

writing to her, or proposing to her during a period of months.

The strength of the book lies in the character of Sir Francis's wife, and of the mother of Sheila and Patricia. Mrs. Prentice is one of those entirely reserved persons whose own children do not know her in the least. Her whole aim is to live apart in mind from everyone. She has seemed unbearably irritable and fretful to her two daughters, and even to her one friend, Jane Morant, who is staying in the house. She suddenly tells this guest that it will not be convenient for her to stay longer, gets both her girls invited to the Park, and when Patricia returns it is to learn that her mother has packed some luggage and gone to town, quite alone, for the purpose of undergoing a most serious operation, which, in fact, terminates in her death.

One knows this type, and there is a pitiful, bitter truth about it.

But we repeat that it is not the plot, but the delicate, sympathetic magic of the style that endears this writer to her readers. She writes as one who loves youth and goodness and believes in the necessity of sacrifice; as one, too, who knows the strength of love in youth, love among the pure-hearted and right-minded.

G. M. R.

### Verse.

"It is easy enough to be pleasant,  
When life flows like a song,  
But the man worth while is the man that will smile,  
When everything goes dead wrong."

### Coming Events.

May 25th.—Duke of Fife presides at the Annual Court of Governors of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. 5 p.m.

May 30th.—Nurses' Missionary League, Conversation, 3.30-6.30. Annual Meeting. 7 p.m. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

June 1st.—Annual General Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, Sir John Batty Tukey, M.D., M.P., in the chair, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 4 p.m.

June 14th.—Conversazione, organised by the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, at the Gallery of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, S.W. 8.30 p.m.

June 26th and 27th.—Grand bazaar at the Albert Hall in aid of the funds of the Great Northern Central Hospital and for the establishment of a Convalescent Home for the patients. To be opened by the Duchess of Connaught.

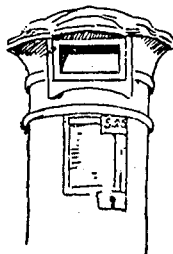
June 30th.—General Meeting and Social Gathering League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, at the Hospital, 3 p.m.

### A Word for the Week.

If you want a man who will stand his ground, who will carry his burden and not whine, get the thoroughly well drilled, trained man every time.—*Bishop Haas.*

## 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 MIDDLE CLASS NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—While the nursing of the Middle Class is being discussed there is one partial solution of the difficulty which is somewhat overlooked. There is so much done by the District Nurse for the poor it seems strange the Visiting Nurse for the Middle Class is not more developed. Of course she is of no use for infectious and some of the most serious cases, but it is wonderful how much she can do. Take an operation for instance, the Visiting Nurse goes the night before and prepares the patient, she also sees the capabilities of the house with regard to a table, &c., and leaves instructions about the boiled water. She will be wise if she has this left in the kettles to insure its being poured into an absolutely clean jug. With the lids tightly on and a plug of cotton wool in the spout it cannot come to much harm if prepared the evening before. The next day she goes and prepares for the doctors. The length of time she arrives before the operation is to start will, of course, depend on how much she has to do. She will bring with her one or two small bowls and sterilised towels, and swabs suitable to the occasion. She will help in the usual way at the operation, and afterwards clear up, and stay as long as may be necessary with the patient, probably paying a visit in the evening to take temperature, &c., or in some cases staying the first night. She will usually go every day to wash the patient and make the bed, and carry out any treatment ordered, such as enemas, &c. She will also prepare any dressings needed after, and be there to help the doctor, or do the dressing herself, according to orders.

There are many medical cases which might be waited on by the patient's friends, though to give a bath in bed or change the bottom sheet without removing the patient may be quite beyond them. The nurse can point out how much easier it is to keep a bed free from crumbs and wrinkles if made with a draw-sheet, the best way to feed a patient not allowed to sit up and to alter and support the pillows for one who cannot lie down. There are in most places a few chronics to whose comfort a daily or sometimes occasional visit from a nurse will add materially, and whom the nurse will find very useful, as this class of patient can generally be fitted in when best suits her other work. In some cases her chief concern may be the prevention of bed-sores, and we all know how often a patient will submit cheerfully to suggestions from a nurse when the friends have failed to attain the same end.

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