

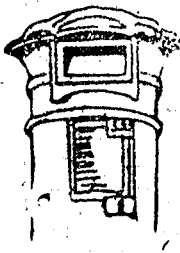
WHAT TO READ.

- "The Queen: Her Life and Reign," by L. Valentine.
 "Travels in the East of Nicholas II., Emperor of Russia, when Tsarevitch, 1890-1891. Written by order of H.I.M. by Prince E. Oukhtomsky. Volume I. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co.)
 "Rador," by Hélène Vacaresco and George Sarmento. (T. Fisher Unwin.)
 "A History of the Protestant Reformation in England and Ireland." Written in 1824-1827 by William Cobbett. A new edition revised by Francis Aidan Gasquet. (Art and Book Co.)
 "The Adventures of My Life," by Henri Rochefort.
 "Chrystal: The Newest of Women," by an exponent.
 "The Well at the World's End: a Tale," by William Morris, author of "The Earthly Paradise."
 "My Long Life," by Mary Cowden-Clarke.
 "The Tower of Ghilzan," by Surgeon-Major H. M. Greenhow.

Coming Events.

- October 12th.—Lecture on "The Nature of Nuisances, including Nuisances the abatement of which is difficult," by Arthur Newsholme, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Med. Off. of Health, Brighton, at the Sanitary Institute, Margaret Street, W., 8 p.m.
 October 14th.—Inspection and Demonstration, in connection with the Sanitary Institute, at Casual Wards and Disinfecting Station, Chelsea, at 3 p.m., conducted by Dr. Louis Parkes.
 October 16th.—General Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, 5 p.m.
 October 20th.—The Dairy Show commences at the Agricultural Hall.
 October 27th to 30th.—Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, Manchester.

A Special Course of Lectures and Demonstrations on Ambulance and Sick Nursing began on Thursday, October 8th, at 3.30 p.m., and will be continued every Thursday at the same hour, until December 10th, at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, W.



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.

PROGRESS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It does not appear to me that the correspondents in last week's issue dealt with all the points touched on by "Excelsior," in her letter of September 26th. "Excelsior" argues that the three years' term of training in a Hospital has failed, because all Nurses who have remained for this term in the wards are not good Nurses. Of course they are not, but presumably those faulty ones would have been still less efficient had they only remained in the wards

one or even two years. The reason we have so many inferior Nurses is that the system of education during the three years' residence is altogether chaotic, and, as you point out in your editorial last week, "the three years' standard was settled first in order to obtain a definite educational basis upon which to build up an organised educational system." It is this organisation that we want, and "we shan't be happy till we get it."

"Excelsior" takes exception to a "general curriculum" as "limited and dogmatic." Who ever proposed such a curriculum should be "limited"? Certainly not the NURSING RECORD, quite the reverse. You have always pleaded for a "uniform curriculum" as a *minimum qualification*, after which, I presume, each school or college could soar to limitless heights. We women have been fighting tooth and nail against the absurd attempt upon the part of very foolish persons, male and female, to "limit" our right to study, learn, and labour as much as we choose. One bombastic person shouts, "I disapprove of preliminary education for Nurses; it shall not be." Another, "I disapprove of State legislation of Nurses; it cannot be," and yet a third (and this is usually a woman who has obtained a cosy well-paid corner in the body politic), "It is the duty of women to suffer and be silent. If your hours are too long, your food is too short, if you are half-trained and wholly sweated, it is *disloyal* to murmur; rather die than appear unwomanly." Fudge! No, Madam Excelsior, there must be absolutely no limitations, but a minimum qualification of education and length of training we must have before we are hall-marked, and that is but just. We cannot legislate for the limited number of geniuses who may desire to become Nurses; we must legislate for the average woman, with her exceedingly average amount of intellect and intelligence.

Then the suggestion that there should be two classes of Nurses—*a la* patrician and plebeian—one, we presume, to wait upon the other. No, no, we must have equality, absolute equality, and let the best woman win. We progressives argue that the science of Nursing can only be perfected by educated women (not necessarily peeresses, who, by-the-bye, are not usually educated), so that we argue that the curriculum of training must be such as will exclude the class of women who have not conquered the aspirate, and who have a wide, useful, and honourable field of labour in domestic service. Personally, I consider the "lydy Probationer" system obsolete and vulgar, and, like purchase in the army, it ought to be swept away; it is really only a means of obtaining money by false pretences, as it does not—and never can—produce efficient Nurses, and adds immensely to the present unfair competition in the Nursing market. Away with it.

"Excelsior," in comparing the "lydy" Nurse to the Harley Street potentate, and the illiterate Nurse to the "small general practitioner," is doing a very grave injustice to gentlemen in general practice; she entirely forgets the fact that *every* medical man passes through a long, arduous, scientific, and expensive education, and that before he can practise he must pass such examinations as will entitle him to register and practice—in other words, he must obtain the minimum qualification—and "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," or rather *vice versa*, and every woman who wishes to work as a trained Nurse must do likewise, pass anyway, a definite standard examination, beyond which there should be grades to which the most talented might attain if they desired.

State Registration must come, and the sooner the better, as we must remember the State will be just, and

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