point out, are most casual in the inquiries they make as to the credentials of these women. This is a matter we nurses feel strongly about, because we believe that, if medical men would only be scrupulously careful in this respect, the untrained and unprincipled women, who at present flourish by professing to "nurse," when they are absolutely ignorant of the elements of the art of nursing, would cease to find employment, and would, consequently, seek for "fresh fields and pastures new," to the great benefit of the sick, as well as of the nursing profession.

If the public select their own nurses, and choose to take the risk of receiving into their houses persons who are unknown to them, well and good, and they will probably take some trouble to inquire into the credentials of such persons; but if a medical man says, "Leave it to me," he assumes the responsibility of recommending a reliable woman, and he is false to the trust reposed in him, if, through want of care on his own part, he fails to do so.

Trained nurses are, I believe, as a rule, very loyal to the medical men for whom they work, but their self-respect will not permit them to give all the fulsome flattery, and abject servility, which (low be it spoken) some medical men seem to like, and, indeed, to demand as a right, and who, therefore, prefer to recommend nurses whose professional qualifications are, to say the least of it, very inferior, but who pander to their own vanity, and they do not realize that these are the very

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