

There are so many that I must not go on.

The power of thought, the irony, the observation, and best gift of all, the humour that Miss Fowler shows, makes one wish that she would be less superficial; by which I mean that she never gets inside her characters in the real sense. They talk, and talk, and express their author's views, and overflow with epigrams; but somehow they remain unreal; and there are pages of conversation that are most obviously "dragged in by the heels," and serve no object in the development either of character or incident. The good ladies of Silverhampton are more than a little out of date; and Miss Fowler seems never to have met an exponent of the particular kind of cant which she ascribes to Percy Welford, who, with his sister, is the merest excrescence on the story.

But all such imperfections notwithstanding, the book is a good one in both senses; and a really humorous book by a woman is a jewel. We so often lose ground by taking ourselves too seriously.

G. M. R.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Round the World on a Wheel." By John Foster Fraser.
- "The Philippines and Round About; with Some Account of British Interests in these Waters." By Major G. J. Younghusband.
- "Essays in Modernity: Criticisms and Dialogues." By Francis Adams.
- "Philadelphia, the Place and the People." By Agnes Repplier.
- "Madame Izan: a Tourist Story." By Mrs. Campbell Praed.
- "Her Promise True." By Dora Russell.
- "The Green Field: a Novel of the Midlands." By Neil Wynn Williams.
- "A Double Thread." By Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler.
- "The Guardians of Panzy." By Dolf Wyllarde.
- "The Garden of Swords: a Story of the Siege of Strasburg." By Max Pemberton.

Coming Events.

April 20th.—Ball in aid of the London Hospital Convalescent Home, Hotel Cecil.

April 21st.—Mr. W. H. Chinnery presides over the festival dinner of the Royal Eye Hospital.

April 24th.—Metropolitan Hospital festival dinner, Hôtel Métropole, Mr. Harry L. W. Lawson, L.C.C., in the chair.

April 25th.—Annual Dinner of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, at Hôtel Métropole, Duke of Cambridge in the chair.

April 25th.—Meeting at the Mansion House in aid of the Royal Free Hospital.

April 29th.—Annual Dinner of the French Hospital and Dispensary, Hotel Cecil. The Lord Mayor will attend.

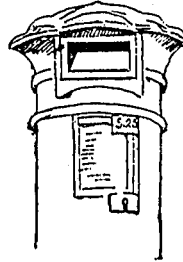
May 1st.—Prince of Wales presides over dinner at Hôtel Métropole in aid of the London Lifeboat Saturday Fund.

May 2nd.—The Duke of Cambridge presides at the Annual Dinner of the Sanitary Institute, Whitehall Rooms.

May 3rd.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany opens a Grand Bazaar at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, in aid of the Great Northern Central 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 IRISH NURSING QUESTION."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was much interested in your article in the RECORD of the 25th ulto., upon the above subject. You rightly say "a notable step in Nursing Reform has been made by the Irish Local Government Board," but it is open to question as to whether they have begun at the right end. It seems to me the best course would have been to have appointed a committee of those most acquainted with the real wants, and the present drawbacks to existing arrangements, viz., the Medical Superintendents to the Infirmaries with Hospital Matrons and Nurses also on the committee. Nursing is women's work, and it has been the work of devoted women in the past which has made nursing what it is at the present day, calling culture, refinement, and kindness into requisition, women in fact who "wanted to leave the world a little better than they found it," and this is the spirit that is required to raise our "Hospices" for the worn out and dying, for such our Workhouse Infirmaries might be called, from being abodes of repulsion and discomfort to being havens of rest and comfort to our poorer brethren who through no fault of their own have found it impossible to make any provision for times of sickness and old age.

Reform is urgently needed, but it seems to me the first enquiry should be as to the surroundings of the nurse. Give her proper accommodation, with decent attendance, doing away with the authority of the Master and Matron, and making her responsible to the Medical Superintendent only. If this was accomplished the Local Government Board would probably not find such difficulty as they are doing at present in obtaining nurses for the posts that are being so largely advertised. What nurse in charge of eighty patients would submit to cooking her own food and partaking of it in a kitchen with pauper women going in and out; and yet this state of things exists.

Then the Local Government Board should insist that there should be an adequate number of Nurses and Probationers to the number of patients to ensure that they should have the requisite care, and how are they to legislate upon this detail of Nursing without a professional opinion?

They could well legislate to prevent the overcrowding of the wards as in many instances exists at present,—but let them leave women's work to women, and investing them with proper authority, it would not be long before decency and order would take the place of carelessness and discomfort, and it might be hoped that ere long, ladies would take up this branch of Nursing. What would be more suitable than this work

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