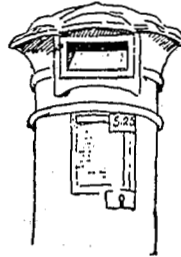


No English person ever speaks of Suffolkshire any more than Durhamshire; and more curious still, Captain Tabor, on page 12, is made to rejoice that he has had "fine head winds to swell the sails" all the way from England. Miss Wilkins evidently does not bicycle; if she did, she would know the meaning of a "head wind."

But it is ungenerous to carp at the slips of a really charming author; and warmly may the book before us be recommended, if only as a study of the character of a "very perfect knight." G. M. R.



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.

Poems.

"THE HEART OF A CHILD."

The heart of a child,
Like the heart of a flower,
Has a smile for the sun
And a tear for the shower.

O, innocent hours
With wonder beguiled—
O, heart like a flower's
In the heart of a child!

The heart of a child,
Like the heart of a bird,
With raptures of music
Is flooded and stirred.

O, songs without words,
O, melodies wild—
O, heart like a bird's
In the heart of a child!

The heart of a child,
Like the heart of the spring,
Is full of the hope
Of what summer will bring.

O, glory of things
In a world undefiled—
O, heart like the spring's
In the heart of a child!

From the *Phrenological Magazine*.

Coming Events.

October 18th.—Meeting of Executive Committee Matrons' Council, Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4 p.m.

October 20th.—Reception by the invitation of Miss Edith Debenham, "To inaugurate the St. Andrew's House Hotel and Club for Nurses," St. Andrew's House, Mortimer Street, W. 3 to 6.

October 23rd to 26th.—Annual meeting of the National Union of Women Workers. (The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland) at Brighton in the Dome and Pavilion. President the Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttleton.

Devotional Meeting 10 a.m. In the Rest Room. Sessional Meetings 10.30 to 1. 2.30 to 4.30. 8 to 10 p.m.

October 27th.—Annual meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund at the Mansion House.

THE OPEN QUESTION?

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read Dr. Wigglesworth's protest in the *British Medical Journal* with a feeling of sadness, and had I not believed that the columns of the Journal would be closed to a correspondent who was only a nurse, would have replied thereto. I also read your annotation, and Dr. Wigglesworth's reply to the same in the current number of the *NURSING RECORD*. In the last-named he makes a statement which is incontrovertible, and recoils upon himself, viz., "Persons who make dogmatic assertions should bear in mind that there are two sides to every question." It is almost incomprehensible that in his own dogmatic assertion that "to force the poor to bring their complaints before a female practitioner is a moral wrong of no mean order. . . . an outrage on the first principles of morality," he should have been blind to the "other side." If his contention were just, then it would follow logically that poor women are often (much oftener than men) subjected to that which is an outrage on morality. Most heartily do I endorse his experience that there is as much delicacy of feeling to be found amongst the poor as in the higher grades of society, but will he maintain that women have less "innate feeling of true modesty" than men? I hope not, nor in truth do I read his objection in that sense. I think rather that he relies on custom, which is undoubtedly on his side. This admission goes some way in supporting his view, for by custom we are inured to much that would otherwise seem intolerable. I wish, in justice, to give full weight to this consideration, but it does not demolish the "other side." Custom may blunt but does not destroy the instinctive reluctance to speak to one of the opposite sex in matters of sexual delicacy. Moreover, each patient approaches such consultation afresh from her own personal standpoint, and can be little helped by the experience of others.

I regret that Dr. Wigglesworth confined his reply to a defence of the "Open Question" statement, and refused to discuss the details on the ground that these in no way altered his contention. If there be still a question it rests upon those same details concerning which I for one would be glad to know his views and opinions. In all questions which chiefly affect women (there are none affecting them exclusively!) it is very difficult for a woman to see the matter from a man's standpoint, and useful therefore to have the opinions of men. Men should also try to understand the feelings of women, especially as they (men) only have legislative powers. I would recall to Dr. Wigglesworth the origin of the movement. It had birth, not in "public ferment," but in the suggestion of a woman sufferer. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell relates in her autobiography

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