

readers in spite of all temptation to become "skippers," the book will be an untold pleasure.

It is a book to be taken up, laid down, taken up again with new delight, not a book which must be feverishly finished before you sleep. There are not many such written in these days, and all lovers of leisure, as well as lovers of patriotism, will be grateful to Mr. Douglas Sladen. G. M. R.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Gaiety Chronicles." By John Hollingshead.
- "What Is Art?" By Leo Tolstoy.
- "A Summer in the Rockies." By Sir Rose Price.
- "The Development of the Child." By Nathan Oppenheim.
- "Adventures of a Martyr's Bible." By George Firth.
- "A Celibate's Wife." By Herbert Flowerdew.
- "The Wooings of Jezebel Pettyfer." By Haldane Macfall.
- "Mutineers." By A. E. J. Legge.

Coming Events.

July 1st.—St. Pancras Infirmary, Dartmouth Hill, N. General Inspection of the Establishment by invitation of the Infirmary Visiting Committee, 4 to 6.

July 6th.—Lady Portman lays the Foundation Stone of the Nurses' Home, Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road.

July 11th.—The Princess of Wales opens the science laboratories of the London School of Medicine for Women, 4.

July 12th.—Annual Meeting of Royal British Nurses' Association at the East Conference Hall of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, 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 PROOF OF THE PUDDING."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—One of the new Bye-Laws which you condemned runs as follows:—No. 10. "A Special General Meeting of the Corporation, or a Special Meeting of the General Council, may at any time be summoned, either by order of the President, or by a Resolution of the Executive Committee."

On Friday morning last, the 24th inst., I received a summons to a "Special General Meeting of the Council," to be held the same day, at 5 p.m., "for the purpose of considering the Nominations for the New Council." One post was lost in forwarding my summons, and at such short notice it was impossible to attend. But, as you have pointed out, we have been deprived of every just right, under the new Bye-laws.

Yours truly,
A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

THE NURSING CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The most interesting report of the Conference on Nursing, held last week in London, is full of suggestions, and we country members are much indebted to you for the account of the proceedings. Many Matrons would have enjoyed being present at the Conference, but no doubt, like myself found it impossible to leave home duties. I am glad we are to have the papers in full by-and-bye, as we can't know too much of one another's views and feelings on professional matters. In the country we do want freshening up; our sphere of work is so much more narrow than in London and large centres, and we are apt to reach points which we consider perfection, which are really far from it. Most of us realise that we are only at the beginning of the organization of Nursing education, but it is wonderful how much more clearly we realise the lines on which progress may be made in the future, since we have had a paper, THE NURSING RECORD, really devoted to our interests, and it is cheering to read of the wonderful progress being made by the sympathetic co-operation of the American Matrons. I don't wonder their names were greeted with applause by their English sisters. We owe them an incalculable debt for taking the initiative in the difficult path of associating together. They are doing a grand work, both for their own country, and by example for ours. And although we have many more difficulties to meet, and prejudices to overcome—difficulties, and adverse influences, and prejudices which they cannot even realise—we shall reap benefit from their work in the long run. Miss Mollett has many who agree with her, in that "we are determined that in future, the public shall know as precisely what is meant by a trained nurse, as what is meant by a qualified medical man, and the nurses' right to her title, free from the intrusion of unqualified women, shall be as unquestioned as his." How many Poor Law Matrons sympathise with her words: "It is beyond all question the duty of a Matron—of all Matrons—to further, by all means in their power, the professional unity upon which the future of our profession depends, and the independence of the profession in purely personal matters, which alone can give that unity dignity." Would that the defaulting Matrons on the R. B. N. A. had been inspired with this noble view of their duty, we should not have been compelled in self respect, as we are to-day, to resign membership of our own professional corporation, which we worked so hard to found.

Yours,
MEMBER MATRONS' COUNCIL.

"SOME ONE HAD BLUNDER'D."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a nurse, I read your article in last week's issue with indignation. While "some one is blundering," apparently, our brave soldiers in the Soudan are deprived of the skilled nursing and attention, which is their undoubted due. How many lives will be lost in consequence, and how many homes will be desolated on account of the blundering of those in high places? These are the questions which will be asked, and which will require an answer from those responsible for the efficient care of our troops. The relatives of soldiers, it is well known, are not lacking in the heroism which their country expects of

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