

He talks to her about a man whom she had grown to love and reverence in her later student days. She learns that he is working, far in the East of Europe, in the cause of the oppressed.

"And she looked further and further over the whole world, and it seemed to her a confusion of headless bodies which strove to destroy one another with fists and weapons. But here and there in the chaos there shone a brilliant light, the same light which had seemed to her to emanate from Rudolf Fischer's pale face, and each of these luminous spots betokened a living intelligence. And, rapidly as this wonderful vision passed before her eyes, she was enabled to discover with immense joy and comfort that these apparently isolated spots were united by shining strands of light, and that these strands and these stars formed a beautiful harmonious whole. There was peace and an all-pervading love over the dark confusion."

And as she walked home through the sweet-scented spring country she felt as though she had been born again.

She had realised the spiritual unity of the human race, the bonds which unite us to those who love and strive with us. She had laid hold of the hope that looks for the redemption of mankind.

E. E.

### What to Read.

"Traffics and Discoveries." By Rudyard Kipling.  
"Ave Regina, and other Poems." By Hugh Mac-Naghten.

"Historical Memoirs of the Emperor Alexander I. and the Court of Russia." By Madame la Comtesse Choiseul-Gouffier. Translated from the original French by Mary Berenice Patterson.

"Science and Immortality." By William Osler, M.D., F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford.

"Adventures in Tibet." By Sven Hedin.

"The White Lady of the Zenana." By Dr. Helen Bourchier.

"Thackeray's Letters to an American Family." With an introduction by Miss Lucy W. Baxter.

"The Truants." By A. E. W. Mason.

### Coming Events.

October 19th.—Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll unveils the Kensington Memorial Column to Queen Victoria, Kensington High Street, 1.

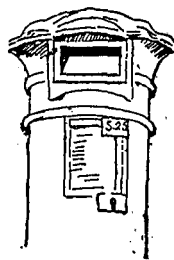
October 29th.—Annual Meeting of the Society of Women Journalists at the Institute of Journalists, Tudor Street, E.C., 3 p.m. At Home, 4 to 6 p.m.

November 7th.—Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland at York (five days).

November 9th and 10th.—Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, York.

November 25th.—Meeting of Delegates of the Provisional Committee for the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 2.30 p.m.

To consider and take action upon a letter from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary, International Council of Nurses.



### 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 CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—There was one point of great importance to nurses in the report of the proceedings of the Midwives' Board last week, introduced by the letter from the Medical Officer for the county of Nottingham, which was deferred for consideration to a future meeting, stating that several midwives in the county had not notified their intention to practise, on the ground that they only intended to work as maternity nurses under the direction of medical practitioners. This really is a very important question where nurses are concerned, as hundreds of trained nurses add a knowledge of midwifery to their qualifications, and register it, because they feel that every nurse to be thoroughly efficient should hold certificates for medical, surgical, and obstetric nursing, just as medical practitioners have to qualify in the three branches of their profession. I am myself a certificated nurse and midwife, but have not the slightest wish to act as a midwife, but only to be able to take maternity cases if needs be. Moreover, to place myself under all the restrictions under which a midwife must do her work now under the new Act would be very vexatious and unnecessary. Surely trained nurses may be registered under the Midwives' Board without being compelled to notify their intention to practise as midwives when they have no such intention. The case appears quite simple; any other arrangement would certainly result in trained nurses refusing to be registered by the Board, and thus stultify the Act, which presumably was passed to elevate by degrees the class of women acting as midwives, and having a knowledge, as all midwives should of nursing. We nurses with dual qualifications await with interest the report of the action of the Midwives' Board on this question.

Yours,  
TRAINED NURSE AND MIDWIFE.

#### BACTERIOLOGY FOR PROBATIONERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The extremely interesting lesson in Bacteriology for Probationers, which you published last week, cannot fail to draw attention, I think, to a point which is too much lost sight of in nursing organisation. I mean the large amount of housemaid's work still performed by probationers in training. They are taught to recognise the great power for evil of the ubiquitous germ, which germ is to be found constantly in the dust of a ward, and yet, though we know well that it is much easier to keep hands clean (surgically clean, I mean) than to render them so when soiled, all day long, at intervals, nurses are dabbling in dust, and, consequently, covering their hands with the germs

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)