

swallows down the insult and ignominy of her position with hardly a struggle, and proceeds to live in her own house like a humble companion, at a salary of £100 a year, out of which she pays £50 to Gervas's discarded mistress.

Her reason for this is her desire to win the heart of her boy Tom, who is a very average, high-spirited young animal, and soon finds out that his grandmother holds the purse-strings. There are elements in the struggle of Patricia for her boy which strike us as unquestionably fine, and there are many aphorisms scattered up and down the pages which are noteworthy.

"Nature!" cries Mrs. Saumarez Daunt; "I hate the name of it! Read my diary and see what Nature brings the village to! If a man refers a woman to Nature, one knows pretty well what to think!"

"Sympathy," says Philip Gore, "is the elixir of life to an outraged woman; without it she loses the power of idealising herself—the most becoming of all the feminine virtues. A neglected wife, if she knows the ropes, is woman at her best; and there's a reserve of explosive enthusiasm in male humanity that the right woman can always fire."

G. M. R.

What to Read.

"Matilda, Countess of Tuscany." By Mrs. Mary E. Huddy.

"William Rathbone: A Memoir." By Miss Eleanor Rathbone.

"The Stigma." By Jessie Leckie Herbertson.

"Infatuation." By B. M. Croker.

"Mademoiselle Nellie." By Lucas Cleeve.

"Virginia." By L. T. Meade.

"The Hill." By Horace A. Vachell.

"Marian Sax." By Madame Albanesi.

Coming Events.

May 1st.—Princess Louise distributes the faithful service prizes at the Diamond Jubilee festival of the Ragged School Union and Shaftesbury Society, Queen's Hall, Langham Place.

May 3rd.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4.30 p.m.

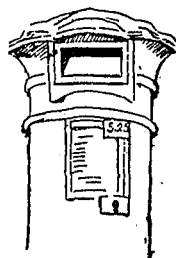
May 5th.—The Board of Trade will hear objections to the granting of a Licence to the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses to incorporate without the word "Limited" after its name, in the Deputation Room of the Board, at 7, Whitehall Gardens, S.W., 11.30 a.m.

May 8th.—Royal Sanitary Institute. Discussion on "Housing in Mansions let as Flats," opened by Dr. Louis C. Parkes, D.P.H., and W. Rolfe, Esq. (architect). Sir William Emerson, F.R.I.B.A., will preside. Parkes Museum, Margaret Street, W., 5 p.m.

May 11th.—Select Committee on Nursing. Chairman, H. J. Tennant, Esq., M.P., House of Commons, Committee Room 17, 11.30 a.m.

May 17th.—The Duke of Connaught presides at a Dinner in aid of the Great Northern Hospital, Savoy Hotel.

May 18th.—Lord Glenesk presides at the Annual Meeting, Chelsea Hospital for Women, Fulham Road, 4 p.m.



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.

ARE NURSES HEALTH MISSIONERS?

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

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Burr's interesting article, "Are Nurses Health Missioners?" covers a very wide area—too wide, I think, for the question to be answered by a simple yea or nay. We might almost as well ask, "Are women good looking?" or, "Are men good swimmers?" For, truth to tell, there are nurses and nurses, so that of some a very high authority (Mr. Charles Booth) is able to write in his remarkable book, "Life and Labour in London": "Of all the forms that charity takes, there is hardly one that is so directly successful as district nursing. It is almost true to say that wherever a nurse enters the standard of life is raised," while others seem to have not even the most rudimentary idea that the office of health missioner is incumbent upon them and what it involves.

If we narrow the question down a little and ask, is the average nurse a health missioner? I fear we must even then give a negative answer. And is this, on the whole, to be wondered at? I think not. To begin with, the average nurse does not concern herself much with scientific laws. Is she even encouraged to do so? Scarcely. In many instances she is even regarded with some disfavour by her superiors if she desires to probe into underlying causes and to understand the why and wherefore of her work. "A nurse's duty is to obey." True, most true. But that does not preclude her exercising her intellect, assuming, of course, that she has any. And, after all, which is likely to make the better nurse: the one who automatically and obediently pours a quantity of strong-smelling disinfectant down a drain every day, and hides an objectionable smell, or the one who realises that the smell has an underlying and probably a dangerous cause, and reports its existence?

Whose fault is it if the average nurse is not a health missioner? Consider for a moment. Wherever the district nurse enters the standard of life is raised. The reason is unquestionably that the laws of hygiene and sanitation enter largely into the instruction given to a nurse in her preparation for this special work, and she responds to the training. If in an ordinary course special emphasis is not laid on the importance of the preventive as well as the curative side of a nurse's work, what wonder if in the multiplicity of things presented to her attention the average nurse overlooks its importance. It is only the exceptional woman who thinks things out for herself. So we come back once more to the point which is at the root of all the nursing problems at the present day: The need for a minimum and inclusive curriculum for all women who are trained as nurses, and

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