

the horizon of the characters of this book. Their hopes, their motives, their conduct, are rigorously bounded by the present order of things. Does the writer, then, perhaps mean to show that, if once you eliminate the doctrine of future reward and punishment, every man may play his own hand in his own fashion, and be none the worse for doubtful methods? This seems almost too self-contradictory a theory for a thinker of such ability. No, the underlying aim, if there is any, is that it is strength that rules the world, and that, if only a man will go far enough, he must win. The fascination which the strength of this coarse, rough man exercises over Lady Cressage, is very well suggested in what she says to her friend, Miss Madden.

"O, I am frightened, too, that is why I did not give you the signal to leave us alone. I couldn't quite get up the nerve for it. But would you believe it? That is one of the charms of the thing. There is an excitement about it that exhilarates me. To get happiness through terror—you can't understand that, can you?"

"I'm trying. I think I'm beginning to understand," said Miss Madden vaguely.

"Did you ever set yourself to comprehending why Marie Stuart married Bothwell? You have it all—all there. Marie got tired of the smooth people, the usual people. There was the promise of adventure, and risk and peril, and the grand emotions with the big, dark brute."

This, I think, is what Mr. Frederic had in mind; to show that the big, dark brute, though he has no scruples, has generosity, and even tenderness; principle is a thing that seems to this writer to be outside the reckoning. G. M. R.

#### WHAT TO READ.

"The Great Lord Burghley: A Study in Elizabethan Statecraft." By Martin A. S. Hume.

"Danton: A Study." By Hilaire Belloc, B.A.

"The Custom of the Country: Tales of New Japan." By Mrs. Hugh Fraser.

"The Game and the Candle." By Rhoda Broughton.

"The Uncalled." A Novel. By Paul Laurence Dunbar.

"The Alleged Haunting of B. House." By A. Goodrich Freer (Miss X.) and John Marquess of Bute (Redway).

#### Coming Events.

*July 17th.*—The Duchess of York opens the New Nurses' Home of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road.

*July 18th.*—Viscount and Viscountess Knutsford distribute prizes to the students and nursing probationers of the London Hospital Medical College in the Library, 4.15.

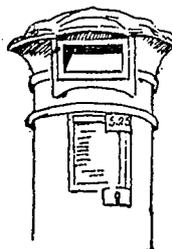
*July 19th.*—The Duke of Westminster presides at the Prize Festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, 3.

The Duke of Portland presides at the Half-yearly Court of the East London Hospital for Children.

*July 20th.*—The Prince and Princess of Wales open the new buildings of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Bloomsbury, 12.

## 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.*

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—No thinking woman who attended the Nursing Sessions at the Congress—and especially the Matrons' Council Conference—could fail to realise the fact of how universally the teaching of the RECORD has been accepted and has produced a consensus of opinion as to the need of co-operation amongst Matrons and Nurses, and the need for Registration in some form for the benefit of the patient and the nurse. As a sympathetic on-looker at the slow, yet sure, progress which your teaching has effected during the last ten years, allow me to thank you for your consistent action in sticking to the principles upon which the British Nurses' Association was originally founded—and has, alas! forsaken—and to congratulate you upon the certainty of success which will shortly be yours in this long and bitter controversy in relation to the status and self-government of the trained nurse. The International Council of Nurses has a great future before it for the benefit of mankind, and it is to be hoped that the Heads of important training schools—who in the past have held aloof from professional organization—may join their sisters of other nations in making a strong and influential International Council of Nurses, in which the nurses of all nations may participate by delegation, and thus in the "multitude of councillors" that we may find wisdom. ANOTHER OLD PUPIL.

### LEGISLATION.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—As one who attended the Nursing Conference of the International Congress of Women, may I say with what pleasure I listened to the opinions expressed both publicly and privately as to the necessity of legislation for nurses. Mrs. May Wright Sewall, as an onlooker, spoke of this need, and there seemed to be on the part of the foreign delegates a general consensus of opinion on this point. To my mind, this fact is most significant, and most encouraging—significant, because it is evident that if such a widespread feeling exists in the minds of the nursing representatives of so many nations, it is proved beyond doubt that the necessity for legislation exists; and encouraging, inasmuch as the need cannot be so widely felt without ultimate action being taken to secure the desired end.

Had the Congress done nothing else it would have been most valuable in bringing out the unanimity of feeling which prevails between members of the nursing profession all the world over on this point. This being so, the proverbial obstructor may be left to the fate which befalls all who, like Mrs. Partington, attempt to stem the incoming tide with a besom.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully, LEGISLATOR.

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