

loving to cling, to fondle, to caress. She was kind, generous, impulsive, but shallow—living always in the present moment. In spite of her youth and charm, she seems never for a moment to have been able to control the wild, ferocious men who surrounded her. They knew her fatal weaknesses too well. Her own personal attendants loved her dearly; it is almost true to say that not a single one of her subjects respected her.

We are always prone to believe that Mary's liveliness, and French training, and Roman Catholicity, were the causes of her unpopularity; the book before us seems to show that if she had had any great impulses, if she had any ambitions beyond her own pleasure, any sincerity, any steadfastness of mind, she might have ruled. But a woman of the temperament here shown could never have ruled any. Bothwell himself never loved her; but, by wooing her, succeeded in dragging her through degradation unspeakable. She was the slave of her passions. Nothing short of the terrible retribution which fell upon her could make her the object of our compassion. As it is, we own that she expiated all her sins in the long twilight which fell, after her brief bright day of feverish lusts.

G. M. R.

Verse.

You have enemies, you say?

Alas! my friend, the boast is poor;
He who has mingled in the fray

Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes! If you have none,
Small is the work that you have done;
You've hit no traitor on the hip,
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,
You've never turned the wrong to right—
You've been a coward in the fight!

What to Read.

"The Double Garden." By Maurice Maeterlinck. Translated by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos.

"A Later Pepys: The Correspondence of Sir William Weller Pepys, Bart., Master in Chancery, 1758-1825." Edited, with an introduction and notes, by Alice C. C. Gaussen.

"The Republic of Ragusa." An Episode of the Turkish Conquest." By Luigi Villari.

"Motherhood." By L. Parry Truscott.

"The Blue Fox." By W. H. Helm.

"A Daughter of the Snows." By Jack London.

Coming Events.

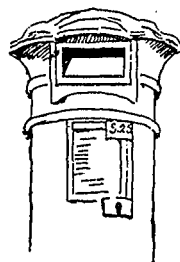
July 20th.—Tenth Annual Meeting of Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, 5 p.m.

July 22nd.—The Queen presents certificates at Buckingham Palace to nurses who have joined the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses since 1901.

July 24th.—The Bishop of London will preach in aid of the Rebuilding Fund of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. Paul's Cathedral.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NURSING.

July 19th and 21st.—The Select Committee on Nursing will sit to receive evidence in Room 17, House of Commons, at 12 noon. These meetings are open to the public.



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 POWER OF DISCHARGE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have been making inquiries, and I find that the three strongest opponents amongst the Matrons of the large London hospitals to the State Registration of Nurses are those who now have the autocratic power to discharge probationers without reference to the Committee—St. Thomas's Hospital, King's College Hospital, and the London Hospital. In the last-named institution there is a qualifying regulation which says that after being discharged by the Matron a nurse may appeal to the Committee. Imagine it! The position is quite impossible, for if the Committee exonerated the condemned nurse how could discipline be maintained by the Matron? and if they, as they have done, support the Matron in her action, is it the least likely that any nurse, however unjust she may consider her treatment, will appeal over the head of a very powerful officer to a tribunal whose hands are tied?

Quite recently the Committee at King's College Hospital owned in print that they were unaware that their nursing department was conducted, presumably by the Matron, on strictly sectarian lines, and they have been compelled to institute reforms now that they have been informed by an outsider of regulations in force in the institution they are supposed to govern!

Such absolutism is quite out of date. The truth is that these Matrons are so bitterly opposing registration by a Central Board because they fear that their absolute power may be diminished. If half one hears about the way it has been used by some Matrons is accurate, the sooner their power of life and death over their unfortunate subordinates is regulated the better. Matrons should have power of suspension when nurses err, but the committees of training-schools have no right to shift their responsibilities for student nurses on to any official by giving her absolute power to discharge them. A ward maid can claim a month's notice, or her wages and emoluments in lieu of notice. A nurse can be, and sometimes is, whisked out of a hospital at a moment's notice, and the Committee none the wiser. This is an abuse that should be made impossible, and would be if hospital committees understood their duties and performed them.

Yours truly,

A LATE LONDON HOSPITAL SISTER.

IS IT HONEST?

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is to be hoped that the Select Committee on Nursing will inquire into the conditions under which ignorant women are enticed into Nursing Homes containing a few beds under the pretence of

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