

away from the warm sun of joy, and that lamp was suddenly extinguished. David had brought home a dancing girl and he was going to take her for his wife."

There are many passages described in which personages come in contact with Jesus of Nazareth. Rama is instrumental in bringing Astarte under His notice after she had died from the poisoned ring, and He restores her to life.

After this, in David's absence, she is seduced by Valerius, from whom David originally rescued her.

Being discovered, she was on the point of being stoned, but the well-known passage of our Lord's compassion is made to apply to her: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." . . . "Go, and sin no more."

A sudden rush of tears came to Astarte's eyes. She wanted to sink right down and touch the feet of this man; but she could not. She had not known that such an emotion as reverence existed; love to her had meant passion or caprice or desire.

David's despair when he learns of Astarte's sin is very terrible.

He finds her again in the awful tragedy of the earthquake that follows the Crucifixion of our Lord. His agony is intensified by learning from her dying lips the name of her betrayer.

David's soul was one red gaping wound; he was dizzy with the nausea of pain.

"Valerius. The captain of Herod's guard . . . O God!"

"David, kiss me again. . . . I feel as though I were sinking."

He bowed his head and his mute lips touched the lips of Astarte.

She died under the kiss of the man whose heart she had broken—died ignorant, happy, as a soft-furred kitten that curls down to drowse in the lap of love.

David's sore heart was cured of its bitterness after meeting Jesus in the garden after His Resurrection. He felt the sting of tears, and they were sweeter than rain in the desert.

He was able to return to the rock tomb, so beautifully described, where he had laid Astarte.

He understood everything now. She was a child—lovely, loving, reckless, ignorant—wholly innocent of that open-eyed rebellion which alone is sin.

She would understand many things when they met again.

"Good-night," he said within himself, "for a little while and he kissed the undimmed brightness of her hair."

The theme is reverently treated, and is full of imagination and powerful description.

H. H.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"One of the things I learnt above everything during my Empire tour was how much the Empire owes to our women."—*The Prince of Wales.*

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.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

NURSES LOYAL TO THEIR HOSPITAL.

Miss K. E. Luard, Matron of the South London Hospital for Women, South Side, Clapham Common, S.W.4, writes: "I know you like to hear of Nurses collecting for their hospital, instead of for Benefit Schemes for themselves, so it may interest you to learn that our small staff here of 36 presented a purse of £170 to Princess Helena Victoria on Friday, June 24th. The total in the purses was £1,100." [We congratulate the Nursing Staff of the South London Hospital on the result of their efforts, and the Committee of the Hospital on so loyal a Nursing Staff.—ED.]

A CLEAR CASE FOR COURAGEOUS ACTION.

Glasgow Nurse.—"How is it that the College of Nursing, Ltd., which met at Edinburgh last Friday, did nothing to protest against the action of the Scottish Board of Health's demand to place Fever trained nurses on the General Register in Scotland—and for trying to hold up the English Register with the same impossible claim. Here was a clear case for courageous action upon the part of the College, and not a word said in protection of our General Hospital standards. Had it not been for the *B.J.N.* we Glasgow nurses would have known nothing of the controversy." [It does appear as if an opportunity had been missed, but as we were not represented at the meeting we have no report before us.—ED.]

WORLD TOURS FOR LAY OFFICIALS AT THE TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE MUST BE STOPPED.

A Venereal Sister.—"I do not think it necessary to reply at length to Miss Alison Neilan's letter. My point is that I protest against being taxed to pay for luxurious world tours for lay officials who have no right to express opinions on scientific subjects, such as the treatment of Venereal Disease, especially when such taxation prevents my taking a much needed annual rest. It is high time all this squandering by Ministerial Departments was stopped, especially in support of a mischievously reactionary policy—which, in my opinion, is responsible for a great amount of horrible unnecessary suffering, especially amongst innocent children. I specially object to be compelled to pay for propaganda with which I strongly disagree."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

July 9th.—Define Digestion and what the Digestive Apparatus consists of.

July 16th.—What advice would you give to a mother if you noticed children with impetigo in a house you were attending (a) to remedy the children already infected, (b) to prevent spread of infection?

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