

(In New York, by-the-way, the ways of the clergy seem eccentric to the English reader: Father Speares dedicates his church in the name of the Immaculate Conception, and marries people in his back drawing-room; but all this may be correct from the American standpoint.)

Being now ordained priest, and in sole charge of the Church of The Immaculate Conception, Algarcife proceeds to write in an Infidel organ a series of attacks upon religion from the scientific standpoint—anonously, of course—and to answer them by some signed papers, of an inferior order of merit, taking the religious side. This proceeding sufficiently characterizes Father Algarcife as far as the present writer is concerned. Since he has made his own misery—having married improvidently, a girl of no principle, one might pity, but could only feel that he got what any man might have expected; but those subsequent proceedings show a degree of mental depravity for which we were unprepared, and which the author might have spared us. The spectacle also of his wife, after getting a divorce from him, and marrying another man, whom she has left, making an appeal for the renewal of his love, is inexpressibly nauseous to English readers, G. M. R.

WHAT TO READ.

- "The New Rome: Poems and Ballads of Our Empire." By Robert Buchanan.
- "The Demon of the Wind; and other Poems." By G. Hunt Jackson.
- "London in the Reign of Victoria (1837-1897)." By G. Laurence Gomme.
- "The History of Canada." By William Kingsford. Vol. 10 (1836-1841).
- "From Euston to Klondike." The Narrative of a Journey in the Summer of 1898. By Julius M. Price, F.R.G.S.
- "The Exploration of the Niger." By Lieutenant Hourst. Translated by Mrs. Arthur Bell.
- "Memoirs of Lady Russell and Lady Herbert (1623-1723)." Compiled from original Family Documents by Lady Stepney.
- "The Hypocrite." A Realistic Novel of Oxford and London Life.
- "The Pottle Papers." Written by Saul Smiff. Illustrated by L. Raven Hill.
- "Mistress Nancy Molesworth." By Joseph Hocking.
- "The Green Passion." A Study of a jealous Soul. By Anthony P. Vert.

Coming Events.

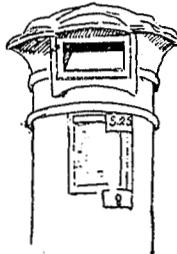
December 16th.—Meeting of the Committee of Arrangements for the International Congress of Women, London House, St. James Square, 11 a.m. The Countess of Aberdeen, President, will preside.

December 17th.—The Duchess of Sutherland presides at a meeting of the Committee formed to promote a Bazaar in June, 1899, in aid of Charing Cross Hospital Special Appeal Fund. Stafford House 3.30 p.m.

December 19th.—The Duke of Norfolk presides at a Reading by Sir Squire Bancroft, at Sheffield, in aid of the Sheffield Royal Infirmary.

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.

MATRON AND SECRETARY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record"

DEAR MADAM,—I was pleased to see the letter from "Secretary" in last week's NURSING RECORD, because I see no reason why the Matron and Secretary of a Hospital should not work together on most amicable terms. Indeed, I believe they often do, and to the mutual benefit of each. Personally, my relations with the Secretary of the hospital, of which I was superintendent, were of the happiest description, and I invariably found him "pleased to advise and assist me in all matters pertaining to the well-being of the institution," but the basis of the harmony was, I believe, that we each recognised and upheld the authority of the other in our respective departments. Of course, I had my own book, in which I reported directly to the Committee any matters concerning my own department, with which I wished to acquaint them. Any other position would, to my mind, be quite impossible, but if the Matron and Secretary are each given their proper position there is, I think, no reason why they should not work together for the good of the institution, the interests of which both, presumably, have at heart.

Yours faithfully,

LATE MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a Matron of many years standing, I am of opinion that the only plan of maintaining good management and discipline in a hospital, is for each department to have an official head, and that such heads be personally responsible to the House Committee. The Secretary should report weekly matters concerning finance, and general management. The Matron should report in writing, the necessary details in the nursing and domestic management, and she should also attend the Committee weekly, to hear her report read, answer questions, and receive instructions. No Matron should be called upon to report through the secretary, a sub-committee, a medical superintendent, or any other officer. Under such a system good discipline and order can be maintained, and the head officials, if they mind their own business, can live on friendly terms. It is presumable that the House Committee be composed of persons who have time to attend to the management of an institution, and who conscientiously performs their duties.

I am, yours truly,

"A MATRON OF EXPERIENCE."

"FOR THE SAKE OF THE MEN."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent "Traveller" was, I feel sure, right in saying that it is most impolitic to educate one half of a nation and to leave the other

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