

—the most successful parts of the book, we hold. The Italian part does not ring so true, there is a touch of the tourist both in that and in the brief Portuguese episode. But on the whole, it is an admirable piece of work. Dugald Dalgleish does indeed remain within the fold of his early associations; but the moral which the writer evidently intends to draw, though only definitely in one case, is *Aut Catholicus, aut nihil*.

Whether we differ or agree, it is worth studying; for there is no single line of bitterness throughout, earnest as the author unquestionably is.

G. M. R.

My Books.

They dwell in the odour of camphor,
They stand in a Sheraton shrine,
They are "warranted early editions,"
These worshipful tomes of mine.

In the creamiest "Oxford Vellum,"
In their redolent "crushed Levant,"
With their delicate watered linings,
They are jewels of price, I grant.

Blind-tooled and morocco-jointed,
They have Bedford's daintiest dress
They are graceful, attenuate, polished,
But they gather the dust no less.

For the row I prize is yonder,
Away in the unglazed shelves,
The bulged and the bruised octavos
The dear and the dumpty twelves.

Montaigne with his sheep skin blistered,
And Howell the worse for wear,
And the worm-drilled Jesuit's Horace,
And the little old cropped Molière.

And the Burton I bought for a florin
And the Rabelais foxed and flea'd,
For the others I never have opened,
But those are the books I read.

By AUSTIN DOBSON.

Coming Events.

January 5th.—Christmas Treat at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, Fulham Road, 4 to 6.30.

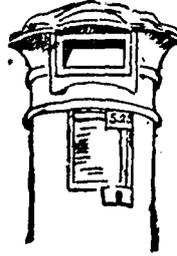
January 9th.—Lecture on "The Diet of To-day," by Professor Halliburton, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P., at the Incorporated Institute of Hygiene, 34, Devonshire Street, Harley Street, W. Admission 1s., reserved seats 2s. 6d. 4 p.m.

A Word for the Week.

"I follow, follow, sure to meet the sun and confident that what the future yields will be the right unless myself be wrong."—*H. W. Longfellow*.

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 BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I endorse what Miss Mollett says in your issue of the 15th December, about the formation of the Royal British Nurses' Association?

The majority of the ladies who met at Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's house, at her invitation, were in no way connected with the Nursing Sectional Committee of the Hospitals' Association. Mrs. Fenwick brought before the meeting the idea of a Professional Association of British Nurses, which was enthusiastically received and discussed; the result was the British Nurses' Association. Mrs. Fenwick was the moving spirit of the movement as she has been of many others since, which have had for their object the advancement of nurses towards self-government.

ISLA STEWART.

Matron and Superintendent of Nursing
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

ACCURACY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your remarks on keenness a short time since, which I read with much interest, set me thinking about another quality which is essential in a good nurse but in which I have observed many nurses are very deficient. I mean accuracy, or exactness. Take the night report for instance. A nurse will state that Number 8 slept fairly well. What is one to understand by that statement, and how many hours sleep does "fairly well" represent? Another nurse will tell you that Number 11 took "about" a pint of milk, and Number 6's temperature is "nearly normal." Such a want of exactness permeating a nurse's work decreases its value and makes her reports of no account. Of course, much depends upon her early upbringing. If she has grown up in a desultory household where exactness is neither preached nor practised she will find it very difficult to acquire it in a hospital in adult life. Yet this is essential, and it may be done. The longer I live, however, the more I realise the value of early training and the invaluable heritage which parents bequeath to their children if they bring them up to a disciplined method of life, and to habits of accuracy, not to mention the inculcation of such qualities as honour, courtesy, and courage, which are best developed in early life.—Yours faithfully,

MATRON.

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