

fail to tell. It is the duty of every thinking woman, especially those who conscientiously believe themselves to be against Women's Suffrage, to read such a book as this. It may not convert her, but at least, if she has any sense of justice, she will have learnt by the end to respect the motives which are the true foundations of the movement. She will also be bound to admit that newspaper reports are flimsy material to pin faith to, and that to judge any scheme by its failures rather than its successes is tantamount to an avowal of ignorance of both sides of the question.

It has been hinted that the love-story is not entirely what one might have expected from such a strong writer as Miss Robins. It lacks originality, and mars, rather than makes, the central characters, and had she wished to push home her arguments thereby she could not have succeeded. It seems unnecessary. That a woman of Vida Levering's type should have needed such a sordid little past history to account for the moulding of her nature, is scarcely credible. Without it her portrait would surely have been infinitely more forceful. But, strange to say, it is a matter of very little importance to this romance: the real story is not of love but war, and the war that is waged needs none of the minor dodges of fiction to enhance its interest, nothing but passionate sympathy.

E. L. H.

### Coming Events.

*December 5th.*—Meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 2.45 p.m.

*December 6th.*—National League for Physical Education and Improvement: The Bishop of Ripon speaks at the Annual General Meeting, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 4 p.m.

*December 6th.*—The Nurses' Co-operation. At Home at the Nurses' Club, 35, Langham Street, W. Show of the Nurses' Needlework Guild in the Club Room. Tea, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

*December 7th.*—Miss E. Debenham receives invited guests at St. Andrew's House Club, Mortimer Street, W., to view the Club with its recent extension. 4—6.30.

*December 7th.*—Society of Women Journalists, Fourth Annual Dinner.

*December 11th.*—Examination for certificate of Central Midwives' Board, Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment.

*December 11th.*—Post-Graduate Lecture, "How to Maintain our Vigour for Work," by Mr. C. W. Cathcart, F.R.C.S., Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. All trained nurses cordially invited. 5 p.m.

*December 12th and 13th.*—Meeting of Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster.—Penal cases.

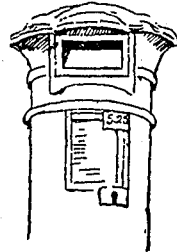
*December 18th.*—Meeting of the Executive Committee, Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Act well at the moment, and you have performed a good action to all eternity.—LAVATER.

## 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 CLEANSING OF TEETH IN HOSPITAL.**  
*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

MADAM,—“A Practical Worker” ridicules “Paying Pro’s” suggestion that hospital patients should be encouraged to clean their teeth. I should like to say to “Practical Worker” that I should more often trust the probationer fresh from home to notice want of refinements in nursing details and want of consideration for the patient’s comforts than the nurse who has become hardened by custom to things which, perhaps, in her own early days struck her with surprise. It seems to me that “Practical Worker’s” own words condemn her; she says her patient considered rump steak an excellent tooth brush; why were his teeth “golden” then?

She proceeds to say that “the truth is the majority of patients have no teeth to clean.” Do not we advocate tooth brushes in order that there may be some teeth left to clean. If instead of holding a fellow nurse up to the ridicule of her patients, “Practical Worker” had taken the opportunity to speak to them on the advantages of cleaning the teeth she would really have been doing a useful and practical bit of work. The Queen’s Nurses, who are always preaching in our districts the necessity for the care of the mouth, regret that in so many Hospitals this most important and necessary detail is omitted.

Yours faithfully,

QUEEN’S NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—When a “Practical Worker” has learnt a little more physiology and knowledge of the digestive tract, she may be able to speak with more authority.

If teeth were cleaned daily, should we see so many toothless mouths, so many anæmic looking girls and young men, and so many cases of indigestion?

As for her remark *re* hospital patients never having cleaned their teeth, it is absurd; some have never been in a clean bed, and have never washed their feet, and should we on this account put them in dirty beds, and never cleanse them? Surely the same applies to teeth, and if we nurses taught our patients to habitually clean their teeth, should we not be doing a good work?

As for the suggestion being absurd on account of the trouble, in an important matter of this kind, trouble should not be considered any more than it is in the case of any other nursing attention.

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