

Wheler had lately moved into Grosvenor Square. She gathered all her courage, and ordered the carriage and pair to take her to pay her a call.

Mrs. Wheler—a hard, vain, vulgar woman determined to get on in Society—has the Duke of Monaghan and his mother to lunch, with other smart people. She is petrified when Jeanne walks in, and her good manners are by no means equal to the emergency. It is the lame young Duke who comes to the rescue. He is a distant—ever so distant—cousin of little Jeanne; and so the acquaintance begins, and so Jeanne meets her fate, though she does not know it then. All her enthusiasm, all her devotion, is kept for the handsome soldier twin brother who is her all. The Duke is small and delicate looking, and, to her mind, most unheroic. But when her brother dies, and she has to make the bewildering discovery that he has left a wife and child, then, indeed, she finds the comfort of her lover's tender devotion and deep attachment.

The story is simplicity itself, but so sweetly told, so true in its minor details, so well worked out, and so interesting that you are held from first page to last.

G.M.R.

### Coming Events.

*March 28th.*—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, W., 4 p.m.

#### Agenda.

1. To confirm provisional regulations.
2. To receive applications for affiliation from newly formed Nurses' Leagues.
3. To receive a letter from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Sec., International Council of Nurses, re the Nursing Conference at Paris.
4. To consider reception of eminent foreign nurses who will visit England after the Paris Conference.

*April 9th.*—Meeting of the Nurses' Social Union at Bristol. Subject to be treated, "Digestion and Diet." Information as to the Bristol Branch of the N.S.U. can be obtained from the local organiser, Miss Fry, Failand House, Bristol.

*April 11th.*—Social Gathering of the Matrons' Council. Miss Mollett will read Paper on "The Twentieth Century Probationer." 431, Oxford Street, 8 p.m.

*April 12th.*—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, 4.30 p.m.

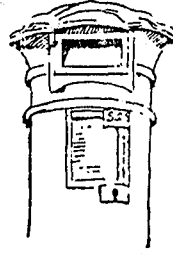
*April 15th.*—The Prince and Princess of Wales visit Richmond to open the Swan Memorial Ophthalmic Wards at the Royal Hospital, Richmond. 4 p.m.

### A Word for the Week.

No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him; there is always work and tools to work withal, for those who will, and blessed are the horny hands of toil.—Lowell.

### 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 TWENTIETH CENTURY PROBATIONER  
*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I notice a very kind paragraph in your journal respecting the paper I am shortly to read at the Matrons' Council.

To prevent disappointment I had better say at once that I have no idea of making the slightest attempt to rival Miss Stewart's classic article. Mine will be purely a paper for discussion by Matrons, and to leave myself a freer hand, I do not mean to publish it afterwards in any language.

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT, Matron.

Royal South Hants & Southampton Hospital.

[Miss Mollett is proverbially modest as to her literary and platform attainments. Whatever she writes and speaks secures the interest of her audience, and that is the great test of its value—not its classical worth. Some day, when she retires to that chicken farm of which we occasionally hear, we hope literature will claim its rightful share of her spare time.—Ed.]

THE INFLUENCE OF DISEASE ON PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The letter of your correspondent, who drew attention to the probable influence of malaria as a factor in the well-known inertia of the negro interested me extremely. I do not think that nearly enough stress is laid upon the influence of disease in relation to personal characteristics. As a nurse of over 20 years' standing, I, personally, feel increasingly disinclined to blame anyone overmuch for any failings. If we traced back their origin to first causes we should generally be more lenient in our judgments. "Man is man and master of his fate" it is true. At any rate he should strive to be, but I am inclined to think Tennyson had in his mind the normal and healthy man when he wrote that line. When, owing to the excesses of generations of self-indulgent forbears, he inherits a weakened or perverted will, so that it cannot keep the control of his lower instincts, which is the more to blame, this man or his forefathers when he drifts into the criminal classes?

Well known instances of the influence of disease or personal characteristics are the irritability which accompanies gout, the depression coincident with liver trouble. It is true they may

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