

"To beauty, Mrs. Aubyn could lay no claim; and, while she had enough prettiness to exasperate him by her incapacity to make use of it, she seemed invincibly ignorant of any of the little artifices whereby women contrive to hide their defects, and even to turn them into graces. Her dress never seemed a part of her; all her clothes had an impersonal air, as though they belonged to someone else and had been borrowed in an emergency that had somehow become chronic. She was conscious enough of her deficiencies to try to amend them by rash imitations of the most approved models; but no woman who does not dress well intuitively will ever do so by the light of reason, and Mrs. Aubyn's plagiarisms, to borrow a metaphor of her trade, somehow never seemed to be incorporated with the text. Genius is of small use to a woman who does not know how to do her hair."

Which of us does not know the woman whose clothes seem to have been assumed "in an emergency which has somehow become chronic?"

The book is full of little epigrams, with subtle points, as for example,—“The bland inattention that we accord to the affairs of some one else's suburb.”

For those who like a study in emotions, and we are most of us made that way now-a-days, a real treat awaits them when they read "A Gift from the Grave."

G. M. R.

Poem.

PRACTICE *VERSUS* PREACHING.

It is easy to sit in the sunshine,
And talk to the man in the shade.
It is easy to float in a well-trimmed boat,
And point out the places to wade.
But once we pass into the shadows
We murmur and fret and frown,
And our length from the bank, we shout for a plank,
Or throw up our hands and go down.
It is easy to sit in your carriage
And counsel the man on foot;
But get down and walk and you'll change your talk,
As you feel the peg in your boot.
It is easy to tell the toiler
How best he can carry his pack;
But no one can rate a burden's weight
Until it has been on his back.
The up-curved mouth of pleasure
Can preach of sorrow's worth:
But give it a sip, and a wryer lip
Was never made on earth.

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

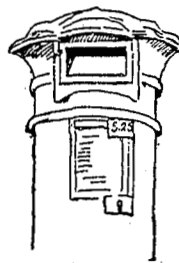
From the *Weekly Sun*.

WHAT TO READ.

- "No Room to Live; the Complaint of Overcrowded London." By George Haw. With introduction by Sir Walter Besant.
- "The Master Christian." By Marie Corelli.
- "The Influence of Mars." By Eva Anstruther.
- "Stories from the Diary of a Doctor." By L. T. Meade and Clifford Halifax, M.D.
- "On Alien Shores." By Leslie Keith.
- "The Gateless Barrier." By Lucas Malet.
- "The Lane that has no turning." By Gilbert Parker.

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.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with great interest Dr. Toogood's excellent paper on "The Reasons for State Registration of Nurses," and it is, indeed, encouraging to find a medical man, with so much practical experience of nursing affairs, taking such a liberal view of the question. That the question of Nurses' Registration bristles with difficulties, goes without saying, but not with difficulties which are insuperable, so now it is to be hoped that nurses and their medical friends will put their heads together to solve the problem in the best interests of all concerned.

I, for one, have read the RECORD for many years past, as it is the only nursing paper which differentiates between nursing as a skilled profession—and a domestic avocation—or addresses the educated members as reasonable beings, and not as "charity children" or Sunday school maids, and I have never felt a rising spirit of insubordination to the medical profession in consequence; indeed, in realising the educational and scientific value of good nursing, I have come to appreciate the profession of medicine at something of its true value, and not to look upon the learned members of it as more or less quacks and servants of a vulgar and ignorant public, the contemptuous attitude often assumed in relation to medical men, between the public and the ignorant, uppish, and dangerously mischievous half-trained nurses, who are the enemy of scientific medicine and nursing alike, and whose lack of honour and *esprit de corps* is answerable for much of the antagonism of doctors towards nurses.

Moreover, the quotations from the RECORD given by Dr. Toogood, as likely to belittle medical men in the eyes of nurses, do not convey any such suggestion to my mind, and I think our Editor is doing a good thing in pointing out to medical students how necessary it is for them to make themselves acquainted with the practice as well the theory of modern nursing methods. The cursory practical experience available for the ordinary medical student in the wards and theatre of many medical schools is a weak spot in medical educational methods, and it will be far wiser for the teachers of medicine to grasp this significant fact than to ignore the evolution of practical nursing and thus, through a false estimate of the importance of nursing in the treatment of disease, send out as fully educated medical practitioners, men who have never made beds in the numerous ways required for major operations, never done with their own hands *over and over again* so that they may be skilled in nursing work, all those hundred and one technical details which may and do SAVE LIFE. There seems to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)