

Wise Words.

Good thoughts are true wealth. They are fountains of living water. They are gems that always shine. They are impenetrable shields to protect the character. They are goodly apparel for the mind. They are right noble companions. They are fair angels of light. They are flowers of rich beauty and sweet fragrance. They are seeds of noble actions and noble institutions. They are moulds in which exalted characters are formed. They make good and great men. They are a nation's mightiest bulwarks. A good thought is a grand legacy to bequeath to the world.

But words are things, and a small drop of ink
Falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.
'Tis strange the shortest letter which men use,
Instead of speech, may form a lasting link
Of ages. — *Byron.*

"It is the mind that maketh good or ill,
That maketh wretch or happie, rich or poore :
For some that hath abundance at his will,
Hath not enough, but wants in greater store ;
And, other, that hath little, asks no more,
But in that little is both rich and wise :
For wisdom is most riches ; fooles therefore
They are which fortunes do by vowes devize ;
Since each unto himself his life may fortunize."
— *Spenser.*

"I used to wonder why people should be so fond of the company of their physician, till I recollected that he is the only person with whom one dare talk continually of one's-self, without interruption, contradiction, or censure." — *Mrs. Hannah More.*

"Purposes, like eggs, unless they be hatched into action, will run into rottenness. It is these thorny 'ifs,' the mutterings of impatience and despair, which so often hedge round the field of possibility, and prevent anything being done or even attempted. 'A difficulty,' said Lord Lyndhurst, 'is a thing to be overcome.' Grapple with it at once, facility will come with practice, and strength and fortitude with repeated effort. Thus the mind and character may be trained to an almost perfect discipline, enabling it to move with a grace, spirit, and liberty almost incomprehensible to those who have not passed through a similar experience." — *Smiles.*

"Virtue and Honour are such inseparable companions that the heathens would admit no man into the temple of honour who did not pass into it through the temple of Virtue." — *South.*

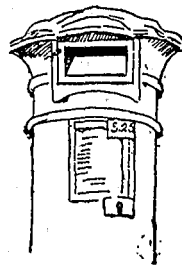
"An honest man is still an unmoved rock,
Wash'd whiter, but not shaken with the shock ;
Whose heart conceives no sinister device ;
Fearless he plays with flames, and treads on ice."
— *Davenport.*

December 31st, 1904.

Then let us take ceremonious leave
And loving farewell of our several friends.

January 1st, 1905.

Go thou forth ;
And fortune play upon thy prosperous helm.



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 SICK ON BOARD SHIP.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The big Atlantic liners are great offenders where the sick are concerned—I have crossed the ocean a dozen times on several of the best liners—and one and all need to provide nursing up-to-date. On one occasion both I and my fellow companion fell ill ; a horrid smell pervaded the cabin. I sent for the ship's doctor and he appeared highly offended at my daring to call his attention to the smells, which he declared did not exist.

The following day I found my fellow passenger (she was taking a voyage after enteric fever—nice for me) suffering from follicular tonsillitis, and, ill as I was, I dragged myself to the captain's room to demand a fresh cabin. He referred me to the purser, who pretended there was not one, and it was only my threat to remove the poor girl to the saloon, and there remain with her, that ultimately compelled these men to provide other accommodation. We were then placed in an inside cabin, and I attended to the lady until she was much better. What if I had not been a trained nurse ? How would she have fared in the cabin, where upon examination a leak from a w.c. next door was found, a condition of affairs which had occurred before, as I elicited by a little judicious bribery.

On another voyage, on another line, a lady nearly died of sea-sickness, and should have had a special nurse to diet and attend to her. I spent several nights in her cabin, accommodation having to be found elsewhere for her husband.

The dirt on many of these expensive liners is also annoying. On one voyage, my tooth glass was never once cleaned by the stewardess, and I made it my business to tell her that as she had not done her work I withheld my tip, hoping the future occupants of her cabins would benefit by my reasoning.

I quite agree with you that it is time trained nurses—not stewardess nurses—were provided on every large steamer ; it is merely because, like everything else, these steamers are entirely managed by men who know little of domestic comfort, that this reform has not been made long ago.—Yours truly,
TRAVELLER.

THE STANDARD OF ARMY NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As an old London Hospital nurse who only holds a two years' certificate, and thus finds herself disqualified for many posts open to those nurses who hold a three years' certificate from a much smaller and inferior training-school, allow me to thank you for your editorial remarks of last week. Many of my friends at the London quite realise that the absolute powers given by the Committee to the Matron to use them at will as private nurses, and thus practically disqualify them for work under the

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