

of Aglaë, and ready to make any sacrifice that she may be restored to Neanias; and the price Pan asks is Merla's love, which she gives, and the play closes with Aglaë happily installed as wife in the cottage, and having recovered her sight and speech.

This last episode of Merla and Pan, seems to me, I confess, unsatisfactory, unless I have misunderstood it. Merla repents, and resigns all claim to Neanias—let him be happy at any cost, and never mind me, says she. Thereby she shows sign of a higher nature, and one feels that she should not be sacrificed; but I own that I found this part a little obscure. The whole thing is as fresh as a breath of Dartmoor air, and full of the breathings of the woodland.

G. M. R.

---

#### WHAT TO READ.

- "West African Studies." By Mary H. Kingsley.
- "Catholicism, Roman and Anglican." By Principal Fairbairn.
- "Letters of Walter Savage Landor." Edited by S. Wheeler.
- "Lord Clive." By Sir A. J. Arbuthnot.
- "Charles Kingsley and the Christian Social Movement." By Dean Stubbs.
- "Harry Ingleby, Surgeon." By Frederic J. Webb.
- "Red Rock." By Thomas Nelson Page.
- "Ashes of Empire." By R. W. Chambers.
- "The Paths of the Prudent." By J. S. Fletcher.
- "Infatuation." By Mrs. B. M. Croker.
- "The Two Standards." By William Barry.
- "Ricroft of Withens." By Halliwell Sutcliffe.

---

#### Coming Events.

*February 7th.*—A course of Six Lectures on the Physiological Aspect of the Temperance Question will be delivered in connection with the Women's Total Abstinence Union, by Mr. W. N. Edwards, F.C.S. Application for tickets should be made early to the Secretary, Miss Holland, 4, Ludgate Hill. Admission 2s. 6d. for the course; 6d. for a single lecture. First lecture on "Alcohol," February 7th, 3.30 p.m.

*February 8th.*—The Queen opens the Children's Wing of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary at Ryde.

*February 14th.*—The Prince of Wales presides at the Hunterian Oration and Dinner.

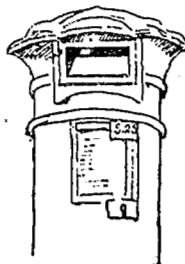
*February 16th and 17th.*—Central Poor-Law Conference at the Guildhall. The subjects that will be discussed are: "On Wider Powers for Guardians," "The Best Means of Providing and Training Nurses of the Indoor Poor," "Old Age Pensions and the Poor Law," and "The Best Method of Starting in Life and Caring for Poor Law Boys."

*February 23rd.*—The Bishop of London presides at the Annual Meeting of the Hostel of St. Luke Clergy Nursing Home, at the Church House, 3.0 p.m.

*March 1st.*—The Duchess of York opens a New Wing of the Portsmouth Hospital.

## 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 ENDING OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent "A Lancashire Midwife," is of opinion that poor women cannot afford to pay the prices commanded by a midwife who is also a trained nurse. But my experience is that three months' nurses make precisely the same charges, both to the rich (in the capacity of monthly nurses) and to the poor, as midwives, as those who possess a certificate of general training. It would be interesting to know if any of your readers have found it otherwise, and can furnish information as to particular instances in which midwives have reduced their charges because they have not had general training.

I quite agree with your correspondent that we need a much more efficient education in midwifery, but I should like to point out that, if the standard required of midwives is raised, it will be in advance of that required of medical students, a surely impossible position. I am inclined to think that the reason why the London Obstetrical Society has *decreased* the number of cases, which it requires to be attended by candidates, from 25 to 20, is in order that more practical work may not be required of midwives than of medical students. I do not think that we need desire to follow the example of other countries in obtaining State Registration of midwives. I think we may at least claim that in nursing matters we are ahead of the other European countries, and it has always been a fundamental principle with those best qualified to judge that, in nursing, as in medicine, the general training should precede the special. I do not therefore believe that legislation for any class of specialists is desirable, but rather that what we need is a Bill for the registration of medical, surgical, and obstetric nurses, for, after all, a midwife is not qualified to act as an independent practitioner, and if she is, as I hold she should be, a trained nurse, (as I also hold a trained nurse should have a midwifery qualification) then, naturally, her place is in the ranks of trained nurses.

We are, I think, indebted to "A Medical Practitioner" for pointing out the injustice done to Midwives in giving them no voice in the government of their own profession. There are, I believe, many medical men equally liberal-minded; but, unhappily, they abstain from touching nursing politics. One can scarcely wonder at it, but the result is that medical men, who have not the best interests of the nursing profession at heart, are by this means put into a prominent position before the public, as representing the views of the bulk of the medical profession towards nurses, and so a wrong impression is given.

I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BREAY.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)