

## ONCE IN A WHILE.

It is easy enough to be pleasant  
When life flows by like a song,  
But the man worth while is the one who will  
smile

When everything goes wrong.  
For the test of the heart is trouble,  
And it always comes with the years,  
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth  
Is the smile that shines through tears.

It is easy enough to be prudent  
When nothing tempts you to stray,  
When without or within no voice of sin  
Is luring your soul away.

But it's only a negative virtue  
Until it is tried by fire,  
And the life that is worth the honour of earth  
Is the one that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen  
Who had no strength for the strife,  
The world's highway is cumbered to-day—  
They make up the item of life.

But the virtue that conquers passion,  
And the sadness that hides in a smile—  
It is these that are worth the homage of earth,  
For we find them but once in a while.

HORACE PARKER CHANDLER,  
*Shaftesbury Magazine.*

## COMING EVENTS.

September 28th—October 12th.—International Congress on Tuberculosis, Washington, U.S.A. President Roosevelt will preside on the opening day.

September 30th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting of the Executive Committee to consider the proposed amendments to the Nurses' Registration Bill, 431, Oxford Street, W., 4 p.m. Tea.

October 1st.—Opening of the Medical Schools.

October 1st.—Inauguration of the Penny Post between Great Britain and the United States.

October 6th.—Women's Industrial Council—National Conference on the Industrial Training of Women and Girls, Guildhall, 10 a.m.

October 12th.—The House of Commons re-assembles for the autumn session.

October 12th—15th.—Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.

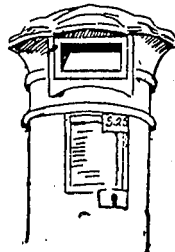
October 14th and 15th.—Meeting of the National Council of Women in the Hall of the Y.M.C.A., Institute, Aberdeen. October 14th, 3—5. October 15th, 2.30—4.30.

## A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

This truth comes to us more and more the longer we live—that on what field, or in what uniform, or with what aims we do our duty, matters very little, or even what our duty is, great or small, splendid or obscure. Only to find our duty certainly, and somewhere, somehow do it faithfully, makes us good, strong, happy, useful men, and turns our lives into some feeble echo of the life of God.—

PHILIP BROOKS.

## Letters to the Editor.



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.

## HOMES FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Can you give me any information about homes for the feeble-minded? One of my nieces, although eighteen, has the mind of a child of ten. Her mother has at last given her consent to send her away for treatment. We should like to find a home or asylum where such cases are taken, and whose treatment is in skilled hands. We would prefer in or near Yorkshire.

Yours truly,

A MATRON ABROAD.

[Perhaps some of our readers can recommend such a home in Yorkshire. Letters addressed to "A Matron Abroad" will be forwarded if sent to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 11, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.—Ed.]

## BRIBING MOTHERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to have the opinion of my fellow readers of your valuable journal on the question of bribing mothers with a dole of £1 to keep their babies alive for one year. To me it appears a most reprehensible system. This system of "encouraging" women to take care of their babies began at Huddersfield, when the Mayor offered £1 to each mother whose child was alive and well at the end of its first year of life; and now in this town—Ashton-under-Lyne—the Health Society is following suit, the Mayor having offered £100 for distribution among the parents of children born after a certain date, on such children attaining the age of one year. Imagine the maternal solicitude of a mother for her child being influenced by the gift of one mean, little golden sovereign! Are poor mothers so absolutely devoid of maternal affection? As a district nurse I have not found them so. Many poor mothers are sadly ignorant creatures. By all means let them be taught the simple laws of hygiene; but these miserable bribes appear to me thoroughly immoral.

Yours truly,

A DISTRICT NURSE.

## THE ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.

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

MADAM,—Do I understand from your "Nursing Echoes" this week that this is a "Protestant" institution? If so, its Committee ought surely to say so. As a fact, it is described as undenominational, and subscriptions from Catholics are welcome.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)