

how his wife comported herself in her new surroundings: she seems as incongruous as was Babbie in "The Little Minister," to the atmosphere of a Scotch manse. Simon was doubtless strong enough to be her master; but from the specimens we have of his manners and conversation, it does not seem that he was a lively companion, and Rachel was made of the stuff that cannot endure dulness. However, Augustine Birrell assures us that Tom Jones settled down into a good husband, when once he was married to his Sophia, so we may hope for the best in the future of Yeoman Fleetwood. A word of special praise is due to the figure of the old lawyer. One knows the old family lawyer so well on the stage, and he is so hopelessly stereotyped, but Mr. Renshaw stands out as clearly as possible, a real man, though drawn with few touches, worthy to compare with the wonderful Mr. Rankeillor in "Kidnapped," and that is high praise. G. M. R.

Poem.

THE REVEILLE.

English troops are buried deep,
Sound a soft reveille.
In this foreign land asleep,
Underneath Majuba Hill,
Lying sleeping very still.
Nevermore those squadrons will
Answer to reveille.

Onward without fear or doubt,
Sound a bold reveille.
Till that shame is blotted out.
While our Empire's bounds are wide,
Britons all stand side by side.
Boot and saddle, mount and ride.
Hear the bold reveille.
—A. B. PATERSON, in *Sydney Mail*.

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Church and the Nation: a Charge Delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of London at St. Paul's Cathedral, February 21st, 1900." By Mandell Creighton, D.D., Bishop of London.
- "Napoleon III. and his Court." By Imbert de St. Amand.
- "Siberia and Central Asia." By John W. Bookwalter.
- "The Engrafted Rose: a Moral." By Emma Brooke.
- "Sir Patrick: the Puddock." By L. B. Walford, Author of "The Archdeacon," "Mr. Smith," &c.
- "A Bitter Vintage." By K. Douglas King.
- "The World's Mercy, and other Tales." By Maxwell Gray.
- "My Father and I: a Book for Daughters." By the Countess Puliga.
- "By Order of the Company." By Mary Johnston.

Coming Events.

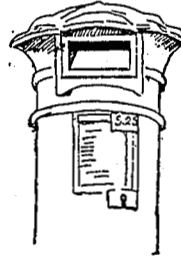
March 2nd.—Lord Mayor, accompanied by Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs, will preside at annual meeting of Royal Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Bridge Road.

March 6th.—Annual meeting of governors of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, the Chairman, Lord Glensesk, presiding.

March 8th.—Executive Committee Matrons' Council, Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4 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.

NURSING IN INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see the RECORD again referring to the system of nursing in Fever Hospitals. What you say in relation to Assistant Nurses is most true. As a Charge Nurse of some experience, I am quite sure that raw probationers would be better than the one year's nurse, as, in many instances, the latter is drawn from the great army of general hospital incapables. Why should the fever hospitals admit women physically and mentally second-rate? The present system of demanding a year's training puts a premium on this style of nursing, and it is neither fair on Charge Nurses nor patients. If only the hushed-up "mistakes" which so often occur in fever hospital wards became public, reforms would at once be demanded by the public. I gave up my post as a Charge Nurse in a fever hospital because I could not conscientiously be responsible for the omissions of incapable helpers. This system is all the more grievous, because the equipment and arrangements of these splendid hospitals could command the very best workers. General hospital matrons could do much to help if they would try to get six months' training in infectious diseases, as part of the general curriculum of a nurse's education, picked probationers could then fill the place of incapable assistants. The Charge Nurses should be promoted to be Sisters—that is superintendents of nursing—and Staff Nurses also employed. We shall never have a satisfactory system of nursing in our Fever Hospitals until some such arrangement is made. I was compelled to permit the ward maid to perform many items of nursing in the absence of the Assistant Nurse, or leave patients without necessary attention. It is a pity some of the most active spirits on the Metropolitan Asylums Board are quite satisfied with the present condition of affairs. If only they could be warded for a few weeks they might become convinced that improvements are possible.

Yours truly,

PAST CHARGE NURSE.

THE BOYCOTT OF COLONIAL NURSES IN CAPE COLONY.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As a Colonial trained and certificated nurse, may I protest against the assumption that all "Colonials" are less staid and well disciplined as a rule than their British colleagues, as asserted by a medical man in the *British Medical Journal*, and for this reason have been excluded from a fair share of military nursing in South Africa. No more unjust action has been done by the War Office, and that is saying much, than accepting for service with the sick and

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