

that she chooses for performing this important operation, is during the marriage ceremony of Sandy and Ruth, when she interrupts the harangue of the hard-shell Baptist minister with a shout of "Hallelujah! Praise de Lawd, de light's done come!"

Some of her dicta are quite delightful.

"He's sparkin' some gal, Miss Sue; dat's what ails him," she said one evening as she knelt on the sitting-room hearth to kindle the first fire of the season. "Dey ain't but two tings onder heaben dat'll keep a man from eatin'. One's a woman, t'other is lack ob food."

Or—

"I 'spect the doctor would put' near die ef he knowed dat Miss Annette was a-havin' incandescence meetin's wif Carter Nelson 'most every day."

She also states the wretched Carter to be suffering from that complaint *"which sounds like tuberoses!"*

The final incident of the shooting of the judge and the behaviour of Sandy in the matter is a little forced. But the book is delightful reading, light and bright, and, if not bubbling over with humour like the others, certainly not devoid of it.

G. M. R.

The Choice.

Are you allured by peace and velvet ease?

The choice is yours to seek them, should you please.

They tempt me not while these my brother men
Crawl up the stairs of pain on bleeding knees.

ELSA BARKER, in the *Munsey*.

What to Read.

"The Friendships of Veronica." By Mr. Thomas Cobb.

"Crittenden." By John Fox, author of "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come."

"A Dark Lantern." By Elizabeth Robins.

Coming Events.

May 19th and 20th.—Sale of Genuine Old Bric-à-Brac to aid poor gentlewomen, 16, Brook Street, Bond Street, W., 11 to 7.

May 19th.—Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association. Sir John Batty Tuke, M.D., M.P., F.R.S.E., in the chair. 20, Hanover Square, W., 4 p.m.

May 22nd.—The Lord Mayor presides at Luncheon at the Mansion House to raise £15,000 for the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road.

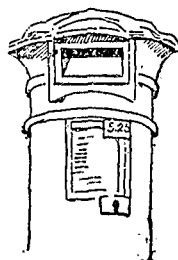
May 23rd and 25th.—Select Committee on Nursing. Chairman, Mr. H. J. Tennant. House of Commons, Committee Room 17, 11.30 a.m.

May 23rd.—The Queen gives her patronage to the Grand Historical Bazaar in the enclosure of Dean's Yard (by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter) in aid of the Westminster Hospital (three days).

May 26th.—Meeting of Provisional Committee, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, W., 12 noon.

May 26th.—Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., 3 p.m.

May 26th.—Annual Meeting of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, 133, Queen's Gate, W. Mrs. James Bryce in the Chair, 3.30 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.

A MATRON'S AUTHORITY.

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

MADAM,—The nursing section of the *Hospital* of May 13th contains a paragraph headed "The Question of a Matron's Authority." The writer is astonished that the Matron of the Swansea Hospital is not satisfied with the decision of her Board of Management that a medical officer and the House Surgeon were justified in sending nurses off duty without reference to her. At the same time, he says: "The Matron is the proper person to call to account for the conduct and condition of the nurses under her charge." If her authority is to be ignored to the extent of sending nurses from the wards without previously speaking to her, I fail to see how she can be held responsible for anything connected with the nursing. A position of responsibility without authority is an impossible one, and there can be no discipline in a hospital where the nursing head is treated in so unusual a manner. I have a rule that any illness among the nurses is to be reported to me at once by the Sisters under whom they are working. I then remove the nurse from the ward and take either the House Surgeon or a member of the staff to see her, keeping her on the sick list or sending her on duty again as he may advise. But it must be remembered that provincial hospitals have not, as a rule, a very large staff of nurses, and matrons are unwilling to take any of them off duty for every small ailment, for the simple reason that the work would thereby be rendered very hard for the rest. I may add that I do not know Swansea Hospital nor any of the workers there, but I cannot help wondering how the medical officer and the house surgeon would feel if the Matron were to interfere in ever so slight a degree in the treatment of the patients who are "under their charge," and whether, if she maintained she was justified in doing so, a "shake of the hands" would set matters right. If friction is to be avoided in any large institution the authority of each officer in his or her department must be upheld and supported by the committee who are over all, otherwise there will be chaos.—I am, Madam, yours truly,

MATRON.

THE MEETING AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly correct the statements in the last issue of your journal that I was present at the Board of Trade the other day as a promoter of the Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses, and as representing the Midwives' Institute. Both statements are quite incorrect. I was not representing the Midwives' Institute, which has nothing to do with the Society, and which, I believe, has never had the scheme placed before it;

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