

A Little Sermon.

Thronging through the cloud-rift whose are they the faces,
 Faint revealed, yet sure divined, the famous ones of old?
 "What"—they smile—"our names, our deeds so soon erases
 Time upon his tablet where Life's glory lies enrolled?
 "Was it for mere fool's-play, make-believe and mumming,
 So we battled it like men, not boy-like sulked or whined?
 "Each of us heard clang God's 'Come!' and each was coming;
 Soldiers all, to forward face, not sneaks to lag behind!
 "How of the field's fortune? That concerned our Leader!
 Led, we struck our stroke, nor cared for doings left and right;
 "Each as on his sole head, failer or succeeder,
 Lay the blame or lit the praise, no care for cowards' fight!"
 Then the cloud-rift broadens, spanning earth that's under,
 Wide our world displays its worth, man's strife and strife's success;
 All the good and beauty, wonder crowning wonder,
 Till my heart and soul applaud perfection, nothing less.
 R. BROWNING.

WHAT TO READ.

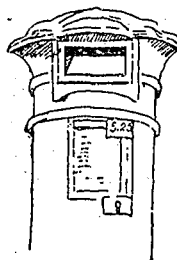
- "Oliver Cromwell; A Personal Study." By Arthur Paterson.
- "In Dwarfland and Cannibal Country. A Record of Travel and Discovery in Central Africa." By A. B. Lloyd.
- "Bohemian Paris of To-day." By W. C. Morrow.
- "Twelve Notable Good Women of the XIX Century." By Rosa Nouchette Carey.
- "Two New Women." By Mary Beaumont.
- "Prisoners of the Tower of London." By Violet Brooke-Hunt.
- "Lady Barbarity." By L. C. Snaith.
- "Haunts of Men." By Robert Chambers.

Coming Events.

- December 4th.*—Inaugural Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 3 p.m.
 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.
- December 6th.*—Mansion House Meeting in support of the Charing Cross Hospital Special Appeal Fund. 4 p.m.
- December 7th.*—The Matrons' Council At Home to meet Miss M. E. Hibbard, Superintendent of Nursing on the Hospital Ship *Maine*, and Sisters Manly, Ludkens, McPherson and MacVean. Tea and Coffee. Miss Hibbard will speak on "The Evolution of the Army Nurse in the United States of America" at 5 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart will take the Chair. 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

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."

DEAR MADAM,—I see that you are advocating a higher rate of pay for the members of the Army Nursing Reserve. Of course, it is only just that the miserable salaries offered to these skilled professional workers should be increased, and bear some sort of proportion to the value of their services. It is anything but fair that the junior surgeons, probably young men who have just finished their hospital career, and have not yet settled down in practice, should be paid at the rate of £1 a day, while skilled nurses, who have had for the most part years of professional experience, should receive 3s. 3d. But there is another point of view. The inadequate pay keeps the appointments in the hands of women, for no man would consent to give his skilled services for such a trifling amount, but if, as you suggest, the pay is increased, experience, I am afraid, teaches us that covetous male eyes will be cast on the posts, it will be discovered that women nurses are out of place on active service, and we shall be altogether deprived of our right to nurse the wounded in war, and in one more instance women will be disqualified for service in a branch of the profession for which they are peculiarly adapted. So there are two sides to the question, and those women who wish to retain the privilege of nursing our sick soldiers had better, to my thinking, accept their 3s. 3d. a day, and be thankful that the sum offered to them is such a meagre pittance.

I am, Dear Madam,
 Yours faithfully,
 AN OBSERVANT WOMAN.

[We strongly deprecate the advice of this correspondent. We are aware that since the Army Medical Corps was dubbed Royal that alterations have been made in the Standing Orders of the Army Nursing Sisters, and one very important regulation eliminated which gave the Sisters power to enforce orders. In the old regulations an orderly was directed to "obey the Sister." This wise rule is now no longer printed in the handbook, and a Sister is consequently powerless to enforce good nursing. At the same time women have no right to accept "a pittance" for services which are invaluable to the nation, as are those of a thoroughly trained, highly skilled experienced nurse—it is impossible to impress the world with the value of work which costs next to nothing, and it is demoralising to the workers. We are glad to find that our remarks on this subject have aroused interest in a quarter capable of insisting upon reform.—Ed.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)