

WHAT TO READ.

- "Impressions of South Africa." By the Right Hon. James Bryce, M.P.
- "Beatrice D'Este. Duchess of Milan, 1475-1497. A Study of the Renaissance." By Julia Cartwright (Mrs. Henry Ady).
- "The Real French Revolutionist." By Henry Jephson, Author of "The Platform—its Rise and Progress."
- "Young April." By Egerton Castle.
- "The Progress of Pauline Kessler." By Frederic Carrel.
- "One Year." A Novel. By Dorothea Gerard (Mme. Longarde de Longgarde).

Coming Events.

November 27th.—Annual bazaar on behalf of the Sisters of St. Saviour's Priory and their work among the poor of East London at Grosvenor Hall, 200, Buckingham Palace Road. (Three days.)

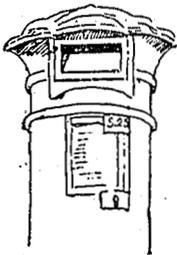
December 4th.—Inaugural Meeting of the league of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 3 p.m.

Lady Mayoress visits British Home and Hospital for Incurables, at Streatham, to unveil new window in Chapel and open inmates' sale of work for their own benefit.

The Society of American Women in London give an entertainment at the Hotel Cecil in aid of the American Hospital Ship Fund, 9.30 p.m. Tickets, including supper, £1 1s. Hon. Sec., the Baroness von Horst, 131, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, W.

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 PRICE OF ARMY NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I quite disagree with "A Loyal Nurse" and thank you heartily for pointing out the miserable pay offered to members of the Army Nursing Reserve, especially when compared with that offered to the medical officers—not that I grudge the latter good salaries, quite otherwise; they well deserve them. But we all know what it is to be marked "cheap," and if our services in the scale of Army equipment is estimated by the authorities at scrubbers' wages Army nurses must feel very cheap indeed. No, the labourer is worthy of her hire. The services of a first-class experienced nurse mean oftentimes life or death to the patient, and there is no reason why the nurse should not be accorded remuneration on a scale which will stamp her as the skilled professional worker. The world takes you at your own valuation, and the fact that the "Big Surgeons" are being paid at the rate of £5,000 a year has aroused a perfect clamour in the Press at their "noble self-sacrificing patriotism"—"their devotion to Queen and country." I have nowhere seen it hinted that the Nursing Sisters are

"patriotic," "noble" or "self-sacrificing"—not at all—no doubt if the country paid them a salary in some measure commensurate with their professional skill, it would value their services more highly.

There is even a rumour that one batch of Sisters recently sent to South Africa were so unimportant an item of the Army's equipment that no arrangements had been made for their transport, and they were consigned to berths *below the water mark!*

Anyway the "Price of Army Nurses" is an important question, and it is to be hoped that the Committee of the Army Nursing Reserve will speedily take measures to raise the present demoralising scale.

Yours truly, ANOTHER LOYAL NURSE.

IS IT THE CUSTOM?

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—You ask is it the custom to keep nurses standing while on duty, when there is no occasion for it. I do not know whether it is the custom everywhere, but I can only say that I have suffered from it myself. One Sister in my training school I can specially call to mind. How she did keep us trotting before the Matron paid her daily visit! I was a meek pro. in those days (pros. were meek in eighties), and the idea of venturing on an expostulation never once entered my head. Her idea, expressed in so many words, was that if the Matron did not see us busy when she came round, she would think the ward was slack, and that a nurse less would suffice. But it was not only when the Matron was about that we were kept going. Sister seemed to have an inveterate dislike to the sight of a nurse sitting down, and, if she caught a glimpse of one of us in this posture, it was quite certain that the unfortunate delinquent would be sent on a quite unnecessary improvised errand to the furthest part of the hospital, so that in self-protection we kept on the move. I became absolutely flat-footed in that ward, and shall never forget the pain I endured there. Why didn't I speak of it? Because I was afraid that I should be considered unsuitable as a nurse, and I was determined that nothing on my part should prevent my finishing my training. I expect many pros. went through a similar experience.

I am, dear Madam, yours very truly,

A SUFFERER FROM THE CUSTOM.

IS IT DECENT?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Is it decent that a woman should bath a man, even if she is a nurse? Surely there can be no question that such a practice is inexcusable in a public institution. It is almost impossible to believe that in any Workhouse Infirmary, such can be part of a nurse's duty, and wherever a nurse finds that she is expected to bath male patients, she should refuse to do it and appeal to the Board, and if the Guardians still agree that bathing men is a woman's duty, why let her pack up her kit and depart, and report the case to the Local Government Board. The system is revolting, especially when it is taken into consideration what class of men the patients in Poor Law Institutions are usually drawn from. Let every nurse applying for work in Workhouse Infirmaries make a point of asking the Board whether this is part of her duty before accepting the position. I should imagine the stamp of woman who does not object to the practice is just the sort of woman most unsuitable to care for the sick.

Yours, "MATERFAMILIAS."

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