

reason, according to the author, underlies it. The man is constantly in pursuit of the Ideal Well-Beloved, and this capricious lady is constantly changing her residence. She flits from the soul of one woman into another, and the poor man is not responsible for her vagaries! It is most interesting to note, in the work of these male writers, that apparently worthless signs show the lover that the mystic Well-Beloved has entered a new tenement. A Juno-like figure is one almost unalterable sign; the connection between the soul and the fine figure is not explained. To sit in the dark, with your arm round a girl's waist, is also a good way to encourage the intangible presence to take possession of that particular form.

"My queenly darling!" cries the hero, after sixteen hours' acquaintance, "instead of going to your aunt's, will you come and marry me?"

It seems hardly practicable to treat a young man of this kind seriously. Absolutely no kind of attraction existed, or could exist between these two young people, but the common physical attraction between two healthy young animals. Such sentiments are surely more than a trifle retrograde.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"Two Kings of Uganda; or, Life by the Shores of the Victoria Nyanza," by the Rev. R. P. Ashe, M.A.

"The Gallows and the Lash: an Inquiry into the Necessity for Capital and Corporal Punishments," by Hypatia Bradlaugh Bonner.

"Patience Sparhawk and Her Times," by Gertrude Atherton.

"The Evolution of Daphne."

"The Handsome Humes," by William Black.

"God, Man, and the Devil," by Ernest G. Henham.

"Nell and the Actor," by Lilian Street.

Coming Events.

April 9th.—Quarterly General Council Meeting, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, 5 p.m.

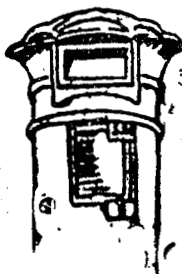
April 13th.—Lord Wolverton presides at the Festival Dinner of the Morley House Convalescent Home, at the Holborn Restaurant.

April 22nd.—Promenade Concert promoted by the minor branch of the Civil Service at the Imperial Institute, in aid of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund, to commemorate the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign.

April 30th.—Fifth Sessional Lecture, Royal British Nurses' Association, 19 Old Cavendish Street, W.: "The Failures and Successes of Private Nurses," by Miss G. Scott, (late Matron of the Sussex County Hospital.)

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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.

MENTAL NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent "A Widow," by her letter of March 13th, would have us believe that common sense, common decency, and kind consideration for a sick patient—the qualities needed for keeping the patient and his bed "sweet and clean"—can only be possessed after three years' training in a hospital.

It seems hard that isolated cases of stupidity and ignorance should be brought forward as typical examples, and a whole class of workers, who do not deserve it, denounced equally with the few of the "lower domestic class," and "very ignorant."

Nurses who have had Asylum experience will wonder what institution this can be, where the officials are so lax as to be unconscious of the fact that the patients are in the charge of an attendant who is not careful to promptly change and make comfortable a patient, whenever necessary—this being a rule most strictly enforced, and carried out too, at least by anyone who has regard for her reputation.

The public mind is being confused and misled with regard to the treatment of insane patients, by such letters as have appeared in the two last issues of the NURSING RECORD.

Yours truly,

ONE OF THE MALIGNED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I beg to thank you for the publication of my few remarks in your RECORD, and also for your reply, although I cannot agree with all your views on the scheme of mental nursing. You name that there is not the collection of patients in our asylums, suffering from a sufficiently comprehensive variety of diseases, by which a nurse could be taught nursing thoroughly. You state your opinion that the first step in the education of mental nurses, as apart from lunatic attendants—"attendants on the insane"—would be that the sick wards in asylums should be staffed with women who hold certificates for general nursing. As before stated, that there are not a sufficiently comprehensive variety of diseases in asylums, your first step to the education of mental nurses would fail. And another fact is, that if the sick wards of the asylums were staffed with women holding certificates, it would require adding to the number of the staff, for, as a rule, certificated nurses require another one to wait on them, in and after the performance of their duties.

My experience, extending over thirty years, in the care of the insane, both in public and private asylums, leads me to form the above-named opinion.

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