

on his return from exile, he can hand them back again. No sooner is the deed signed, than he goes out and denounces the man to whom he owes everything, and himself helps to murder him, in the first slaughter of the prisoners of the Abbaye.

This man becomes the evil genius of the unfortunate little Adeline: and from the first chapter to the last, we are kept in an almost continuous agony of apprehension by the machinations of the enemies of the helpless child.

One character, as sweet as any I ever met in fiction, is dear old Joy, housekeeper to the Marquis de la Vernède.

From a historical point of view, as well as from the point of view of a human document, everyone will find this book worth reading.

Its only drawback is a curious hint of Yankee slang here and there in the translation of the Provençal vernacular. This sounds very bad, or rather, very inappropriate, to an English ear. I do not know Miss Janvier's nationality, but I do not remember these little blemishes in her fine translation of the "Reds of the Midi."
G. M. R.

Bookland.

AN excellent little Synopsis of the British Pharmacopœia of 1898, has been compiled by Mr. H. Wippell Gadd, containing concise notes of the changes in the Pharmacopœia of 1898, as compared with that of 1885, as well as particulars of new preparations, table of doses, strength, etc. The book is of a convenient and handy size for the pocket, and no doubt will largely be used by practitioners and students. The London publishers are Messrs. Ballière, Tindall and Cox, King William Street, Strand, W.C.

WHAT TO READ.

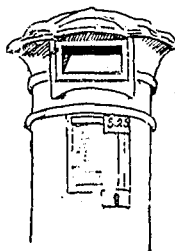
- "Bismarck." Three vols. By Dr. Moritz Busch.
- "The Emperor of Germany at Home." By Maurice Leudet.
- "Reflections of a Russian Statesman." By K. P. Pobeydonosteff.
- "Yesterdays in the Philippines." By J. Earle Stevens.
- "The Anglo-Saxon Superiority." By Edmund Demolins.
- "R. Louis Stevenson." By Margaret Moyes Black.
- "Under the Rowan Tree." By Alan St. Aubyn.
- "Hermy." By Mrs. Molesworth.
- "The Seed of the Poppy." By Clive Holland.
- "A Social Highwayman." By E. P. Train.
- "From the East unto the West." By Jane Barlow.

Coming Events.

September 26th.—Homœopathic Hospital, Birmingham. Opening of the Extension of the Nurses' Home.

September 27th to October 1st.—The Sanitary Institute. Autumn Congress, at Birmingham, and Health Exhibition in Bingley Hall.

October 5th.—Dinner at the Hotel Métropole in honour of Professor Virchow. Lord Lister in the chair.



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.

RULES FOR PLAGUE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Will you allow me, as a nurse, who has spent a great many years abroad, to say that I think it is hardly fair to criticize the rules made for the Plague Nurses in India, so severely, without knowing the special circumstances under which they were made? If I were living in a town in which rioting were taking place, I should feel grave anxiety about my nurses if they went out at night unprotected; and I should certainly consider myself obliged to ascertain their destination, and the sufficiency of their escort. But even apart from rioting, the whole social atmosphere is so difficult in India—especially in large towns like Calcutta—that I doubt very much if the liberty, rightly accorded to women working at home, would be understood there. I believe, for example, that in Calcutta, anyone who likes to call upon anyone else, is at liberty to do so, and in a country where a household of young women (apart from Missionary Settlements), is a complete novelty, I can quite understand that the authorities may have feared that some undesirable people might take advantage of the Nurses' ignorance of Indian Society; and some most objectionable visitor be admitted. It was certainly hard upon the lady doctor to place upon her the onus of refusing visitors, and defending her nurses from such undesirable acquaintances; but as she was requested by the authorities to act as Superintendent of the Nurses, her position, probably, brought her more into touch with the authorities, and with residents who knew the place and the people, and who could advise her in such matters.

To criticize the authorities, and blame them for thus "insulting the Nurses," is to put a weapon into the hands of those who wish to insinuate that such rules were called for by the conduct of the nurses themselves. I cannot think, for a moment, that anyone wished to insult women, who had come out at the call of duty, and at considerable risk to themselves. The harm done was by the indiscretion of one or more amongst themselves, or their friends, by rushing into print, instead of using proper means to have any rules which were objectionable to them, and only meant to last for a short time, altered. The correspondence, I believe, caused great annoyance to most of the nurses who were thus forced into publicity; as soon as the rioting ceased, the rules were withdrawn by the authorities. I may add that I think the greatest care ought to be exercised in the choice of nurses sent abroad, that there ought to be an experienced committee to choose them—not entirely composed of men—and that the nurse's personal, as well as professional, qualifications, ought to be strictly investigated, and no one chosen unless the Matron, under whom she is working, can personally recommend her for such a post. I know of one nurse, who was sent abroad on plague duty, and the Matron of the hospital, in which

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