

of flowers that lined the walls, all aiming in the same direction; so that the bridegroom, one would have thought, might reasonably compare himself to a modern St. Sebastian. Framed in these banks of flowers also were several pictures, all bearing on what might be called classical matrimony: a Titian of Europa and the bull, a Veronese of Bacchus and Ariadne, and a more than doubtful Rubens of Leda and the Swan. Gilded harps twined with flowers leaned about in odd corners, and the general impression was that one had come, not into a church, but, by some deplorable mistake, into the Venusberg as depicted in the first act of 'Tannhauser.'"

This is scathing with a vengeance.

It is only justice to admit that Mr. Benson makes Lewis S. Palmer, the multi-millionaire, a most fascinating person, and his daughter, who marries Lord Keynes, is quite charming. What English parvenu's daughter would be able to assimilate, as she does, and as her countrywomen are known to do, not only a different social standard, but even a different country?

We feel grateful to Mr. Benson for his care in keeping his leading characters clean; we are so nauseated by the men and women of shady pasts and quite unthinkable futures that his care in this matter is a cause for real thankfulness.

G. M. R.

### Ministry of Life.

Nay, best it is, indeed,  
To spend ourselves upon the general good;  
And, oft misunderstood,  
To strive to lift the knees and limbs that bleed,  
This is the best, the fullest meed.  
Let ignorance assail or hatred sneer,  
Who loves his race he shall not fear;  
He suffers not for long  
Who doth his soul possess in loving, and grows strong.  
—LEWIS MORRIS.

### What to Read.

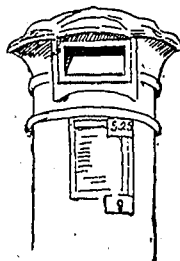
"The Story of the American Revolution." By Henry Cabot Lodge.  
"The Mother of Washington and Her Times." By Mrs. Roger A. Pryor.  
"Infection and Immunity: With Special Reference to the Prevention of Infectious Diseases." By George Sternberg, M.D., LL.D.  
"Journalism as a Profession." By Arthur Lawrence.

### Coming Events.

December 12th.—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Business meeting, 3 p.m. Social gathering, 4.30 p.m., at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

December 14th.—Ladies' Dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant in aid of the Funds of the Women's Local Government Society, Lady Strachey presiding. Application for tickets, 7s. 6d. each, to be made to Mrs. Williams, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Dinner Committee, 2, Upper Brook Street, W. 7.30.

December 15th.—Entertainment at the Grafton Galleries in aid of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C.



### 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.*

#### NEW REGULATIONS AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I see in your paper of December 5th an article on the nursing staff of Charing Cross Hospital, in which some errors occur. I trust you will allow me to correct these. During the fourteen years I was connected with the hospital, the nursing staff got off duty between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and certainly no members of the staff had weekly leave until either 10.30 or 11.30 p.m., as stated in your issue. For seven or eight years the probationers' times off duty were the same as they are now, from 10 to 12 and 2 to 5; before that period the afternoon time was from 2 to 4. Late leave had to be asked for, and was granted for special purposes.

With regard to the regulations on the training of probationers, the rule mentioned by you as "requiring nurses to serve in private houses" is an old one, and has not been in force for *about* ten years. Having no records by me, I cannot give exact dates.

Yours truly,

H. GORDON,  
Late Lady Superintendent.

29, Pembroke Crescent, Hove.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The statements published in your issue of December 5th regarding Charing Cross Hospital must surely have been made to you by one who either knew nothing about the matter or who wished wilfully to misrepresent facts. As one who was trained in Charing Cross Hospital, and who worked in the institution for six years, permit me to say that the lady's statements—I presume your informant is a lady, on account of the inaccuracies—are entirely wrong.

Our certificates are for three years' training, and are, and have proved to be, of as much value as the certificates of any training-school in the United Kingdom.

As to the extraordinary statement regarding "late leave," I can only say that such laxness of discipline was never permitted up to the year 1902. Since January, 1903, a new Matron has occupied the "chair of office," and, of course, I cannot speak of anything that may have occurred under her rule.

Knowing your impartial justice in matters of this kind, I venture to hope that you will be good enough to grant this letter space in your current issue.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

LUCY M. RAE.

74, Lissenden Mansions,  
Highgate Road, N.W.

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