

Bookland.

Miss Beatrice Harraden's new novel, "The Fowler," will be published by Messrs. Blackwood in April. The edition for 1899 of the Englishwoman's Year Book, edited by Miss Emily Janes, the well known and energetic Secretary of the National Union of Women Workers, is now published. We propose in a future issue to devote some space to a review of this valuable work; meanwhile we draw our readers' attention to the fact that it is obtainable. The compilation of such a book means much arduous and laborious work, and Miss Janes is to be congratulated upon having so satisfactorily accomplished a task, which, in the interests of women's work, it is both desirable and necessary that some one should undertake. We advise all our readers to lose no time in obtaining the "English woman's Year Book," which is a valuable and indispensable book of reference to all who are interested in Woman's Work of all kinds.

Poem.

Gay Robin is seen no more;
He is gone with the snow,
For winter is o'er
And Robin will go.
In need he was fed, and now he is fled
Away to his secret nest.
No more will he stand
Begging for crumbs,
No longer he comes
Beseeching our hand
And showing his breast
At window and door;
Gay Robin is seen no more.
Blithe Robin is heard no more;
He gave us his song
When summer was o'er
And winter was long;
He sang for his bread and now he is fled
Away to his secret nest.
And there in the green
Early and late
Alone to his mate
He pipeth unseen
And swelleth his breast.
For us it is o'er,
Blithe Robin is heard no more.

From the shorter poems of ROBERT BRIDGES.

Coming Events.

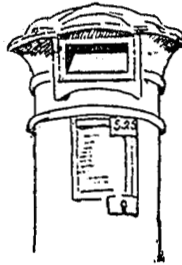
February 21st.—Childhood Society, 72, Margaret Street, W. "Mental Hygiene as a Basis for Character Formation."

February 23rd.—The Bishop of London presides at the Annual Meeting of the Hostel of St. Luke Clergy Nursing Home, at the Church House, 3.0 p.m.

March 1st.—The Duchess of York opens a New Wing of the Portsmouth Hospital.

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.

WRITTEN DIRECTIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Many years ago when I was a Probationer a most serious state of affairs was most common in the wards—the House Physician invariably came round between ten and eleven o'clock p.m. and ordered narcotics, draughts, hypodermic injections, etc., verbally. As night-nurse (I was a pro. with a month's experience) I trotted after him with the shaded candle, and had to remember all these directions. The wonder is some terrible accident did not happen, and in looking back I feel sure Providence must have had these poor patients in His special care. The truth was I was entrusted with this most responsible duty of giving poisonous drugs to the sick long before I ever knew the composition or action of such drugs, but in those days opium in some form was much more largely used than it is now, and nurses did not even wait for medical directions before giving drugs to the patients. With fifty patients to do for all night alone, and heaps of ward work to get through, I fear the temptation to keep the poor things quiet was often too much for the over-worked night nurse. Discipline is rightly much stricter now, the patients run many less dangers than in the good old times. It is a good rule which is now enforced in all well-managed hospitals, that a nurse shall never give a drug of any description unless it "is written on the Board."—Yours,
C. G. T.

AN EFFICIENT CURRICULUM.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very pleased to see that in the last issue of the NURSING RECORD you raised the question of whether a training in obstetric nursing should be included as part of the recognized curriculum of nursing education. As you invite opinions on this subject, my own is most emphatically *yes*. I feel very strongly that a nurse cannot be considered efficiently educated who is not competent, if necessary, to act as a monthly nurse. To begin with, in no other way does she learn how to care properly for infants. To wash a baby well is a distinct art, and by no means an easy one, and it is surely reasonable to suppose that a nurse should learn how to perform this duty on a healthy rather than on a sick infant. Then, again, supposing a private nurse goes to a case of enteric or scarlet fever, and, as not unfrequently happens, premature confinement takes place, surely she should be able to nurse both mother and infant efficiently. It would seem absurd to call in a monthly nurse, thereby disqualifying her for attending other monthly cases for many weeks, and to have the two nurses attending on the same patients, yet this is what must happen if the "trained" nurse knows nothing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)