

In this one respect his style seems to me to have deteriorated. He is too diffuse, and this, in describing scenery, is fatal. He would seem to have studied too minutely the thing he looks on, until broad effects are lost sight of. A telling phrase will convey to the imagination far more of the glory of a storm on the sullen purple uplands than whole pages relating how the contours of various hills, which are named, sloped towards each other, or away from the river.

But this is the mere opinion of an isolated reviewer. Mr. Philpott's work stands independently of details.
G. M. R.

The Land of "Pretty Soon."

I know of a land where the streets are paved
With the things we meant to achieve ;
It is walled with the money we meant to have saved,
And the pleasures for which we grieve ;
The kind words unspoken, the promises broken,
And many a coveted boon,
Are stowed away there in that land somewhere,
The land of "Pretty Soon."

There are uncut jewels of possible fame
Lying about in the dust,
And many a noble and lofty aim
Covered with mould and rust.
And oh ! this place, while it seems so near,
Is farther away than the moon,
Though our purpose is fair, yet we never get there,
To the land of "Pretty Soon."

The road that leads to that mystic land
Is strewn with pitiful wrecks,
And the ships that have sailed for its shining strand
Bear skeletons on their decks.
It is farther at noon than it was at dawn,
And farther at night than at noon.
Oh ! let us beware of that land down there —
The land of "Pretty Soon."

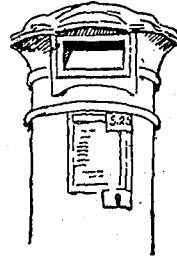
—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

Coming Events.

Matrons' Council Winter Meetings :—
February 6th.—Miss Amy Hughes on "The Work of County Nursing Associations," 431, Oxford Street, W. 8 p.m. Tea and coffee.
February 7th to 10th.—Conference on School Hygiene, arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute, University of London.

What to Read.

"The Life of John Nicholson." By Captain Lionel J. Trotter.
"Robert Cavalier: the Romance of the Sieur de la Salle and his Discovery of the Mississippi River." By William Dana Orcutt.
"An Elder Sister: a Short Sketch of Anne Mackenzie and Her Brother the Missionary Bishop." By Frances Awdry.
"An Act in a Backwater." By E. F. Benson.
"The System." By Percy White.
"The Religion of Evelyn Hastings." By Victoria Cross.
"The Apple of Eden." By E. Temple Thurston.



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.

MATRONS AND REGISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I scarcely think the severe strictures of your correspondent "Trained in the Country" as to the position of the Matrons on the Registration question are merited, at least, I should like to remind her of the following facts.

The women who founded the British Nurses' Association in 1887, with the object of affording nurses an opportunity of co-operating in order that they might obtain legal status, were past and present Matrons of hospitals.

The women who remained true to this foundation principle of the Association, when its policy was reversed owing to the treachery of certain officials, were principally Matron members. It was matrons, not nurses, who drew up a protest objecting to this unwarrantable proceeding. Was there ever an illegality which took place at that time which did not receive the support of the nurse members? I think not.

For a considerable number of years the Matrons' Council was the only Society of Nurses which held the Registration banner aloft, in the face of opposition and intimidation. It was at a meeting of that Society that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was founded.

In my view Matrons have done a great deal more to help nurses to obtain Registration than they have ever done to help themselves, and it appears to me a little late in the day, as well as somewhat ungracious, for a nurse to turn round now and blame the Matrons for a condition of things discreditable enough it is true, but for which nurses, if they are honest, must shoulder their full share of blame. As you aptly say, "Let the rank and file wake up." It seems to me that at present the majority expect to be "spoon fed," and take no trouble whatever to attain what they say they desire.

Yours faithfully,
MATRON.

THE CASE OF MISS GREGORY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The complaint frequently alleged against women, that they are unbusinesslike and casual, appears to me to find ample corroboration in the case of a midwife, whose appearance before the Midwives' Board you reported last week. I suppose no one contends that this midwife deliberately intended to falsify her returns in order to obtain the admission to the examination of the London Obstetrical Society of more candidates than she could otherwise train; at any rate, the Midwives' Board did not adopt this attitude.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)