

made itself felt for good in metropolitan politics and affairs. We are not surprised to learn, therefore, that London has outgrown its present official residence in Fleet Street, and that its address for the future is to be 6, Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, E.C. London did good work last summer in ventilating the grievances of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who object to the present reign of official tyranny and to the new code of Bye-Laws, drawn up by the Hon. Officers, which reduce the position of nurses in their own association to that of "toads under a harrow."

WOMEN who cycle should all see last week's *Lady's Pictorial*—it contains all the cycling fashions in skirts, and information as to the best machines. We regret a useful rational costume does not appear in its pages.

### Song.

April, April,  
Laugh thy girlish laughter  
Then, the moment after,  
Weep thy girlish tears!  
April, that mine ears  
Like a lover greetest,  
If I tell thee, sweetest,  
All my hopes and fears.  
April, April,  
Laugh thy golden laughter,  
But, the moment after,  
Weep thy golden tears!

### WHAT TO READ.

- "The Famine Districts of India." By F. H. S. Merewether.  
"Affirmations." By Havelock Ellis.  
"Trewinnot of Guy's." By Mrs. Coulson Kernahan.  
"Points of View, and other Poems." By G. Colemore.  
"Bijli the Dancer." By James Blythe Patton.  
"A Low-Born Lass." A Novel. By Mrs. Herbert Martin.  
"Some Western Folk." By Mabel Quiller Couch.

### Coming Events.

- April 15th.—The German Hospital: Banquet at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Métropole.  
April 18th.—Festival Dinner of the Metropolitan Hospital, at the Hotel Métropole, the Lord Mayor presiding.  
April 20th.—Festival Dinner, Royal Hospital for Children and Woman, Hotel Cecil, Sir E. D. Lawrence, Bart., M.P., presiding.



### 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.*

### ST. HELENS HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry to say I did not read your issue of March 12th in time to ask you to correct last week a slight error you made in your editorial headed "An Expert Witness,"—an error likely to prove damaging to the reputation of this hospital.

The *St. Helens Hospital* and the *Providence Hospital* are two entirely separate institutions.

The inquest you comment upon and at which a cook appeared as witness, was held on the body of a man who died at the *Providence Hospital*, and not at the *St. Helens Hospital*, as stated in your editorial.

It is my unvarying custom to attend myself any inquest held on patients dying in this institution.

The *Providence Hospital* is controlled and nursed by a Roman Catholic Sisterhood, therefore the attendance of one outside their own order is explained.

I remain,

Yours truly,

St. Helen's Hospital. H. R. OATES, Matron.

[Our correspondent will notice that we quoted from the local press.—ED.]

### "GIVING HIM GRUEL."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me to say that in the medical article published under this heading in your valuable paper, you appear to me to be somewhat unfair to midwives? As the *NURSING RECORD* is always so fair as a rule, I feel sure this must have been inadvertent. You say: "The midwife in this particular case admitted that she had never had any education for her work." That is just what we complain of. We midwives who *have* had education for our work do not care to be charged with the ignorant practices of untrained women, nor do we think it fair that we should be so. How would medical men like to be held responsible for all the mistakes committed by unqualified men? They protect themselves by registration, and disown responsibility for the doings of quacks. *We* are saddled with it. The result is that the skilled work of a hard-working and self-denying body of women is depreciated and discredited. I ask, is this just or reasonable? Of course every midwife knows that an untrained woman will give a baby gruel. She herself never leaves a case without giving explicit instructions that this is not to be done, and even then she knows that the chances are that it will be. Attention was drawn to this practice only a few weeks ago in the columns of the *NURSING RECORD*. So invariable is it, that it is most difficult to uproot it. But, why should the very people who of all others are doing their utmost to do so, be credited with it?

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