

"Well!" I said, "the Doctor will be very angry when he comes this morning and finds the door (opening on the verandah) and windows shut," and, gathering up the soiled linen, I left the room. I knew the old lady would follow me, so, when I had deposited my bundle in a bath of cold water, I turned, and, looking at her very seriously, asked if she were anxious her daughter should have fever again. "Ah! Mon Dieu! Non!" she answered in a tone of horror. "Well!" I said, "go back and open that window, for if you deprive my patient of fresh air she will certainly have fever." Needless to say, the window was opened, and old Madame sat down to watch for the symptoms of a cold appearing. Then came baby's toilet later, and all the time comments were made. I had another battle to obtain a little woollen garment; I knew there were plenty of woollen garments, as I had seen them in baby's cupboard. Why they had been made I cannot think, as old Madame believed that to put woollen clothing on a child at the beginning made it delicate for the rest of its life. Finally, I got my wish, and saw the little thing covered cosily instead of being dressed entirely in cambric.

Everything went wrong to-day, somehow; but wait! surely there were a few roses amongst the thorns? Ah! yes! Rose No. 1. My baby smiled this morning as I cuddled him up close to me. "Wind!" I hear someone say, but I am sentimental enough to think it was a smile. Rose 2: A very meaning look and nod of thanks, as the medical man looked at the open window this morning. Rose 3: A pretty little note of invitation to a children's party given by one of my babies. Rose 4: A copy of the *Bulletin de la Société Médicale*, with a special article marked, sent by one of the members, who takes a keen interest in the progress of nursing. Rose 5: A flush of pleasure on a schoolboy's face as he broke away from his companions; and hurried across the road to speak to the little woman in a cotton frock who nursed him through typhoid and phlebitis. Yes! and now that I think of it, there were many rosebuds also. There is no morn this evening, but the sky is star-spangled most beautifully; in the tropics, the stars seem nearer than overhead our sea-girt Isles. Someone is playing in a neighbouring compound, and a lovely treble trills "Connais tu le pays."

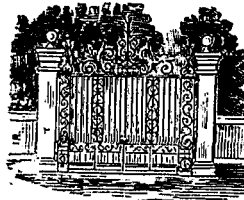
Flap! flap! go the big broad leaves of a banana tree, and the plume-like leaves of one solitary, tall palm wave silently in the gentle, cool breeze. I think I will treat myself to ten minutes with poor, God-forsaken old "Omar." How I love his weirdly fascinating philosophy! Never shall I forget the almost childish delight I experienced on being presented, a few months ago, with an exquisitely bound and illustrated copy. Often, when I feel a little restless and dissatisfied I hie me to him, and return feeling calm, hopeful, and stronger. Already I feel better, as I repeat to myself—

"The Ball no question makes of Ayes and Noes,
But right or left as strikes the Player goes;
And He that toss'd you down into the Field,
He knows about it all—He knows—He knows!"

ISABEL H. PENNIE.

Outside the Gates.

THE INDUSTRIAL LAW COMMITTEE.



District, School, and other Nurses whose work lies in the homes of the poor, have very little conception of the possibilities and obligations of their work if they limit it to purely nursing duties. They come

into intimate touch with the social life of the people, and with the disadvantages under which they live, some of these being quite unnecessary were the law enforced. Such nurses should make a point of getting into touch with the work of the Industrial Law Committee, "for the enforcement of the law, and the promotion of further reform," the principal objects of which are to supply information as to the legal protection of the industrial classes with regard to the conditions of their trade, and to constitute a Central Body to which may be reported breaches of the law, and other matters relating to industrial employment, in order that they may be inquired into, referred to the proper authorities, and otherwise treated as may be deemed advisable. The Chairman of this Committee is Mrs. H. J. Tennant, the Hon. Secretary, Miss G. Tuckwell, and the Secretary, Miss Irene Cox. The office is at York Mansion, York Street, Westminster, S.W.

The Committee was founded in 1898, because of the desire expressed by so many persons engaged in social work for a fuller knowledge of the legal protection extended to the life and labour of the industrial classes, especially with reference to women and children. The Report for the current year points out that though protection is provided by law and Inspectors are appointed to enforce the law, yet, even if the present inadequate number of Inspectors were largely increased, there must remain certain facts of which it is almost impossible for them to obtain knowledge unaided. We, as citizens, are responsible for giving this aid.

Deaconesses, District Visitors, Nurses, Teachers, Mission Workers, Residents in Settlements, Club Workers, indeed all who work among the industrial classes can help. The value of their help will depend mainly on their knowledge of the legal remedy, and of what constitutes the legal offence. The Industrial Law Committee endeavour to supply this knowledge, and they trust by this means to compass a wider enforcement of the law; to obtain for the Factory Department and the Local Authorities accuracy in complaints whereby valuable official time will be economised, and to secure information on matters which are in need of redress, and which are not touched by existing laws.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, is supported

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)