

met this villain clandestinely. Of course he promised her marriage, and she ran away with him, confiding in his honour. The very next day, discovering herself betrayed, she returned, poor helpless creature, to the house of the father whose unloving severities had driven her to her rash act, and deprived her for so many years of a belief in the fatherhood of God. What Mr. Wesley then did seems inconceivable. He forced his daughter at once to marry a plumber, who had accidentally become the possessor of the secret of her shame. Nothing more ghastly than this has ever been devised by the most decadent novelist, unless it be the wretched girl's own acquiescence in her father's iniquity.

Having thus handed over his own daughter to a degradation infinitely worse than death, the fond father cast her off entirely. She was left to the anguish—the daily, nightly torture—of the situation without even being allowed to hear from her sisters and brothers. The most poignant thing in the book is her letter to her father, when, in her broken health and bruised spirit, her third child having been born only to die, she fancied his curse active upon her, and wrote to beg one word of kindness. Her letter; and his answer! It is difficult for the modern woman to conceive of any hell deep enough to hold Mr. Wesley and fathers of his class. But let women who believe that the cry of their sisters in the nineteenth century was founded on unreal or over-stated grievances read this true chronicle of what women underwent two centuries ago at the hands of good men. Just Heaven! What must they have endured at the hand of bad ones?

G. M. R.

### A New Year's Sonnet.

#### THE TIDE OF LOVE, 1904.

As when the flood-tide comes to full and stands  
A moment weary of its long unrest,  
And all the heavens are mirrored and the west  
Burns gold where late lay unillumined sands,  
So now the year at full in her old hands  
Lifts up a mirror and we see the best—  
Peace at our gates—old friendships repossest  
And hope of good for Moslem-blighted lands.  
But the tide turns, and all the light is lost,  
The New Year sobs beyond the barren bar—  
Sobs like a child that knows not of the way.  
And hark! With trampling of a Russian host  
The Far East shakes, the dark air breathes of war!  
Flow, Tide of Love, and let the world's peace  
stay!

H. D. RAWNSLEY—From *Westminster Gazette*.

### Coming Events.

*January 23rd.*—Special General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. Agenda: To receive and consider Amendments suggested to the Draft Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. 3 p.m.

*January 26th.*—The Lord Mayor presides at a meeting at the Mansion House in support of an appeal for St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

*January 28th.*—Annual Meeting Matrons' Council, at 431, Oxford Street, W. 4 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 REPRESENTATION OF MATRONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I heartily agree with a letter in your last issue signed "A Fever Hospital Matron," and, having read both Draft Bills, beg to offer a few suggestions through your widely-read journal.

In neither Bill is the rightful position of the Matrons secured. In Bill No. 1, that put forth by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, the Matrons' Council is given three representatives. So far, so good. This is the only co-operation of Matrons, and was formed to advance, and has consistently worked for, the State Registration of Nurses for the past ten years, and it is, moreover, representative of Matrons of special hospitals as well as of general hospitals and Poor Law infirmaries, so no doubt it would nominate ladies working in these three branches of hospital work. The R.B.N.A. and the Queen's Jubilee Institute would presumably select past or present Matrons, and I gather the intention of the Bill under discussion was to leave to registered nurses the free choice of their ten direct representatives, knowing that presumably many of these would be ladies holding Matrons' positions, and thus the majority of registered nurses on the General Nursing Council would be ladies of wide experience.

But such a composition of the governing body is not obligatory, and the voting might result in the Matrons being in a useless minority. Why should not the General Nursing Council provide for more equal representation, say an equal number of medical men, Matrons, and nurses, as far as possible *elected* members, and as few *nominated* members as consistent with justice? I venture to make these suggestions, as the Society for the State Registration of Nurses has wisely submitted its Draft Bill to Hospital Committees and Medical and Nursing Societies, and invited criticism.

The R.B.N.A.'s proposed Central Board, composed of twenty-four nominated members and only six elected members, would, I fear, be a very non-progressive body, and must have been modelled on the now obsolete constitution of the General Medical Council, but it contains a good suggestion in providing for Navy and Army nurses' interests—that is to say, if the lady to represent the Services were a free agent, and not the nominee of the Medical Directors. I strongly object to midwives appointing a medical man to represent them on the governing body of the nursing profession. If they have a right to a voice in our affairs—which I do not recognise—then let them appoint a midwife. I observe the whole nine medical representatives are nominated by powerful medical bodies, over which the nurses could have no influence whatever; this is a very dangerous element in the constitution of the R.B.N.A. Board. And why, again, should the R.B.N.A. nominate a medical practitioner as well as

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