

from the stain of sin by work, however mistaken one may think it.

Gabriel Hirst is an unsuccessful character, because the writer does not understand him. He is better with the Nature-worshipping moorland folk, who are only nominally Christian, but in reality in bondage to blind forces which they do not understand.

But there is much matter in "Through Sorrow's Gates," and it is well worth reading, if only for its manner.
G. M. R.

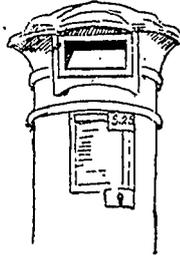
The Conservative.

The forest edge I wandered by
One bright and cheerful morn,
When I found a new-fledged butterfly
A-sitting on a thorn ;
A black and crimson butterfly,
All doleful and forlorn.
I thought that life could have no sting
For infant butterflies,
So I gazed on that unhappy thing
With wonder and surprise,
While sadly with his waving wing
He wiped his weeping eyes.
Said I : " What can the matter be ?
Why weapest thou so sore
With garden fair and sunlight free
And flowers in goodly store ?"
But he only turned away from me
And wept and wailed the more.
Cried he : " My legs are thin and few,
Where once I had a swarm ;
Soft, fuzzy fur, a joy to view,
Once kept my body warm,
Before these flapping wing-things grew
To hamper and deform."
At that outrageous bug I shot
The fury of mine eye,
And said in scorn all burning hot,
In rage and anger high :
" You ignominious idiot,
Those wings were made to fly."
" I do not want to fly," said he,
" I only want to squirm,"
And he drooped his legs dejectedly,
But still his voice was firm :
" I do not want to be a fly ;
I want to be a worm."
O yesterday of unknown lack !
To-day of unknown bliss !
I left my fool in red and black.
The last I saw was this :
The creature climbing madly back
Into his chrysalis.

—CHARLOTTE PERKINS STETSON.

What to Read.

- "Korea." By Angus Hamilton.
"The Russian Advance." By Hon. Albert G. Beveridge.
"In the Uttermost East." By Charles H. Hawes.
"The Fields of France." By Madame Duclaux.
"The Masterfolk." By Haldane Macfall.
"The Rise of Buderick Clowd." By Josiah Flynt.



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 R.B.N.A. DRAFT BILL FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES AND PRIVATE NURSING HOMES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have just received a copy of the official journal of the Royal British Nurses' Association for February, containing that Association's Draft Bill for the Registration of Nurses and Private Nursing Homes.

A cursory examination of the Bill shows the following serious defects and errors to which I should like very briefly to draw the attention of those of your readers who may be also members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

(a) The Bill only provides for the registration of female nurses—the word "person" should be substituted for "woman" in the various sections.

(b) Surely nurses claiming to be registered under the first clause of Section 2 should be required to show certificates, or other evidence, of a three years' training. Those who hold certificates for a two years' course should come under the clause enforcing "five years in *bona-fide* practice as a trained nurse."

(c) Provision is not made for the publication of nurses' addresses and qualifications in the register; without these it will be worthless.

(d) A badge is a great mistake. Who ever heard of the members of any other profession decking themselves in fancy badges? It reminds one of the dark ages when Jews, lepers and slaves were required by law to wear the badges of their outcast condition.

(e) Why couple the Registration of Nurses with that of Private Homes? The two are as totally distinct as the registration of medical practitioners and lunatic asylums!

Yours faithfully

Bournemouth.

HELEN TODD.

THE BAR OF PUBLIC OPINION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It appears almost incredible in these days that any body composed of men who presumably know something about nurses' needs, educational and otherwise, should assume the reactionary attitude of those gentlemen composing the Central Hospital Council, but the truth is they are not in real touch with nurses. Their official positions prevent their "domestic servants" expressing opinions in their hearing which they know are objectionable to their employers, and the public little realise the petty tyranny which goes on in the majority of hospitals, where it is an unwritten law that "advanced views"—that is, an intelligent interest in our own professional affairs and conditions of work—should be at once nipped in the bud. Where it is known, as it is in many of the large training-schools,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)