

For the Children's Country Holiday Fund.

18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

All my little flowers are fading
While you do your "church parading,"
Play your "bridge" and ply your motor, and
forget—

Find no leisure to remember,
Till the snow-time of December,
There are children with no country playtime yet :

In the stifling streets and alleys
All my lilies-of-the valleys
Where the sunshine, when it comes to break the
gloom,
Is by fouling breath polluted,
And, in grime that's undisputed,
Squalid Poverty works out the children's doom ;

All my sweet and budding roses,
My tall pansy that uncloses
With the deepest wistful eyes were ever seen,
All the crowds of sweet-pea flowers
Looking up to meet the showers
And "on tiptoe for a flight" to meadows green ;

All the children of my garden
That the cruel years will harden
If they live diseased and thwarted in the shade ;
All the sweet things Love created
That through earthly life are fated
To endure the sordid havoc men have made ;

All the children of the gutter,
Who with longing none may utter
Are aweary for a breath of country air ;
All the babies who are pining,
Whose big eyes with tears are shining,
All the withered boys and girls that once were fair !

* * * * *
Pennies, quick ! My heart is breaking
While your pleasure you are taking—
Pennies ! Shillings that a few of you may spare !
One less flower in that "sweet border"
In the bonnet that you order—
You can bless a baby blossom if you care !

And if some who once lay weeping
For a child beyond their keeping,
Who has left on earth a hillock for a grave,
Cast their gold into the coffers
We will not refuse their offers
For the sad, forgotten children they may save.

ANNIE MATHESON,
In the *Westminster Gazette*.

What to Read.

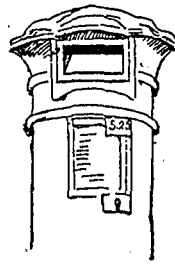
"In Regions of Perpetual Snow: A Story of Wild
Adventures." By W. Gordon Stables, M.D., C.M.

"Inspiration in Human Life." By Isabella H.
Gossman.

"The Last Hope." By Henry Seton Merriman.

"Double Harness." By Anthony Hope.

"One Doubtful Hour." By Ella Hepworth Dixon.



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 ROOT OF THE OPPOSITION TO REGISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note with pleasure that in the interesting paper on State Registration, by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, which you published last week, she put her finger on the right spot when she pointed out that the opposition of the larger hospitals to State Registration for Nurses (as voiced by the Central Hospital Council) is due to their apprehension of the establishment of a Central Governing Body for the nursing profession, which they fear would limit their own present absolutism, as well as the considerable financial benefit which some of them at least derive from running private nursing institutions.

It will be remembered that the Central Hospital Council for London was only inaugurated after an effort had been made, and a meeting held, to discuss the formation of a thoroughly representative Hospital Board for London. Mr. C. S. Loch, the energetic secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, was the chief inspirer of this movement, if I remember rightly, and an interesting paper on the subject was read by Colonel Montefiore at a meeting convened by that Society and held at the Royal United Service Institution in the spring of 1896. Subsequently a Committee was formed with the object of giving effect to this proposal, and it was not until eighteen months later that the twelve London training-schools formed a Council of their own, each deputing three members on to the Committee with the object of holding a watching brief, so to speak, for those hospitals. The Central Hospital Council does not approve of the State Registration of Nurses, and has resolved to oppose not one particular Bill, but any Bill which may be introduced into the House of Commons with this object. No nurse represents nursing interests on this Council, nor have I heard that any one of the hospitals concerned has consulted its certificated nurses on this—to them—vital question. The attitude of the Council is, in short, that of an employer of labour who is intolerant of any interference with his autocracy over his servants, and who resents the first signs of combination amongst them, however legitimate a form such combination may take.

But it does not follow that the welfare of the public is identical with that of a body formed to safeguard its own interests, and the public will do well to study the Registration question on its merits, since the Central Hospital Council cannot be regarded as an impartial authority. It is well also to remember that hospital committees are composed, as you, Madam, have pointed out, mainly of philanthropists and financiers, not of men (much less women) who are educationalists; that they are concerned in the train-

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