

sacking of Ciudad Rodrigo. When we read of the conduct of the English soldiery there, we can but reflect that we have come far since those days. The end seems to suggest that Mr. Quiller Couch has not done with Harry Revel yet; and considering that he is about twelve when the curtain falls on the present instalment, he must have had time, if he continued on in the same manner, to take part in many sieges.

G. M. R.

A Far Cry.

'Tis a far cry to youth, O my soul,
'Tis a far cry to youth!
Though the years have flown onward unheeding,
Through gladness and travail and ruth,
'Tis a far cry to youth, O my soul,
'Tis a far cry to youth!

Wert thou I, O thou fair child-maiden,
Who, ages and ages ago,
Looked forth from the curve of yon mirror,
Impatient life's meaning to know;
To taste the red wine of its vintage,
Its splendour, its rapture, its glow?

Speak, child, for the years are many,
And the past lies dim between,
And I fain would read the riddle
Of what thine eyes have seen—
Thou mystic, silent wonder,
Thou ghost of the might have been!

Ah, maiden! the white-haired woman
Is but thyself grown older;
She hath lost some dear illusions,
Yet remembereth all you told her,
And still your dreams and visions
In the might of their love enfold her.

For she knows what you but dreamed of;
She hath drained the beaker of life;
She hath trodden its red-hot ploughshares;
She hath faced its storm and strife;
She hath heard its divinest music,
And danced to its lute and fife!

[The above verses are selected from a long poem in this month's "Scribner's Magazine."]

Coming Events.

May 20th.—Metropolitan Hospital—Banquet (Lord de Walden presiding), Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

May 20th.—Alderman and Sheriff Sir G. Wyatt Truscott presides at a Festival Dinner of the City of London Hospital for Chest Diseases, Victoria Park, at Stationers' Hall.

May 25th.—Concert at Seaford House in aid of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children.

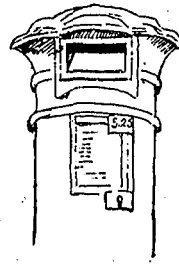
What to Read.

"Home Life under the Stuarts, 1603—1649." By Elizabeth Godfrey.

"The Empire of Business." By Andrew Carnegie.

"In God's Good Time." By Marie Connor Leighton.

"Told by the Death's Head." By Maurus Jokai.



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.

MIDWIVES' QUALIFICATIONS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much interest the fact reported in your columns last week that Queen Charlotte's Hospital has petitioned the Central Midwives' Board to recognise that hospital's certificate as a sufficient qualification for a midwife's registration. I would like to point out that this is a matter of the utmost importance not only to the future working of the Midwives' Act, but also to the midwives themselves. If the certificate of Queen Charlotte's Hospital is accepted as qualifying for registration, it is difficult to see how the like certificates granted by a dozen other similar institutions in the United Kingdom could be refused the same privilege and recognition. And if such were the case, every one of those hospitals would at once become an examining body, and all the many disadvantages of multiplying private examinations which have been so often exposed in the case of the medical profession would be created for the future discomfort of midwives. Moreover, there would at once be aroused a keen competition between all these hospitals to obtain students, with the self-same drawbacks which are so well known to have arisen from a multiplicity of medical schools. The inevitable result, I believe, would be to depreciate still more the training and education of midwives, and the hospital which obtained a reputation for most quickly and easily turning out midwives from its mill would be the one to which the great majority of candidates would flock. It must also be remembered that strenuous efforts are now being made to persuade midwives to work amongst the very poor, which means, of course, that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to insist upon women, who are to be badly paid in the future, paying much, either in time or money, for their education now. So it is evident that the tendency will be to level down to a lower standard for cottage-helps and village midwives, rather than to make the improvements and reforms in midwifery training and practice which the advocates of midwifery legislation formerly expressed their intention of achieving. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Central Midwives' Board will have the foresight to provide uniform and entirely independent examinations for midwives in the future, held under their own auspices and control, and entirely apart from this, that, or the other hospital.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,
M. D.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—As one of the early members of the Royal British Nurses' Association may I thank you

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)