

to the mind of a sympathetic reader; yet this is the part which the reviewer of the *Spectator* found so tedious!!

Here are some of Mrs. Steel's trenchant words respecting the cholera difficulty:

"That quarrel as to whether cleanliness comes next to godliness or godliness to cleanliness, which has yet to be settled between East and West. Between a race which prides itself on asserting the former in its proverb, yet in its practice insists on sanitation and leaves salvation to take its chance; and a race which, while asserting that salvation is impossible without physical purity, practically ignores cleanliness. A quarrel which is surely the quaintest dissociation of theory and practice that the world can show . . . ."

So, with plague and its inevitable interference with domestic life looming before them, the hard-worked officials who for six days of the week had borne the heaviest burden man can bear—absolute executive responsibility, when the executive authority is limited—knew perfectly well, as they deliberately tried to forget that burden round the dinner-table of Government House, that very little would suffice to upset that unstable equilibrium of law and order, which—taken in conjunction with the peaceful law-abiding temperament of the people, is so remarkable in India."

But no review of this book can be complete which omits John Ellison, the loafer. It is most probable that Mrs. Steel is the only living woman who could have created either this man or Auntie Khojee. John Ellison is a creation as vivid, as unique, as Rudyard Kipling's Mulvaney, or Hans Breitmann.

The culminating point in the book is that in which John Ellison and Chris Davenant save the railway bridge, which the rioters are trying to raise, in order to wreck the approaching train full of troops. Neither man is seen again; but the authoress manifestly intends to infer that Chris escaped, and went back to native life and the love of the Hindu girl Naraini, leaving the odious Mrs. Chris to return to Hammersmith and the red 'bus in which her soul, if she had one, delighted. There is rare skill in the delineation of John Ellison's lingo, all English but the nouns and some verbs, which are Hindustani, and the whole excellently understood by the man in the street.

The adventure of Raymond and Lesley in the telegraph office is thrilling. Altogether, the book is thought out in every detail, is well-written, thoughtful, symmetrical; and it will set one studying over the future of the Rulers and the Ruled. G. M. R.

### Coming Events.

June 7th.—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' General Meeting in the Great Hall 3 p.m. Social gathering 4.30 p.m.

July 9th.—The Duchess of York opens the Victoria Convalescent Home for Women and the Princess Mary Memorial Home of Rest for Surrey Women, Bognor.

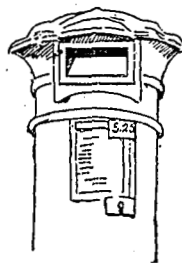
July 12th.—The Prince and Princess of Wales open the new buildings at Ladywell, S.E., for the aged and infirm poor of St. Olave's Union, 4.

July 16th.—The Duke and Duchess of York open the new Islington Parochial Infirmary at Highgate Hill.

July 19th.—London Hospital and Medical College: opening of the New Clubs Union Rooms and Garden, and distribution of prizes to the students and nursing probationers, 3.30.

## 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.*

### PERCOLATION versus PECULATION.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—As the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund has thought fit to state that the complaint of the Metropolitan Radical Federation is groundless, that it is encouraging the system of vivisection by giving large grants to the general hospitals which are affiliated to the medical schools licensed for vivisection, it is interesting to quote from the Annual Report of the Middlesex Hospital for the year 1896, when, as you may remember, the number of students admitted for teaching purposes had fallen to little over a dozen, and in consequence the fees paid by them did not meet the school expenses.

The report says:—"One of the most important events of the year is the accomplished fact of the permanent union of the Hospital and Medical School, which was effected under the schemes which received the approval of the Quarterly Court in August, together with the alterations in the laws thereby entailed. The Amalgamation Scheme has engaged the attention of your Board for over two years, the preliminary negotiations having been conducted by the late Chairman, Lord Sandhurst, and it appears in its final form to give great satisfaction to the authorities of the Hospital and School, both of which institutions will be greatly benefited by a closer identification of interests.

"Briefly stated, the scheme provides for the taking over by the Hospital, of all the property of the school, together with its existing liabilities, and the consequent remission of the debt formerly due from the School to the Hospital. Henceforth the Hospital will receive the gross income of the School and after the payment of the necessary charges, will provide, according to the profits obtained, a fixed annual sum for the remuneration of the Teaching Staff. These financial arrangements are subject to revision, if necessary, at the expiration of three years."

"In consequence of the amalgamation of the Hospital and School Finances, the sum of £7,300, the balance of the School Loan, has, on the recommendation of the Treasurers, been written off the books of the Hospital."

I observe that in the Report issued by the Prince's Fund in defence of the hospitals, it is stated—

"The utmost that can be made of the charge is that some minute unascertained portion of a grant for general purposes may have percolated under the administration of the hospital concerned into a medical school or laboratory. But even this has been guarded against, and, so far as the committee can ascertain, no such percolation has actually occurred."

Surely in face of the printed admission that the sum of £7,300 was advanced from public subscriptions by the

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