

In needy widowhood, the mother and daughter come to live with old Lorry, the well-to-do farmer, and his son David. Sabrina is lovely, and David excellent but slow of speech; so naturally Sabrina selects another lover at first. Sabrina is the typical New Woman—too intelligent to be fettered by a religion; but, as in most of the books lately written on this subject, her enlightenment and general superiority seem not to be of the smallest use to her in selecting her mate. She yields, almost as readily as poor Lotty Gage, to the wooing of a man whom the reader from the first divines to be a rascal: and much sorrow is the result.

There are, scattered through the book, some wonderfully good bits of writing; notably the scene in which David burns the ash-stick, after his father has humiliated him before the woman he loves. Also, there are trenchant sayings; for example:—

"It is little use for men of tarnished morals to take hot sides with the angels in this world's war against wrong; as often as not, they only succeed in doing the devil's work for him in quarters where he would not otherwise have secured a footing."

Sabrina's attitude, in face of her husband's treachery, is finely conceived. Her words, "I can forgive him the wrong he has done me, but dare I urge him to forgive himself for the wrong he has done another?" touch the core of the burning question.

G. M. R.

Life's Tragedies.

Thou art not to be pitied, who hast known
The threat of midnight when the forelands moan
And all the winds are out;
Dread and despair and anguish—the great things
That sit like crowns upon the brows of Kings
Or that Queens weep about
—If by these only thou hast been accursed,
Grieve not too much; for these are not the worst.

It is the slow and softly-dropping tears
That bring the furrows to man's face; the years,
Falling and fall'n in vain,
That turn the gold to grey upon his head;
And the dull days to disappointment wed,
And pain that follows pain
That make life bitter in the mouth, and strew
The dead with roses, but the quick with yew.

Better a wide and windy world, and scope
For rise and downfall of a mighty hope,
Than many little ills;
Better the sudden horror, the swift wrong,
Than doubts and cares that die not, and the long
Monotony that kills;
The empty dawns, pale stars, and narrow skies,
Mean hopes, mean fears, mean sorrows, and mean
sighs.

—GERALD GOULD, in the *Spectator*.

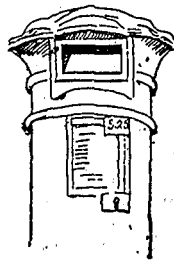
What to Read.

"A Channel Passage and other Poems." By Algernon Swinburne.

"A Broken Rosary." By Edward Peple.

"Letters from a Silent Study." By John Oliver Hobbes.

"The Happy Valley." By B. M. Croker.



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 OPPOSITION TO REGISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read Mr. Sydney Holland's letter in reply to the one I addressed to you with frank amazement, for I in no way referred to him, nor, indeed, was he in my mind when writing it. I conclude he applied it to himself as a member of the Central Hospital Council for London, any member of which might have done the same; but, as you will recollect, I dealt with the position and action of that Council as a body, and in no way commented on the attitude of individual members, much less did I attribute unworthy motives to any one of them. Mr. Holland asserts that I suggest he "wants to keep all nurses down, or in the power of their schools." If he will read my letter again, I think he will in justice admit that I made no such statement, nor one which could by any means be twisted into implying the suggestion he attributes to me. My letter was designed to show the origin and object of the Central Hospital Council, the lack of representation upon it of nursing interests, and the autocratic position it has assumed towards the nurses whom it is opposing, an opposition which I hold to be as unjust as it is ungenerous. I endeavoured to show also that the interests of the Central Hospital Council, a body formed to hold a watching brief for the hospitals represented upon it, were not necessarily identical with those of the public or of nurses, and that the opinion of the Council could not carry the weight of that of a disinterested authority.

Mr. Holland says "it is a mistake to suggest that the Central Hospital Council are the only antagonists." I did not suggest it. Nevertheless, it is this Council which is organising and focussing the opposition to the movement of trained nurses to establish and maintain adequate educational standards and discipline in their ranks, as a necessary foundation to proper control and government.

I am also right, I think, in believing that the Council invited the signatures of Matrons to the "protest" referred to by Mr. Holland, and that many of them were obtained at a meeting of Matrons arranged under its authority, at which he presided.

Mr. Holland seems to attach great weight to these signatures, but it is a matter of common knowledge that reforms are rarely originated, or supported to any great extent, by persons holding official positions in any profession, more especially when the pronounced views of their Committees are in the contrary sense. There is something in the official atmosphere which seems to blind the eyes (whether of man or woman) to the need for reform. Further, in matters in which principle is involved, the question is not *who* is right, but *what* is right. If the right were voiced

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