

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"The Heritage of the Spirit," by Dr. Mandell Creighton. Forming the new volume in the 'Preachers of the Age Series.'

"Two French Queens: Elizabeth of Valois—Marguerite of Valois," by the Author of "Three Empresses."

"In Bohemia with Du Maurier," by Felix Moscheles.

"The Chariot of the Flesh," a novel by Hedley Peek.

"Without Prejudice," by I. Zangwill.

"Rodney Stone," by A. Conan Doyle.

"The Way of Marriage," by Violet Hunt. (London: Chapman & Hall, Limited).

"Some Whims of Fate," by Menie Muriel Dowie.

Shakespearian Recital.

AN interesting recital was given at the Steinway Hall last week by Mr. and Mrs. Carrington Willis, who are well-known for their Shakespearian dramatic renderings, and for their schools of elocution. The programme on Tuesday evening was sufficiently diversified, containing, as it did, selections from several authors of the period, besides three special ones from Shakespeare. Miss Lizzie Pickford, a pupil of Mr. C. Willis, rendered with much taste and discretion the scene between Lear, Kent, the Doctor and Cordelia in King Lear, and Mr. C. Willis himself gave the Chamber Scene from "Hamlet," cleverly bringing out the several characters. Perhaps, however, the gem of the evening was the delivery by Mrs. C. Willis of the famous scene in "Romeo and Juliet," in which the Nurse brings the news of Tybalt's death in his encounter with Romeo, Mrs. C. Willis achieving with much dexterity the tones of the Nurse, whilst displaying as Juliet all the requisite emotion.

Coming Events.

December 14th.—The Lord Mayor attends the annual general meeting of the Hospital Sunday Fund.

December 15th.—Invalid Cookery Demonstration at the offices of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., at 2.30 p.m. Seventh Lesson: Restorative soup, boiled sole, melted butter, sponge cake, lemon jelly, linseed tea, arrowroot. After this lesson the classes will not meet again till January 12th, 1897.

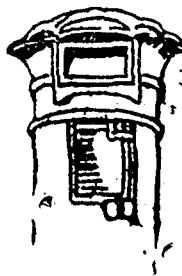
Princess Christian opens the new building of the Richmond Street Mission, Walworth.

Bazaar under the special patronage of Princess Christian, at St. Andrew's Hospital, Clewer, in aid of the funds of the Hospital.

December 16th.—Concert in the Banqueting Hall of the Hotel Cecil in aid of the funds of the New Central Hospital for Educated People of Limited Means, in connection with the Ings House Nurses' Co-operation.

Meeting at Grosvenor House to inaugurate the movement on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses in connection with the Queen's Commemoration Fund, 4 p.m.

December 18th.—Annual Conversazione of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the Portman Rooms, and Presentation of Badges by H.R.H. Princess Christian. Tickets of admission are obtainable at the offices of the Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., at the following prices:—members, 1s.; Nurses (non-members), 2s. 6d.; member and friend, 5s.; guests, 5s. The London, Brighton, and South Coast, London, Chatham and Dover, London and South Western, Great Northern and Midland railways, have arranged to issue return tickets at single fares to members desirous of attending the Conversazione, on presentation of their tickets of admission at the booking offices.



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.

IS THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION DECLINING?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—We know that when life exists in any form there cannot be "a standing still process," or, as it were, a state of inanimation, similar to that which occurs in death. As with the individual or a nation, who are daily, imperceptibly perhaps, but still surely, either progressing or degenerating, so it is with an Association—a collection of individuals. When members elect a committee to manage their affairs for them, the chief aim in their choice should be to recognise no distinction but that of merit, and no aristocracy but that of intellect—that is, if they wish to ensure success. From my position as an on-looker, my observations lead me to think that our Association is, and has been now for some time, in a retrograde condition, and one cannot get behind the fact that this gradual decline is chiefly due to some defect in its organisation, and a sort of one-sided administration, which becomes apparent in the making and issuing of rules and schemes utterly regardless of how they may affect other members of the Association, and, perhaps, without those members ever being consulted on the matter.

Probably this system of management would have served its purpose with the Nurses in the past, but to-day the Nursing world is for the most part made up of independent and educated women, who can take their proper place in those spheres of thought and action hitherto regarded as the private preserve of the physically stronger sex. It therefore follows that, not

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