

Pangs of the soul's desire  
My voyage swiftly urge ;  
Day-long I flee, afire  
To overtake the verge ;  
But still into infinity  
Escape before me sky and sea.

Anchor my heart ; abide,  
And search the seas no more,  
Out of this water wide  
Never shall dawn a shore,  
Till wave and sun have ceased to gleam,  
And wondrous truth dies out in dream.

#### WHAT TO READ.

- "The Personal Life of Queen Victoria," by Sarah A. Tooley. (Hodder & Stoughton.)  
"The Life of Napoleon Buonaparte," by S. Baring Gould.  
"The Heritage of the Spirit, and other Sermons," by the Bishop-Designate of London.  
"Wild Justice," a Dramatic Poem, by Margaret L. Woods.  
"Shakespeare's Heroines: Characteristics of Women—Moral, Poetical, and Historical," by Mrs. Jameson.  
"The Coming Individualism," by A. Egmont Hake, (written in conjunction with O. E. Wesslau.)  
"The Children," by Alice Meynell. (London: John Lane.)  
"Margaret Ogilvy," by her Son, J. M. Barrie.  
"The Way of Marriage," by Violet Hunt.

#### Coming Events.

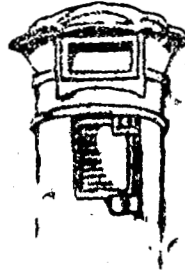
*December 18th.*—Annual Conversazione of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the Portman Rooms, and Presentation of Badges by H.R.H. Princess Christian. Tickets of admission are obtainable at the offices of the Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., at the following prices:—Members, 1s.; Nurses (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.

*December 22nd.*—The Prince of Wales opens the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution founded by Dr. Ludwig Mond.

Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) visits the Ear and Eye Hospital at Southampton.

Mr. Bancroft will read the "Christmas Carol" at Gravesend in aid of the Hospital Fund.

*January 7th.*—Meeting of members of the Royal British Nurses' Association to protest against the admittance of untrained persons to membership and enrolment on the Register of the Association—St. Martin's Town Hall, 4 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.*

#### THE MENTAL NURSE QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is to be hoped that every certificated Nurse has read Dr. Biernacki's letter in last week's *British Medical Journal*, going, as it does, to the root of this Mental Nurse question. In plain English, the interests of Trained Nurses are to be sacrificed, and with that sacrifice an immense injury will be done an indiscriminating and trustful public. I am thankful that a medical man has been found to champion our cause, as otherwise those medical men who do not read the NURSING RECORD would have known nothing of the matter. We trained Nurses nowadays have much to contend with in the competition of the semi-trained Nurse, sent out at a rate of 100 per cent. by many "Nurse farms," and never was there a time when there was greater difficulty in keeping up the moderate £2 2s. fee, the public being able to procure these Nurses at 30s. and £1 1s. a week (no doubt more than they are worth), from Institutions, and I am sorry to add, from some of our great London Hospitals. Much more competition, and private Nurses will not be able to obtain a "living wage," and the inevitable result will be that the best class of women, and the most intelligent, will not enter our training schools, but will adopt more remunerative work in other departments of labour. As it is, there are signs (public opinion expresses it) that degeneration has already set in in our trained Nurses; we have only to observe the manners and dress of those young Nurses we meet in the streets to grasp this sad fact—not one out of a dozen appears neat and discreet. Public opinion must be roused on this question of admitting Asylum Attendants as Trained Nurses to our Association and Register, and we owe both you and Dr. Biernacki deep gratitude that the question has been brought before the Medical and Nursing professions. One thing is quite certain, and that is, that if this great wrong is done us, we trained Nurses must surely take our names off the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and start one for ourselves. I feel sure we shall have the full sympathy of the generality of doctors and the public. I have signed the resolution condemning this scheme, and forwarded it to Miss Wingfield, and hope to be present at the meeting in St. Martin's Town Hall on the 7th.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours very truly,  
REGISTERED NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—"Another Mental Nurse" appears to resent the standard of training hitherto required by

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