

"The One Condition" is delightfully satisfactory and amusing. "The Third Person" is also a ghost story, and is excellently done, but the way in which the ghost is laid, is too ridiculous; for once the author allows us to see that he is laughing—even grinning—at his own story. That the ghost of a young man who was hanged for smuggling should be laid by his middle-aged spinster descendant succeeding in bringing some lace through the customs, rolled round her body, is simply broad farce; and Mr. James does not shine in farce.

Other very clever items of the collection are "Europe" and "The Tree of Knowledge." The latter especially is quite astonishingly able.

G. M. R.

Verses.

THE HUMAN OUTLOOK.

These things shall be! a loftier race
Than e'er the world hath known, shall rise
With flame of freedom in their souls,
And light of science in their eyes.

They shall be gentle, brave and strong,
To spill no drop of blood, but dare
All that may plant man's lordship firm
On earth, and fire, and sea, and air.

Nation with nation, land with land,
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and brain shall throb
The pulse of one fraternity.

New arts shall bloom of loftier mould
And mightier music thrill the skies,
And every life shall be a song,
When all the earth is paradise.

These things—they are no dreams—shall be
For happier men when we are gone;
Those golden days for them shall dawn,
Transcending aught we gaze upon.

J. A. SYMONDS.

What to Read.

- "A Daughter of the Fields." By Katherine Tynan.
"The Prayer of St. Scholastica, and other Poems." By Lady Lindsay.
"Oliver Cromwell." By John Morley.
"A Lifetime in South Africa: being the Recollections of the First Premier of Natal." By the Hon. Sir John Robinson, K.C.M.G.
"A Vizier's Daughter." By Lillias Hamilton, M.D.
"Annals of a Doss House." By Sydney Halifax.
"A Rogue in Love." By Tom Gallon.

Coming Events.

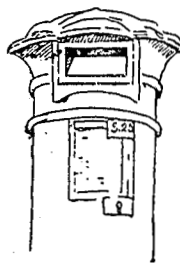
November 29th.—Sir R. Buller presides at a lecture on "Four Months in Beleaguered Ladysmith," by Mr. W. T. Maud, special artist of the *Graphic*, in aid of Central Throat and Ear Hospital, Grays Inn Road, Queen's Hall.

December 4th.—Social Gathering, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Nurses' Sitting Room, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4—7 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 NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CERTIFICATED NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—When you first suggested the formation of an "International Council of Nurses," I, as a firm believer in the strength of unity, was delighted. I felt that *now* perhaps a prospect was opening of drawing together not only the nurses of all nations, but of drawing the nurses of our own nation a little closer, for the mutual benefit and well being of all. Imagine my dismay when I read in the *NURSING RECORD* the proposed constitution of the "National League of Certificated Nurses," that only those holding the three years' certificate will be eligible as members, thereby leaving out all those nurses who were certificated before the advent of the three years' standard, and also those who are at present receiving maybe only one or two years training at their training schools.

I had hoped that the National League of Nurses would be the means of drawing a little closer together the various factions, which at the present moment obstruct all real progress, by giving each (through their delegates) an opportunity of knowing each other better and so eventually uniting them to obtain State Registration.

The Nurses who worked for the Charter of the R.B.N.A., were mostly those who did not hold the three years' certificate, but they were none the less willing to give what they could in every possible way, to raise the standard of the profession, knowing that they too shared all the privileges of membership.

The pioneers of that movement were far sighted enough to invite *all* classes of nurses to join, how that policy succeeded, the results of the first few years of the Association show.

We all know how deplorably low the status of that Association has fallen under the present mismanagement, but these things cannot last for ever, and some day we will hope, it will once more be in the van of progress. However, it is not of the R.B.N.A. I wish to write, but of the National League of Nurses, and to show that unless one happens to belong to the Matrons' Council, most of those nurses who trained in the eighties, and worked for the raising of the status of nurses and nursing, will *not* be admitted to the privilege of representation on the National League.

Mis Isla Stewart, in her book on "Practical Nursing," writing on Nursing as a Profession, remarks, "Even now, what that training is to consist of, its method, its *length*, and its *minimum standard* of efficiency, are matters of dispute rather than agreement. While this is so, it cannot be said that any material step has been taken towards the organisation of the Nursing Profession." This being so would it not do more good if

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