

## Poem.

## DYING.

Passing out of the shadow  
 Into a purer light;  
 Stepping behind the curtain  
 Getting a clearer sight;  
 Laying aside a burden  
 This weary mortal coil;  
 Done with the world's vexations,  
 Done with its tears and toil;  
 Tired of all earth's playthings,  
 Heartsick and ready to sleep,  
 Ready to bid our friends farewell  
 Wondering why they weep;  
 Passing out of the shadow  
 Into eternal day—  
 Why do we call it dying?  
 This sweet going away.

ANON.

## WHAT TO READ.

- "Good Citizenship; twenty-three Essays by various authors on Social, Personal, and Economic Problems, edited by the Rev. J. E. Hand. Preface by the Rev. Charles Gore, M.A., D.D."  
 "The Transvaal from Within; a Private Record of Public Affairs." By J. P. Fitzpatrick.  
 "Hubert Hervey, Student and Imperialist. A Memoir." By Earl Grey.  
 "Etienne Dolet, the Martyr of the Renaissance, 1508—1546. A Biography." By Richard Copley Christie, M.A.  
 "Far Ben, and Other Poems." By J. S. Pattinson, author of "Yorkshire Folk."  
 "Three Bachelor Women." By E. Cosby.  
 "The Valiant Runaways. A Book of Stirring Adventure for Boys." By Gertrude Atherton.  
 "Miranda of the Balcony." By A. E. W. Mason.  
 "The Island." By Richard Whiteing.  
 "Punchinello."

## Coming Events.

October 19th.—The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attend service at St. Paul's, in connection with the Guild of St. Luke. Admission by ticket. Sermon to members of the medical profession by the Bishop of Stepney. 7 p.m.

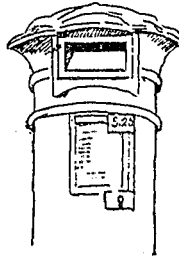
October 25th.—The Archbishop of Canterbury presides at the Annual Distribution of Prizes to the Students of the St. George's Hospital Medical School.

October 26th.—Quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council, at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4.30 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet at 4 p.m.

October 27th.—Annual Meeting of the National Union of Women Workers—the National Council of Women for Great Britain and Ireland—at the Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer Street, W. Reports will be presented by the Secretary and Treasurer, the Secretaries of Sub-Committees, and by the delegates to the International Council of Women; and the Council will proceed to elect a President, twenty Vice-Presidents, six members of the Executive, and a Treasurer for 1900. 11 a.m.

## Letters to the Editor.

## NOTES, QUERIES. &amp;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.*

## SKILLED ATTENDANCE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The case you reported in the NURSING RECORD last week of a judgment given in favour of a patient against a hospital, because she (or he) was not provided with a trained nurse, according to agreement, appears to me to be of the greatest interest and importance. The decision is certainly a just one, and will, I imagine, be received with public approval. Those hospitals which receive patients into paying wards, should certainly consider their position. In few (if any) of them, I imagine, are paying patients nursed entirely by certificated nurses. They could not afford to take the fees they do, unless the expenses of this department were defrayed in part by charitable subscriptions given to the general fund—which would surely be diverting funds from the purpose for which they were intended—unless the nursing of the patients were performed largely by nurses in training. If low fees are paid this, of course, is permissible, if the patients clearly understand that the charges are reduced on this account; but do they? Private patients as a rule, I think, enter public institutions when ill, in order that they may receive skilled nursing; and if skilled nursing in this country, as well as in America, is defined to mean nursing by certificated nurses only, then hospitals, and private nursing institutions too, in many instances, will have to look to their ways if they do not wish to figure as defendants in law suits. I am almost inclined to wish that some aggrieved patient in this country might institute similar proceedings to those reported by you, in order that we might have a legal pronouncement as to what constitutes a skilled nurse. At present we trained nurses are suffering sorely from the lack of any definition of the term. A medical practitioner is one who is on the medical register; a solicitor is one whose name is on the Rolls. The public, in each case, can satisfy themselves as to the bona fides of any who profess to be doctors or lawyers, and on the other hand members of these professions can repudiate anyone whose conduct is discreditable if their names are not to be found in the recognised official registers. We nurses on the other hand, not only have to bear the blame of the misbehaviour of all sorts and conditions of people who have no connection with us, we have also to enter into financial competition with them, and, it is a fact, that persons with three months training, and probationers who have been discharged from hospitals because of their unsuitability, go out as private nurses, and obtain their two guineas a week, which are full fees for a certificated nurse. Doctors will not meet unqualified men in practice, but

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)