

each warred against the other incessantly, and there is much scope for speculation as to how such a contest can possibly end.

An excellent grip of her political subject, and a really marvellous description of the recent earthquake in San Francisco, are among the many strong points of Mrs. Atherton's novel. Minor characterization is very well dealt with, and the whole book, if a trifle long, is more than up to the author's usual standard. E. L. H.

A MEADOW TRAGEDY.

Here's a meadow full of sunshine
Ripe grasses lush and high;
There's a reaper on the roadway,
And a lark hangs in the sky.

There's a nest of love enclosing
Three little beaks that cry;
The reaper's in the meadow
And a lark hangs in the sky.

Here's a mead all full of summer,
And tragedy goes by
With a knife among the grasses,
And a song up in the sky.

DORA SIGERSON SHORTER.

COMING EVENTS.

January 22nd.—Post Graduate Lectures. "Some Aspects of the Cancer Question," by Mr. C. W. Cathcart, F.R.C.S., Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. All nurses cordially invited. 5 p.m.

January 23rd.—Reception to Miss H. L. Pearce and School Nurses by invitation of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Tea and coffee, 4.30. Meeting to form "The League of School Nurses," 5 p.m. Short Address on the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

January 23rd.—Miss Hulme (Nurses' Lodge) and Miss Helen Hulme "At-Home," Kensington Town Hall, W. Miss Helen Mar, Short Stories. Mr. Tom Clare, Musical Sketches. Mr. Charles Capper, Whistling Solos. Mr. Reginald Clarke, Pianist. 4 to 6.30 p.m.

January 25th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Special General Meeting, 3 p.m. The Winter Social Gathering, 4.30-6.30 p.m.

January 29th.—The King, accompanied by the Queen, opens Parliament in State.

January 31st.—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, "To consider a Draft Constitution for a National Council of Nurses for Great Britain and Ireland." 431, Oxford Street, 3.30 p.m.

February 21st.—Public Meeting organised by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W. Address by the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, who will preside, 3 p.m.

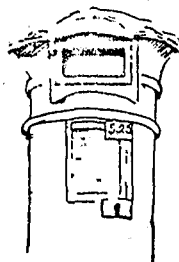
A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.

J. H. NEWMAN.

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.

A STANDARD IMPERATIVE.

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

MADAM,—The arguments put forward by Mr. Sydney Holland in the current issue of your paper respecting the training at the "London" Hospital seem almost childish, to have emanated from the pen of one who professes to have the interest of the nurses of that institution at heart. Mr. Holland surely cannot consider he has any pretensions to judge of such a question. No right-minded nurse, whether trained at the "London" or any of the leading London hospitals could be self-confident enough to say what Mr. Holland has now said for her. I would ask Mr. Holland how much of that two years which he considers so adequate is spent in the actual nursing of the patients, and how much in the actual mental and routine work of the ward. Certainly the first year would balance very heavily on the latter side. With regard to the reports to which he seems to attach so much importance, in my experience as a private nurse on the staff of a leading London hospital, I have heard the patients' friends describe these documents as a nuisance, because they "never know what to say," and, as one lady added: "However incompetent you might think the nurse, you would scarcely like to say so when she has been very kind, and you know she has done her best." So much for the reports.

Mr. Holland's "passing remark" about one of their nurses having been thought well trained enough to nurse His Majesty seems a little wide of the mark. As His Majesty was employing a surgeon from the "London" Hospital it would have looked extremely bad for that institution had that surgeon selected a nurse from any other. In passing, I would ask Mr. Holland if she was one of these very self-confident, "two-year trained" ladies? The responsibility incurred in private nursing must of necessity be very much greater than in hospital, where there is a Sister or a house surgeon to apply to. In the country, where you are sometimes miles away from a doctor, the nurse is often called upon to think and act for herself, and any slip may mean the life of her patient. The outside public naturally do not understand the training necessary for a nurse, and when they apply to an institution of good repute like the "London" they accept with good faith what is sent to them. It is not generally known that the nurses are sent out before they are fully trained from that institution. The fact that the hospital authorities of the "London" consider it necessary to send to the patients—by the nurse—a printed notice: "That nurses are not

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