

He sees her fade and die away, not the mother he knew but some passive, suffering person whose dissolution seems typical of the end of love, the end of life. Not long after, the wastrel father also seeks the shelter of his son's roof, also fades and perishes, the quenching of life's fires mitigates and almost effaces the vice in him, as it almost effaced the sweetness in his victim. So an end, as Gavan Palairet thinks. He has no more belief in the good of anything. He is dead while he lives; harmless, hopeless, loveless.

But Elspeth Gifford, sweetest of heroines, loves him. She essays the task of bringing him to life; with what result, Miss Sedgwick must herself relate. Her sad, strange, strong book, is full of thought and of wisdom. We recommend it to thoughtful women. It seems that nurses in particular, might quite possibly come across a life mysteriously withered as was the life of Gavan Palairet. G. M. R.

WOMEN.

We congratulate the Home Secretary on having released from jail the ladies who were suffering imprisonment in Holloway for conscience sake, and thus removing one of the greatest scandals of modern times. No male political offender for the past quarter of a century has been placed in the second division, and to class woman demanding political rights with the lowest criminal has been an offence which has brought discredit on all concerned in the opinion of just people.

Let us sincerely hope that before many months are over equal political rights will be granted to women on the same terms as to men.

Coming Events.

November 30th.—Lecture on Public Health and Hygiene by Dr. Newman, D.P.H., to the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 5.45 p.m. These Lectures will be held weekly on Fridays until December 14th. The Course will be concluded after Christmas.

December 4th.—Matinee Concert in aid of Charing Cross Hospital, Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

December 4th.—Irish Nurses' Association: Lecture on "Tuberculosis: the Great White Plague," by Dr. McWeeney, 86, Lower Leeson St., Dublin. 7.30 p.m.

December 6th.—Conference on Hospital Administration in the Botanical Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C.

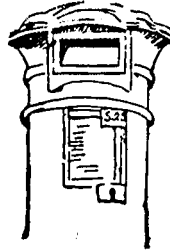
December 8th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Winter Social Gathering in the Medical School Library, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

December 8th.—The Society of Women Journalists, Third Annual Dinner, Trocadero Restaurant, 7.15 p.m.

December 8th.—The International Council of Women: Mrs. Mackenzie Davidson At Home, 3.30 Lyceum Club: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Hon. Secretary, will speak on "The Growth and Organisation of the Council," Mrs. George Cadbury in the Chair, 4 p.m., Tea and Coffee

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.

FREE TRADE IN NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A paragraph in the "Huxley Memorial Lecture" delivered recently by Professor Flinders Petrie on the subject of Migration seems somewhat appropriate when applied to the subject of "Free Trade in Nursing."

"The only way to save a country from immigration is to increase the capabilities of its inhabitants by thorough weeding, so that other races cannot get a footing by competition or force. The ideals of the present time—equality of wages, maintenance of the incapable by the capable, equal opportunities of life for children of bad stock as well as of good stock, are the surest means of national extinction."

Weeding the races presents difficulties! It should be comparatively easy to weed the nursing profession. One course of action on the part of matrons has done more than anything else to flood the profession with "unfits" and to lower the general efficiency; and that is the refusal of those in charge of the larger training schools, to take probationers who have had previous training.

The small and special hospitals should be the feeders of the great training schools. The former would then attract a better type of probationer. Now, their matrons find difficulty in getting the right kind of women, and the nurses leave them after a more or less deficient training to compete with the fully-trained, instead of completing their own training.

What would have been thought of the University of Oxford if the authorities had refused to receive the "Rhodes Scholars," because they had received previous university training?

The usual reasons seem very inadequate. "Previous knowledge is undesirable," a Matron once said to me. Yet in spite of this enlightened theory, which seems to be generally acted upon, the need of preliminary training is felt, and one or two nursing schools have started "kindergartens." That is to say, ignoring the magnificent preparatory schools provided by the Fever, Special, and Cottage Hospitals, they are starting artificial ones of their own.

Meanwhile, the nursing market is being flooded with imperfectly trained nurses who find it impossible to complete their training, and earn their living as best they can. Nurses need much careful elementary training and thorough grounding in certain subjects. They rarely get enough of either in the large hospitals. The "recognised" training schools should (like the Public Schools) have a "common entrance examination."

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