

by western cast-iron notions of justice and morality.

This Viceroy, meaning well, perpetrated a huge mistake. He set India by the ears: and he was wrong throughout the whole case.

One wishes the story were a trifle less dry and hard in style. One takes no interest in any of the people in it. They are specimens of race, or class, not individuals. Ruth Pearce is the modern woman, loving with her intellect not her passions. We long to love her, but cannot. G.M.R.

My Shadow.

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see,

He is very, very like me, from the heels up to the head,
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—

Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;

For he sometimes shoots up taller, like an india-rubber ball,

And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;

I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed:

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.
In A Child's Garden of Verses.

What to Read.

"A Week at Waterloo." Lady de Lancey's Narrative.

"The Guarded Flame." By W. B. Maxwell.

"The Path of Glory." By Georges Ohnet.

"A Pixy in Petticoats." A Story of Dartmoor.

"The Ring of Day." By Mary Butler.

"The Compromise." By Dorothea Gerard.

"A Woman." By an Anonymous Author.

"Drink." By Hall Caine.

"Suzanne." By V. Hawtrey.

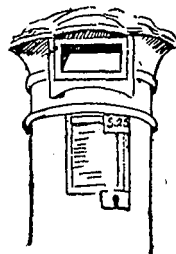
A Word for the Week.

"If you want to make this a religious nation, you must put the children back into the country or surround them with some evidence of nature. It is only by contact with nature that the child is brought to realise the existence of the Creator."

—George H. Maxwell.

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 TOO INDEPENDENT?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to note you consider that a nurse should be encouraged to retain her individuality. The trend of modern training of nurses is certainly in the other direction. Everyone must be turned out on exactly the same pattern, and the nurse with an original mind is not in favour. Matrons do not like her, Sisters find she asks questions which they "have not time to answer now," and nurses resent anything they do not understand, and "can't think why she is not the same as everybody else." And yet a wise Matron must surely understand that the docile, sheep-like probationer who seems to have no special personal attributes, but can be turned out of the same mould as scores of others, has scarcely the qualities which will make her the good head of a training school when she is no longer a probationer, but a fully fledged nurse. Subservience, want of individuality, will not be qualities of the first importance then, but decision, self-reliance, the power to command the confidence of committees, the ability and courage to point out weak places, to carry through reforms, and to incur the consequent unpopularity. If these things were thought of I do not think that the services of probationers whose sole error consists in an inability to eliminate their individuality would be so often dispensed with.

What is the consequence? We have many good nurses, but have we many great women in the nursing world to-day? Some of us are old enough to remember the generalship of some of our pioneer leaders. They fought for better conditions for the sick, and they conquered by reason of their strong personality and their earnest convictions, which took precedence of all else. Nowadays we are so concerned first in getting and then in retaining posts that we dare not take a strong line of action. Such and such a course would be impolitic we say, and we disguise our cowardice under the more euphonious title of tact. Let us cherish the strong souls amongst us, they are needed as well as the more ordinary ones. Would that we could persuade training school authorities to think so, the outlook for the future would be more hopeful.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARY MASON.

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