

Poor Barbara! Bitter was her experience, bitter is her last word, with which the book closes. But we leave her on the threshold of life, after all,—disciplined by love and sorrow, and, though she goes to "the man she does not know."

"From that marriage some happiness, maugre
The voice of the world, we dare augur."

Verse.

MAY.

Can you not hear us calling,
May, May?
The fern's unfolding,
And the vetch beholding
The day.
Soft dew is falling
Where the rose shall be,
And a whitethroat's calling
To the elder tree,
"Break, buds, break,
Leaves awake—
Air's clearer, life's dearer, May's nearer
Every day."
Old Earth has heard us calling,
May, May!
The lilac-buds give answer,
The aspen is a dancer,
Before May's pageant's here
The whitebeam blossoms peer
Out of their folding leaves,
The swallows from the eaves
Come down to say,
"We heard her footsteps falling
Far away."
For her the cuckoo's calling,
The wood-pigeons drawing
In their secret bower;
Air's clearer, life's dearer, May's nearer
Every hour.

NORA CHESSON.

From *Westminster Gazette*.

What to Read.

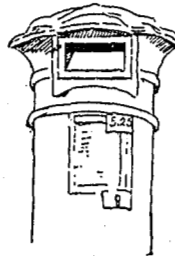
"Britain's Title in South Africa; or, The Story of Cape Colony to the Days of the Great Trek." By James Cappon, M.A.
"Manchuria: its People, Resources, and Recent History." By Alexander Hosie, M.A.
"The Life of the Bee." By Maurice Maeterlinck.
"Jack Raymond." By E. L. Voynich.
"The Grip of the Bookmaker." By Percy White.
"The Sea Hath its Pearls." By Nellie Blisset.
"The May Book." Compiled by Mrs. Aria in aid of Charing Cross Hospital.

Coming Events.

May 21st.—Lecture by Miss Violet Brooke-Hunt, entitled, "With Our Troops in South Africa," at 11, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill, W., 3.30 p.m. Tickets 5s. each, to be obtained beforehand from Miss Janes, 59, Berners Street, Oxford Street, W., and Miss Brooke-Hunt, 45, Albert Gate. The proceeds of this lecture will be devoted to Miss Brooke-Hunt's fund towards the expenses of work amongst soldiers in South Africa and the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland. Tea and coffee, 4.30 p.m.

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 VAGARIES OF PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Under this heading in last week's issue an interesting letter appeared. It seems to be a habit of private nurses to sew at night and to keep a light flaring to do this. I have lately had three little children ill with measles, and their poor eyes were very sore in consequence. The trained nurse insisted upon working and reading all night by a "good light," much to the discomfort of the patients. We parted in consequence. Surely this is not *nursing*.

Yours,

"MATER FAMILIAS."

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is disheartening for conscientious private nurses to be judged by the specimens referred to by "A Constant Reader." Surely such ignorant and negligent women are the exception and not the rule. Still, even if we are still competing with "bogus nurses," it is greatly our own fault. As a class nurses are too lazy and ignorant, and also cowardly, to take a bold stand for State Registration, and the loss of work and fees, I fear, will be the only stimulus which as a body will make them move. I have talked to many, and find that even now they imagine they are gaining legal status and protection by paying a guinea to the Registration Board of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which has ceased to issue a Register of Trained Nurses, and of which Mr. Edward Fardon, anti-registrationist, is still Hon. Medical Secretary and Manager. Such terrible ignorance and want of common sense makes one feel quite hopeless about nurses.

Then take the case of the Nurses' Co-operation. Here we have a society of nurses associated together for quite justifiable commercial purposes, deprived by Sir Henry Burdett and his friends of any real power in their co-operation, because *legally* by incorporating the nurses' society without the word "limited" no nurse earning her living on her own society can be a member of it! It seems almost incredible that five hundred trained nurses working in the capital of the world, are so absolutely ignorant of business as to place themselves in such a defenceless position. Surely there is some excuse for the anti-registration party when they claim "that nurses are not fit to manage their own affairs."

Yours,

"A PRIVATE NURSE."

[In our opinion these very facts call aloud for remedy, and the remedy with reasonable beings is to make them realize their individual and corporate responsibility. Feed, clothe and "do for" a human crea-

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