

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"Sacred Books of the Buddhists." Edited by F. Max Müller. Vol. I. "The Gātakamālā, or Birth-Stories of Buddha," translated by Prof. Speyer.

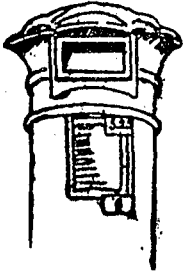
"The Story of Two Salons: Madame de Beaumont and the Suardes," by Edith Sichel, Author of "Worthington Junior." (London: Edward Arnold, 37, Bedford Street.)

"Correggio: His Life, his Friends, and His Time," by Corrado Ricci. Translated by Florence Simmonds.

"A Little Tour in America," by the Very Rev. S. Reynolds Hole, Dean of Rochester. (Edward Arnold.)

## Coming Events.

December 16th.—Matrons' Council.—The first of a Series of Demonstrations on Nursing will be held in the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, at 8.30 p.m. Miss Bristow, of Martha Ward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, will lecture on the Nursing of Gynæcological Cases. Owing to the regulations of the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, there will be *no charge* for admission on Monday evening to Miss Bristow's lecture. The most direct way to the Hall is from Charing Cross or the Temple, Metropolitan Stations, along the Embankment and up Savoy Hill, to the West Entrance of the Hall. The Examination Hall lies almost midway between the two stations, close to the new "Cecil Hotel."



## 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."

DEAR MADAM,—So far, most of the letters published on the "Sisters' Sitting-room" question are in favour of a sitting-room adjoining the ward. It will be the general opinion, I am sure, unless there are regular times for a Sister to be "off-duty," she is considered responsible for anything that takes place in her ward unless she is actually outside the Hospital.

In how many Hospitals is it possible for the Sisters to have a specified "off duty" time?—and if it were, how many Sisters could sit calmly for a couple of hours in their remote sitting-room without feeling the responsibility of their wards?

In a room close to the ward she has the satisfaction of feeling that if her help is wanted she can give it almost as soon as if she was standing in the ward. So, in spite of a few minor disturbances (which one so soon gets used to) she must get more mental rest. I expect that many a Sister has been far more disturbed and worried by Nurses doing things on their own responsibility, with perhaps troublesome results, than by the Nurse opening the sitting-room door and asking her wishes on the subject; but if there are several flights of stairs between the Sister's room and the ward the footsore Nurse feels much more inclined to act on her own judgment.

I quite agree that a Sister should not spend her whole time on duty in the ward. Her constant presence is often unnerving to the new Pro., who feels so much more humiliated and discouraged by a rebuke from "Sister" for some

little fault committed through ignorance, than she would by a kindly hint and a little advice from a more experienced fellow-Nurse; but Nurses are rather shy of giving instruction within earshot of the Sister. Wards must be swept and lockers and cupboards scrubbed. Surely, after three or four years, spent as Probationer and Staff Nurse, a Sister has earned the right to escape from an atmosphere of dust and horrors of "locker night." But as doctors will choose even these unwelcome moments to visit the wards it is necessary she should be at hand. Anyone who has tried both must surely agree with me that a sitting-room near the ward is the thing to be desired.

Yours faithfully,  
L. H. W.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The correspondence re Sisters' Sitting-rooms has created much interest in this Hospital—and I agree with the majority of your correspondents that they are most necessary from every point of view. But there is one opinion in the letter of the late Sister Mellish which I cannot allow to pass without a protest, and that is, "I see no reason why the House Surgeon may not have a cup of tea in the Sister's room."

Now I think the majority of Matrons will also object to this remark, and feel with me that to maintain good discipline and a high professional tone in a ward, the Sister and House Surgeon should not be on familiar terms. Nowadays, one of the most important duties of a Sister is to be an example to her junior Nurses, and it is not possible that she should be able to maintain the highest tone in her ward if she encourages the visits of the House Staff in her own private room. I am inclined to agree with Miss Grace Kerr that under such circumstances the Students and Nurses are apt to follow the example of their senior officers. I think I can hear dissentient voices from Hospital Sisters on this question, such as, "It's all very well for the Matrons, but they, like Caesar's wife, are supposed to be above suspicion, and are at liberty to dine and chat with the resident medical staff." Certainly, but the Matrons are in duty bound also to be careful that their intercourse with fellow-officers is of a professional nature; any lapse from this standpoint is sure to bring disorganization in the end. Young women in home life do not receive constant visits from young men in their own rooms—apart from the other members of their families—and I see no reason to depart from this custom in our Hospitals. I should suggest that others give their views on this point of management.

Yours, &c.,  
AN INFIRMARY MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In some of the letters on Sisters' sitting rooms a side issue has been raised as to the social possibilities and opportunities afforded by a personal sanctum. That there should be a social side to Hospital life I think there can be no question. Were one's career in Hospital a part only of existence, one would not mind a certain amount of self-denial in the matter of visitors. But to many of us, a Hospital life is all our life, and I should very much deprecate a breaking of domestic and social ties. Were this to be the case, one might just as well take conventual vows.

My feeling on this matter of Sisters' sitting-rooms is distinctly in favour of their retaining them, and of being accorded all the freedom and privileges that can, consistently with routine and discipline, be afforded. And I always encourage the Sisters of the Hospital of which I am Matron to keep in touch with their friends—masculine and feminine—whenever their ward duties allow them the leisure.

But I strongly deprecate the reception as friends by the Sisters, of the house-staff, and I always let it be understood that the Sisters do not entertain house surgeons and physicians to tea. In my Institution life, I have seen so many troubles arise from familiarity on the part of the Nursing

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