

McMillan will correct her proofs, and decide whether Maryon's name really is Maryon or Warrington; at present he is one thing on one page, and another on the next.

Also, she at present devotes decidedly too much of her energies to the elaborate description of toilettes; but that is a fault which will soon wear off.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"Essays," by G. J. Romanes, LL.D., F.R.S. Edited by C. Lloyd-Morgan. (London: Longmans.)

"The Matabele Campaign, 1896. Being a Narrative of the Campaign in suppressing the Native Rising in Matabeleland and Mashonaland," by Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell, 13th Hussars, F.R.G.S.

"Oliver Cromwell. A Study in Personal Religion," by Robert F. Horton, M.A., D.D.

"Imperial Defence," by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George S. Clarke, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.

"The Black Riders and Other Lines," by Stephen Crane.

"Zalma," by T. Mullett Ellis.

"The Secret Rose," illustrated by J. B. Yeats.

"The Dagger and the Cross," by Joseph Hatton.

"Paul's Stepmother: a Novel," by Lady Troubridge.

Coming Events.

May 3rd.—Ball in aid of the Ospedale Italiano at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

May 6th.—Princess Christian attends the St. John Ambulance Fête and Competition at the Crystal Palace, in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, and opens the Victorian Exhibition.

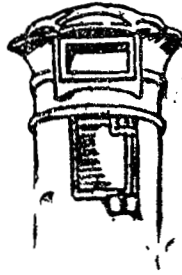
May 7th.—Lord Jersey presides at the Anniversary Festival of the British Orphan Asylum at the Whitehall Rooms.

Children's Tribute for the Queen's Jubilee Nurses at the Mansion House. Mrs. Jack Johnson will give "The Children's Story of the Queen's Reign." The Lady Mayoress will preside.

May 11th.—National Union of Women Workers Conference at London House, 32, St. James's Square, Mrs. Creighton in the chair, to consider the "Question of the Establishment of a Central Employment Bureau for Women," 3 p.m.

May 14th.—Lord Glenesk takes the chair at the Annual Dinner of King's College Hospital, at the Whitehall Rooms.

May 17th.—Meeting at Grosvenor House on behalf of the Mary Wardell Convalescent Home for Scarlet Fever.



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.

PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder how many times I have heard people say "No trained nurses for me! Give me a comfortable, motherly old body from the village!" and I always hear it with a pang, and with a feeling that there must be something very wrong in many nurses to account for this feeling of dislike. And I have been wondering whether we could not go into this matter, and try to find out where the fault is with a view to removing the objection which undoubtedly exists in the minds of a great many people. With this idea I have, during the past year, asked several ladies their reason for this objection, and I think the answers of two cover the whole ground. One replied, "Oh, the nurse I had was such a fine lady. She wanted so much waiting on, though she knew we had but a small establishment. She never once made her own bed, nor even folded her night-dress. She would do absolutely nothing but wait on the patient even when he was convalescent." Another replied that the nurse was so arbitrary; from the moment she entered the sick-room the family was practically excluded from it. Now, here we have, I think, the root of the whole matter. And it seems to me that the remedy can be summed up in one word—"Tact."

It will perhaps be said, "If a woman is born tactless she cannot help it." True, she cannot, and it is a great misfortune for her, but surely it may be cultivated like other qualities. I was talking with a nurse one day on this very subject, and she said, "Oh, Tact! that is simply another word for hypocrisy." Not at all. Dictionaries define it as "nice perception," and this is just what is wanted—a nice perception of the feelings and rights of others. Some years ago I read a novel called "Put Yourself in his Place," and I recommend it to everyone who is brought much in contact with other people. It made a lasting impression on me, and ever since I have, in every little difficulty with others, tried to put myself in the place of those others, and to realise how they felt about it. It is wonderful what a difference it makes to one's actions, this power of looking at questions from two points of view, only one must be honest about it, and not start with a firmly fixed idea that one's own point of view must necessarily be the only right one. Take the case of a nurse who has just finished her hospital training, and is now going to start on a career of private nursing. She feels perhaps very important, very sure of herself, very full of knowledge, firmly convinced that the family to whom she is going expect her with the utmost

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