

of an excellent step-mother, of the regulation type of a well-bred English lady, who looks upon anything out of the common, as even worse than anything wrong, and steadily discourages Annora's gifts.

By means of a most natural and quite accidental chain of circumstances, the young girl finds herself established for a stay of some months, with her step-mother and half-sister, at a forsaken watering-place called Dalton Bridge. When she first arrives at the house, she, as usual, reconnoitres the position, that the influence of the place may guide her in forming an estimate of it. It never occurred to her that this is a thing that few young ladies do, in the ordinary course of events.

"I like," she says, "to sit still in any house that has been lived in for a long time, and see what comes into one's mind about the people who have lived in it. They make the inside feeling of a place, just as hills and trees or the shape of rooms are made in, make the outside one."

"As I stood on the balcony with its great ugly balustrade, I imagined the poor houses that had never been built, and the people that might have lived in them, and I thought how dreadfully miserable the poor builder must have been who invented the plan, and could never afford to carry it out because Dalton Bridge did not *take*. The mineral springs went out of fashion and they had an epidemic, and the London doctor, who was going to recommend it, died."

"The builder lived in this house and finished it, and lived on here through the failure because it would not let."

"I felt his feelings—standing there in his house. Thoughts and feelings are as real as words and movements—I am sure that they leave marks in the thought-world, just as using or moving things make changes in the action-world."

"There was another house in sight, a little way off from the circle which was to have been enclosed by the crescent, towards the common. It was a very small red-tiled cottage half hidden by a bush—probably an elder bush. There was a low wall in front of the little garden with a gate in it. I supposed that it was because there was no other building there that it stood out like a subject for a sketch. When I had once seen it, I wondered that I had over-looked it. I did not imagine anything about it, but I could not help looking at it."

"It's tied on to this house by a sort of *thought-rope*. There's something running from one to the other! I thought this to myself—I had often invented such ideas before, but now it struck me first that the idea was an odd one, and then, in a way that was new to me and very difficult to describe, I recognized that I was not thinking of it as an invention, but as a fact. And I knew also that it was a fact which no one would believe."

I shall give no hint as to how the two ends of the thought-rope came together. The lines I have quoted will give a very fair idea of the interesting opening of the tale. I hope they will make everybody want to go on and finish it.

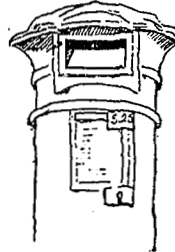
G. M. R.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Letters to His Son on Religion": First Earl of Selborne.
- "Bacon or Shakespeare?" By E. Marriott.
- "The Churches of the East." By The Ven. William McDonald Sinclair, D.D.
- "The Modern French Drama." By Augustin Filon.
- "Cuba: Past and Present." By Richard Davey.
- "Leo Tolstoy, the Grand Mujik." A Study in Personal Evolution. By G. H. Perris.
- "Rupert of Hentzau." By Anthony Hope. Being a Sequel to a Story by the same writer entitled, *The Prisoner of Zenda*.
- "A Philosopher's Romance." By John Berwick.
- "The Forest Lovers." A Romance. By Maurice Hewlett.

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 ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Now that the new Bye-Laws have become law, and the majority of the Matrons, in whom we had confidence, have resigned, it was with heart-felt pleasure that I read in last week's *NURSING RECORD* that you had brought the question of "just representation" of the whole Nursing Profession before the Nursing Conference, and that this important question is going to be considered. Many country nurses, who have stood aside during the disputes in the Royal British Nurses' Association [more's the pity they did stand aside and thus sacrificed their professional privileges.—ED.] are firmly convinced that the profession must be organized, and that now this can never be done by the British Nurses' Association. The fact that the new council has excluded, with *one* exception—the Provincial Nurses from representation on the General Council, and placed 29 Metropolitan Nurses on it—is proof positive that only those nurses in institutions under official control will be permitted seats, and these women, as you have pointed out, are not free agents. Is it possible for Mr. Langton's Ward Sister to oppose her visiting surgeon on such questions, or the Middlesex Nurses to oppose Miss Thorold and Mr. Fardon combined, or the Chelsea nurses to dare to go against Miss de Pledge, and so on *ad infinitum*? Of course, these nurses will either support their employers, or stay away; no other course is consistent with hospital discipline; so that for all professional purposes, the Royal British Nurses' Association is useless. But the educated nurses owe a duty to ourselves and to the public, and we must do that duty. Let the Royal British Nurses' Association go on its course, it may suit those who are interested in obtaining charitable aid, and who enjoy being patronised by those who see for themselves in return some personal decoration dangling in the distance. But those nurses, who are inspired by a sense of professional responsibility, want something more worthy, and we must have it. I agree with you that, as usual, America has taken the wind out of our sails, and if it was possible for the Matron's Council to lay a plain statement of facts, and the lines upon which the Americans and Canadians are proceeding before the nurses of this country, it would be doing us a signal service. I hope you will use your influence to get this done.

Yours faithfully,

"PROGRESSIVE."

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