

were irresistible. Frank Gregory, the ex-waiter, is a lamentable example of the desperate spiritual ignorance and blindness, which, according to the native novelist, really seems to be the salient feature of the American character. Each individual apparently has to work out for himself his own notions of the universe and of the character of the Almighty, without the smallest teaching, authority, or guidance. The result seems to be that it becomes simpler not to think of such things at all; and the effect is a national lack of the "genius for religion" unequalled even in the least developed periods of heathenism.

This part of the book is poor and unconvincing; indeed, Clementina, when it comes to a question of her lovers, is a curiously unresponsive and self-possessed person; her two marriages are of the most tepid descriptions, leaving one to speculate upon the problem of whether a perfectly candid and simple-minded girl can ever be really interesting, or whether the least taste in life of original sin would not have made her more vivid. It may be so; personally, I am inclined to think that Clementina fails to interest us as a woman because of that stupendous spiritual blindness, which not only does not know whether there be anything higher than the United States of America in the present social condition, but really does not care in the very least. There is no mystery about a soul which never has communion with the unseen, and one is more and more convinced, as one goes on, of how pitifully lopsided a thing is materialism.

G. M. R.

Coming Events.

May 24th.—The Queen's Birthday—Service of Thanksgiving at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, one o'clock; at St. Paul's Cathedral 11 a.m., and Westminster Abbey at 5 p.m.

May 31st.—Sir Charles Hall presides at the Biennial Festival of the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic at the Hotel Metropole.

Concert under the patronage of the Queen, at Grosvenor House, in aid of the funds of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate.

June 2nd.—Lord Roberts, V.C., presides at a Dinner of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, Hotel Cecil, 8.

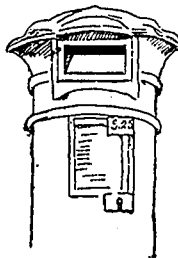
June 6th.—The Duchess of Fife opens a Bazaar in aid of St. Mary's Hospital and Clarence Memorial Wing, at the Great Central Hotel.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Ballads and Poems." By Dora Sigerson (Mrs. Clement Shorter).
- "The Break-up of China, with an account of its present Commerce, Currency, Waterways, Armies, Railways, Politics and Future Prospects." By Lord Charles Beresford.
- "A Thousand Days in the Arctic." By Frederick G. Jackson, Author of "The Great Frozen Land."
- "Cromwell as a Soldier." By Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Baldock, P.S.C., Royal Artillery.
- "Reminiscences." By Justin McCarthy, M.P.
- "Persian Women and Their Creed." By Mary S. Bird, C.M.S. Missionary in Persia.
- "The Philosophy of the Marquise." By Mrs. Belloc-Lowndes.

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.

RECOGNISED TRAINING SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The letter of your correspondent "Nous Verrons" seems to need a reply from me, a fact which must be my excuse for once again trespassing on your valuable space. She thinks I have not grasped the difficulty of the money question when I say that small hospitals should be nursed by certificated nurses. This is not the case. The money difficulty is a real one, and one which must be confronted. The expense which is entailed in securing to the patients efficient nursing is one which is by no means estimated for, as a rule, by lay committees new to their work. In all good faith they are apt to consider that an adequate nursing staff for a hospital of say six, or even ten, beds, is one nurse, night and day, and they consider that this unfortunate woman is well paid at the rate of from £20 to £25 a year. What wonder if the woman who accepts the position and the salary is not a success! The question of expense must be solved not by providing inadequately for the nursing of the patients, but by educating committees to realize that it is necessary to set aside a larger sum to ensure efficient nursing than they often do at the present time. Would I do away with the paying probationer? your correspondent enquires. Not if she realized that all she could hope to do was to obtain a little insight into nursing, and was willing to pay at a rate remunerative to the hospital for that privilege; but most assuredly I would not give her a certificate, or lead her to suppose that she would be a trained nurse, however long she stayed, because I should not consider it honest.

As to nurses "objecting to do probationers' work"—in most, if not all, small hospitals, there is a general servant, or a ward maid, who does a good deal of the work which usually falls to the share of a probationer in a large hospital, and, for the rest—well, from my point of view, if a nurse objects to do anything which makes for the welfare of the sick, she has certainly mistaken her vocation, and the sooner she makes way for some one else the better.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,
A CONSTANT READER.

A PROFESSIONAL PROTEST.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Were it not for the NURSING RECORD no protest would, so far as I have seen, be raised in any paper purporting to advance the interests of nurses, as to the Café Chantant, for their benefit at the Hotel Cecil. I for one am heartily grateful to you for the professional attitude which you have maintained on this matter.

Yours faithfully,
A SELF-RESPECTING WOMAN.

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