

these deformities of modern fiction without the power of loving. Adam Stuart is wholly human, with the full passions of a man, in spite of his undemonstrative exterior.

Equally well worked out is the character of Barbara Byng, a most delightful and lovable woman, an excellent contrast to the beautiful little butterfly Princess who catches Stuart's outward senses. It is, perhaps, rather a proof of his bourgeois extraction that he fancies marriage with a woman holding a foreign title will advance him in the social scale so enormously: it does not occur to him that the position he has made for himself is infinitely superior.

There are no pages to skip in "Adam Stuart." It is a book that can be very heartily recommended.

E. L. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*June 13th.*—National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Great Procession of Women Suffragists. Nurses are invited to take part. Start Victoria Embankment, Northumberland Avenue, and march to the Albert Hall, 2.30 p.m. Mass meeting, Albert Hall, 5 p.m. Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., in the chair. Speakers: The Lady Frances Balfour, the Lady Henry Somerset, the Rev. Anna Shaw, U.S.A.

*June 15th.*—First Annual Meeting, St. Pancras School for Mothers, Town Hall, Pancras Road, N.W. 3 p.m.

*June 15th.*—Infant Health Exhibition, Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire Street, W.

*June 15th.*—The Pan-Anglican Congress opens in London. *June 23rd.*—Nurses' Day at the Pan-Anglican Congress. Meeting at Church House, Westminster, 2.30 p.m.

*June 16th.*—Examination of Central Midwives' Board in London at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*June 16th.*—Lectures on Babies, Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W., "On the Boiling, Pasteurising, and Sterilising of Milk," by Dr. Ralph Vincent. 5 p.m.

*June 21st.*—Hospital Sunday.

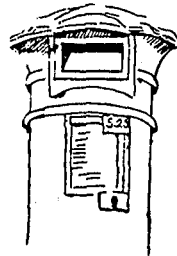
*June 21st.*—The National Women's Social and Political Union, Great Demonstration of Suffragists will march to Hyde Park from Euston Station, Trafalgar Square, the Victoria Embankment, Chelsea Embankment, Kensington High Street, Paddington Station, Marylebone Road. Nurses invited to take part. All arrangements notified in "Votes for Women," price one penny weekly.

*June 24th.*—Colonial Nursing Association, Annual Meeting, 10, Carlton House Terrace, Lord Ampthill will preside. 3.30 p.m.

*June 27th.*—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, 2.45 p.m. Social Gathering, 4.30 p.m.

*June 27th.*—Complimentary Dinner to Miss Isla Stewart, in recognition of her twenty-one years' work as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and in appreciation of her public work for the Nursing Profession. Georgian Hall, Gaiety Restaurant. Reception, 7.30 p.m. Dinner 8 p.m.

## 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 MIDWIFE QUESTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The question of midwives, their training, and—less often—their salaries, is one of the questions of the moment. We constantly hear that 1910 is approaching and are reminded that after March of that year none but certified midwives may habitually, and for gain, practise midwifery without being subject to pains and penalties. Those interested in the matter implore philanthropic people to subscribe liberally for the training of midwives in order that there may not be a shortage in 1910. Their energies seem bent on training, however, and comparatively little attention is paid to the question of where the midwife is to find remunerative employment when trained. That there is considerable risk of her being stranded is evident from your report of the meeting of the Rural Midwives' Association last week, when one speaker stated that within his knowledge one certified midwife had been compelled to seek poor law relief for lack of employment, and another, evidently recently qualified and up to date, since she had passed the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, had not had a case for four months. Surely such facts should make the well meaning pause a little before agitating for additions to the number of the unemployed.

I think Miss Gregory is right in bending her energies to obtaining an Exchequer grant to assist in providing salaries for midwives when trained, instead of assisting them to a free training. There will be no lack of candidates willing to pay for their own training once midwifery is proved to be a remunerative calling, but this, so far, is not the case unfortunately.

I do not think the possibilities of utilising the services of the well trained district nurse have been sufficiently taken into consideration. It is not ideal to combine midwifery and general nursing, but with due precautions the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute has proved that it can be done, and in rural districts, with few cases annually, this would seem the best solution. The advent of the sterilisable rubber glove, which should always be worn by such nurses, when in attendance on midwifery cases, has made a combination of the two things possible. If they are not certified midwives, always most desirable in a nurse in rural districts, they could work under the local doctors. If we are not careful to provide in some way for the adequate payment of midwives when trained,

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