

of Stevenson, etched by W. Strang, after a photograph by Falk of Sydney. Every illustration that Mr. Strang has yet published possesses qualities that are difficult to define, but that are very quickly felt by any one who examines his work carefully. In this portrait he has caught the very spirit of Stevenson as well as his personality; his eager brown eyes and nervous vitality gaze at us out of the page, and his mouth is twitching with sympathetic fun. I am not an expert in matters artistic, but it seems to me as if there was something in this etching which is enthralling, and which is hall-marked with the highest qualities of artistic skill. I think the etching alone is well worth the 5s. 9d. which the volume costs to acquire at a discount-giving bookseller's.

A. M. G.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"Life in the Tuilleries under the Second Empire," by Annie L. Bicknell. (T. Fisher Unwin.)

"When Wheat is Green," by Jos. Wilton. (The Pseudonym Library. New volume.)

"The Idyll of the Star-Flower," by the Hon. Coralie Glyn

"The Sorrows of Satan," a new Romance, by Marie Corelli, author of "Barabbas," "A Romance of Two Worlds," &c.

"The King of Andaman: a Saviour of Society," by J. Maclaren Cobban, author of "The Red Sultan," &c.

"The Chronicles of Count Antonio," by Anthony Hope, author of "The Prisoner of Zenda," "The God in the Car."

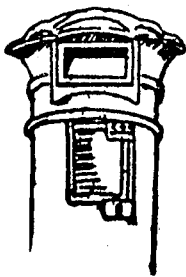
"An Adventurer of the North," by Gilbert Parker, author of "Pierre and his people," "When Valmond came to Pontiac."

Coming Events.

November 22nd.—Meeting of the Registration Board, 17, Old Cavendish Street, 5 p.m.

November 25th.—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Women, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, 3 p.m.

November 26th.—Meeting of the Committee of the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton, 79, Harley Street, at 5 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.

SISTERS' SITTING ROOMS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—We also have a building scheme, and the question raised by Miss Mollett is under consideration, therefore her "very decided opinion" will be particularly interesting to me.

I am inclined to think it best that the Sisters should not have rooms attached to their wards. Because (1) it is

better for their health to be away from ward air whenever duty permits. (2) It is easier to ensure punctuality in coming on and going off duty, and Sisters are not *always* careful about this. (3) That it is better for the Nurses; they do not feel free to act for themselves, even in small matters, when the Sister is so near at hand, and they learn no self-reliance; I believe some Sisters, from mere excess of zeal, are very unfair to their Nurses in this respect. (4) That little disagreements and some worry might often be spared by the temporary absence of a Sister from her ward. Things are seen differently at even a little distance sometimes. I did not have a room attached to my ward when I was a Sister, but since I have become a Matron I have noticed at times a curious improvement in certain tiresome people which seemed to be the result of my having gone out for a walk (since Matrons cannot be off duty indoors).

Also the "rest of another occupation" is almost impossible within sound of a ward. It is extremely difficult to read steadily. I speak feelingly, since my room is near a ward (though not so near as the Sister's), and I have found that an irate Nurse, enlarging on the sins of a Probationer, has a curious effect on English History. Some other pursuits, *of* music, are obviously impossible near a ward.

We are blamed sometimes for our tendency to be "Nurses and nothing else." Nurses in training are perhaps necessarily absorbed in the effort, physical and mental, involved in that training, but afterwards we need to avoid that reproach for our own sakes and that of our profession, and any help in this direction is desirable.

I think that Sisters should be provided with *good* rooms away from their wards.

I am sorry I cannot persuade my ward Sisters to join in the discussion, but I believe I may safely say they do not altogether agree with me.

Yours faithfully,
MARY MOCATTA.

Royal Hants County Hospital,
Winchester.
November 19th, 1895.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—Perhaps as I have "tried baith," I may be allowed to make a few remarks concerning the advisability of the Sister of a Ward being provided with a sitting room or not.

Personally, I should decide emphatically in favour of the sitting room. Why? Because a hospital Sister is merely human, and to maintain order and discipline in her Ward it is necessary that she should be sometimes lost to view; first of all to mark a distinction between her and her subordinate Nurses, and also because she has many duties—such as books and lists to keep—for which she requires a certain amount of quiet and privacy, and also because it is more convenient for the efficient performance of her duties that she should not go altogether off duty to partake of her breakfast, luncheon, and tea; these little meals can easily be served in her room, and still she is at hand for consultation and advice. And then, *what* a strain is the life of a really efficient ward Sister, and *what* a relief it is for her to be able to retire into her own little sanctum for ten minutes now and then, when she is not needed in the ward. In fact, I do not think that the Sister's duties can be performed in the best possible manner if she is always *en evidence*, and thus becomes a too familiar presence to her Nurses and patients. That the privilege of a sitting room may be, and is, sometimes abused by a Sister, is a fact, but then it is the woman who is in fault, not the room.

Yours,
SISTER AGNES COLLETT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Miss Mollett raises an interesting subject of discussion—whether or no it is advisable that the Sister should be provided with a sitting room off the ward? I am

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)