

to think of the suffering which must have been endured by the woman who could write it. It is said Sarah Grand wrote the greater part of it at an old-fashioned inn on the outskirts of Montmorency Forest, working for about six hours each day.

A NOVEMBER VIOLET.

In what dim place, in what sweet nest,
Frail blossoms, wert thou haply born,
To lie on weeping Nature's breast,
While Autumn languisheth forlorn?
Didst thou not start and shrink to find
The world about thee tempest toss'd?
Nor fear the bitter, rain-flaw'd wind,
The sunless heavens, and the frost?
Ah, whatsoever sheltered spot
First knew the impulse of thy breath,
The foot of sorrow treads it not,—
There beauty triumphs over death.
O wonder for a singer's need!
Fresh hope and fervour thou dost bring,
While in thy golden heart I read
The message of eternal Spring. A. L.
(*Westminster Gazette.*)

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Enchanted River, and Other Poems." By Augustus Ralli.
"Crown Jewels: a Brief Record of the Wives of English Sovereigns from 1066 to 1897, A.D. With a Preface by Lady Herbert of Lea."
"Mary Queen of Scots." By David Hay Fleming.
"Life of Napoleon Buonaparte." By William Milligan Sloane, Ph.D., L.H.D., Professor of History in Princeton University. Vol. IV.
"The Dungeons of Old Paris; being the Story and Romance of the most Celebrated Prisons of the Monarchy and the Revolution." By Tighe Hopkins.
"The Household of the Lafayettes." By Edith Sichel.
"The School for Saints: Part of the History of the Right Honourable Robert Orange, M.P." By John Oliver Hobbes.
"His Grace of Osmonde; being the Portion of the History of that Nobleman's Life Omitted in the Relation of His Lady's Story Presented to the World of Fashion Under the Title of 'A Lady of Quality.'" By Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Coming Events.

December 2nd.—Meeting of the Workhouse Nursing Infirmary Association at St. Martin's Town Hall. E. Boulnois, Esq., M.P., in the chair. 3 p.m.

December 2nd.—Meeting of the Matrons Council at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 4 p.m.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

November 30th.—Demonstration in Invalid Cookery, at 17, Old Cavendish Street, by Miss Earle. 2.30 p.m.

December 1st.—First Sessional Lecture. "Ants." By Sir John Lubbock.

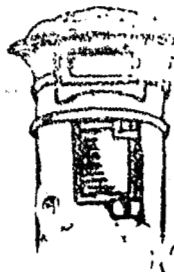
December 15th.—Annual Conversazione.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN COUNCIL.—LECTURES.

December 6th.—Hygiene. Mrs. Charles Hamilton. Victoria Hall, Becklow Road, Uxbridge Road. 3.30 p.m.

December 7th.—Woman's Suffrage. Dr. Alice Vickery. 3.30 p.m.

December 13th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, Strand. 8 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.

"A COWARDLY ATTACK."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—A letter appeared a short time ago in the *Hospital Nursing Mirror*, in which the writer charged the English nurses, who were sent out to Greece during the late war, with neglecting their duty for the sake of pleasure. The ship in which I was then serving—H.M.S. "Nile"—was at Phalerum during the whole of the war, and for some time after the armistice was signed. During that time, I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the nurses in Athens, and many opportunities of examining the various hospitals there. From the personal knowledge of the work, gained in this way, I can say that any charges of neglect of duty for the sake of pleasure are totally unfounded. The nurses stuck to their work, and did it as well as any women could, and in no case did they neglect it for the sake of pleasure. The patients whom they nursed were full of gratitude for their attentions; one man assuring me that by their care they had saved his life. The work had to be done under conditions that were a good deal less comfortable than those of an English hospital, as most of the arrangements, both for nurses and patients, were improvised in a hurry. That the nurses worked so well, and stood the discomforts and inconveniences of their life without breaking down, is greatly to their credit, and they have every right to be proud of what they accomplished. Trusting that this unfortunate dispute will soon be put an end to by the unreserved withdrawal of these unfounded insinuations,

I remain, yours truly,

J. D. DATHAN, Chaplain, R.N.

H.M.S. "Gibraltar,"

Salamis, Greece,
November 12th, 1897.

[We publish the Rev. J. D. Dathan's letter with pleasure; but as there has never been any question on the part of those who had personal experience as to the splendid manner in which the English sisters

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