

her chief comfort in the hour of her great humiliation; and the account of her behaviour after the baby's death strikes the note of real life acutely:—

"Mrs. Stair marched up to Susan's room. She came in and stood by the bed, and looked at the figure huddled upon it, with hidden face.

"'Have you had nothing to eat all day, Susan?' she said at last.

"'I'm not hungry, thank you.'

"'Oh!'

"Susan raised herself at the sound of the dry, harsh voice. She turned on her pillow and looked up at her mother-in-law's gaunt, stern face.

"'Susan,' said Mrs. Stair—she was a woman who never used an endearment—'be thankful if you never have more to sorrow for than you have to-day.' She paused, and a glitter came into her faded grey eyes. 'You never saw my eldest son—Dally's brother. I was proud when he was born.' Her voice failed for a moment. She coughed and went on: 'I lived to wish he had never been born.' 'Woman,' she said, speaking with a sudden desperate passion that made Susan thrill, 'the tears you weep to-day are as different from those I have wept as drops of balm from tears of blood.'

"Susan put out her hands and took Mrs. Stair's hand and held it close.

"'Come, get up, and dry your eyes,' said Mrs. Stair. 'I will come to the nursery with you now—to-night—and help you to put away his things. Don't put it off until to-morrow. Bless me, my girl, I know what you feel. Come, come with me now.'

"Susan rose to her feet, pale and faint with grief and want of food. They went together to the nursery." G. M. R.

By the Hand of an Enemy.

Defeated, fallen, in my first bout with Life,
Friends' sympathy seemed fairer than the prize
I failed to win. An enemy's cold eyes
I saw, his mocking whisper overheard:
"Unfit for strife."

Her weakness craves our pity, her pale blood
Indomitable courage never stirred."
Tingling, I sprang erect, with steadfast feet
Went once again Life hand to hand to meet—
Ah, victory was good!

MAY STEDMAN HARPEL, *The Clubwoman.*

What to Read.

"The Correspondence of William I. and Bismarck, with Other Letters from and to Prince Bismarck." Translated by J. A. Ford. With Portrait and Facsimile Letters. In 2 vols.

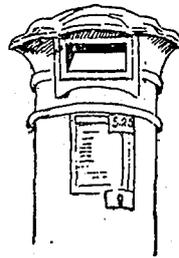
"The Love Affairs of Mary Queen of Scots: a Political History." By Martin Hume.

"Benjamin Disraeli: an Unconventional Biography."

"Sidelights on the Court of France." By Lieut.-Col. Haggard, D.S.O.

"On the Influence of Brain-Power on History: an Address Delivered before the British Association." By Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., LL.D., F.R.S.

"The Alien Immigrant." By Major W. Evans-Gordon, M.P.



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.

ROYAL NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

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

MADAM,—The notice of my Council has been drawn to a statement contained on page 240 of the current issue of your journal to the effect that a nurse wrote to you in 1900 saying that after having been a member of the Fund three years and three months and having paid in £83 8s. 9d. she discontinued membership, and received back only £77 5s., and consequently that £6 3s. 9d. was deducted from her payments.

The books of the Fund have been carefully searched, and it is found that in that year the particular sum of £77 5s. was paid to only one nurse, namely, Nurse Dorothy Jones Evans, of 3, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, W.; from this fact and from other evidence in their possession the Council are satisfied that the writer of the letter above referred to is Nurse Dorothy Jones Evans.

This nurse paid into the Fund premiums amounting in all to £77 5s., and therefore the statement that the total sum paid by her was £83 8s. 9d. is entirely incorrect. When Nurse Evans surrendered her policy this sum of £77 5s. was repaid to her and no deduction either of £6 3s. 9d. or of any other sum was made by the Fund.

I am directed to ask you to be good enough to give this letter as much prominence as the statement above referred to.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
LOUIS H. M. DICK,
Secretary.

28, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
September 22nd, 1903.

[We have pleasure in publishing this letter, from which it appears that Miss D. J. Evans, to whom Mr. Dick alludes, received out of the Pension Fund the exact sum she paid into it. We infer from this letter that the working expenses absorb the 2½ per cent. compound interest promised to the members. This supports our contention that it would be far wiser for the Council of the Fund to state plainly that policyholders who withdraw from the Fund practically receive no interest.—Ed.]

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As I observe that you ask for opinions as to the constitution of a General Nursing Council I venture to forward you my own. The following general principles appear to me essential:—
(1) That there should be a substantial majority of the

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