

Nepenthes strikes one with a sense of conviction, a feeling of reality. The fact that her own private history is never divulged, only hinted at, serves to strengthen one's belief in her very materiality. We venture to think in the power Miss Hayllar has shown in her treatment of this single figure there is promise that we may yet have a more consecutively fine piece of work from her pen.

E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS.

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.

February 25th.—Royal Ear Hospital, Dean Street, Soho. Lecture to Nurses on "The Nurse in regard to Operation on the Ear." By Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S. 4.30 p.m.

February 25th.—Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Lecture by Dr. Ralph Vincent on "Epidemic Diarrhoea." 5 p.m.

February 26th.—Post Graduate Lectures. Actions of Medicine, II. By Dr. F. D. Boyd, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, 5 p.m. Nurses cordially invited.

February 28th.—Second Reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women, House of Commons.

March 4th.—Miller Memorial Hospital, Greenwich. Lecture to Nurses. "Electricity in its Application to Medicine and Surgery," by Dr. H. G. Critchley.

THE WORD.

To-day whatever may annoy,
The word for me is Joy, just simple Joy:

The joy of life;
The joy of children and of wife;
The joy of bright blue skies;
The joy of rain; the glad surprise
Of twinkling stars that shine at night;
The joy of winged things upon their flight;
The joy of noon-day, and the tried
True joyousness of eventide;

The joy of labour, and of mirth;
The joy of air, and sea, and earth—
The countless joys that ever flow from Him
Whose vast beneficence doth dim
The lustrous light of day,
And lavish gifts divine upon our way.
Whate'er there be of Sorrow
I'll put off till To-morrow,
And when To-morrow comes, why then
'Twill be To-day and Joy again!

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS
in the *Atlantic Monthly*.

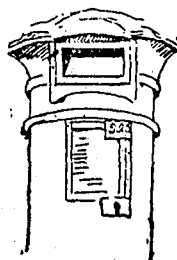
A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The most important asset in any national estimate of life and work lies in the moral force of the people themselves.

BISHOP OF RIPON.

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.

BATHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MALE PATIENTS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue of the 8th inst., re the death of a patient at a London infirmary, you say that in every hospital and infirmary a trained male nurse should be employed. Now it is impossible for all hospitals and infirmaries, irrespective of size, to keep a trained male nurse solely for bathing male patients, and when stating on what lines reforms should run, it is always as well to take into consideration the needs and conditions of smaller institutions.

Were a dozen male nurses employed, and the organisation of details at fault, accidents would be just as likely to occur. In many small work-houses the porter is often the only male officer available for bathing male patients. This need not be the cause, though, of any unnecessary suffering on their part. In a very short time an intelligent man can be taught to give an ordinary cleansing bath, and were arrangements made somewhat on the following lines, no such accidents as that recently recorded would ever happen. If there is a resident medical man it should be his duty to see all patients immediately after admission, direct where such patients should be warded, and decide whether they were fit for a plunge bath or not. The Sister of the ward or other responsible nurse should then take complete control, and be held entirely responsible for giving such directions to the bath attendant as the condition of each individual patient required, seeing that the bath-room was in order, that there was a thermometer, and that towels and clean linen were supplied, that no undue length of time was spent in the bath, and that the patients were put to bed and made comfortable as soon as possible. Of course, failing a resident medical man, or during his temporary absence, and also with regard to the regular bathing of chronic infirm the nurse should always decide who should have a bath, and see that all necessary regulations are carried out. I may say, in conclusion, that from personal experience, and from knowledge gained from others, I am strongly of opinion that in the organisation of details the smaller institutions could teach the larger ones some valuable lessons.

I am, yours faithfully,
MATRON OF A SMALLER INSTITUTION.

[We see no reason why a male nurse should not be attached to every hospital and infirmary. We

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