

you see. I can't take large views. I only know about my one little boy. If I were forced to leave him now, he would think me a traitor, and my own heart would be torn out by the roots. This is Nature. Perhaps Nature is only another name for God?"

There are many passages throughout the book which one would like to quote, were there space; notably the wonderful moment, on page 95, when William Hudson, clerk on a pound a week, realizes that the

"Sorrow which overwhelmed him bore a strange similitude to another sorrow, one he had gazed at from a remote distance, never dreaming it could be realized in his own life. . . . He was hanging on a cross, while passers by jeered, and said he must be wicked, else he could save himself and come down."

Indeed, throughout, a book to make one think.

G. M. R.

Verses.

THE POEM OF LIFE.

"Ere a babe is born to its bliss or harm
God takes the naked soul on His arm,
And whispers a great word in its ear,
So that it cannot choose but hear.

In whatever land that babe shall grow,
Whether the world will hear or no,
If he be strong, or if he be weak,
No other word his soul shall speak.

If the time be ripe, and he doth succeed,
In speaking the word in a noble deed,
With illumined fires and loud-peal'd bells,
We say: 'In our land a hero dwells.'

If in colour or music he breathe it out,
Each soul respondeth, and none shall doubt
That this is indeed the very word
Which before his birth from God he heard.

But, alas! our human tongues are slow,
And the world is fill'd with the noise of woe,
And seldom amid the din is heard
Clearly and loudly God's own word.

But when each soul shall fully speak
In its own accent, strong or weak,
The discord shall melt into music sweet
And the poem of God shall be complete."

CHARLES GRANT.

What to Read.

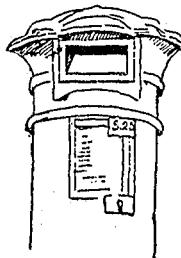
- "The Venetian Republic: Its Rise, Its Growth, and Its Fall." By W. Carew Hazlitt.
- "Madagascar, Mauritius, and the other East African Islands." By Professor Dr. C. Keller.
- "Helena Faucit (Lady Martin)." By Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.
- "Palace Tales: Tales of Burma and the Burmese Royal Household." By H. Fielding.
- "The Magic Mist, and Other Dartmoor Legends." By Eva C. Rogers.
- "The Slaves of Society: A Satire on Social Life and Usages."

Coming Events.

December 25th.—CHRISTMAS DAY.
January 1st.—The Twentieth Century.

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.

"WEEDING OUT."

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—It has been suggested that it would be interesting and helpful to have a discussion by correspondence between Matrons—on the questions raised by the action of the Committee of the Croydon Infirmary. An important point seems to be—How far is a Matron justified in retaining on the staff a nurse for three years, and then refusing her certificate? Would it not have been fairer both to the school and to the nurse, to have dismissed her earlier in her training. If a Matron's judgment is to be relied upon on the completion of the training, must it not also be exercised during the three years' course? May I also say how important it is both for the individual nurses and for the training school that the Matron should be helped and strengthened in the most responsible part of her work, as regards her nurses, by the co-operation of the Medical Superintendent.

Do we realize how we may make or mar a nurse's whole life by our action as regards her future.

We must not certificate incompetent women—but they must not be kept on the staff for the three years.

Yours, etc., E. C. SANDFORD,

Matron and Superintendent of Nurses.

City Hospital, Edinburgh.

December 4th, 1900.

SYMPATHY WITH MISS ROGERS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—A Guardian makes a capital suggestion, that a fund be opened to help Miss Rogers in her legal expenses; many, I am sure, would like to give their mite, I should be pleased to do so, although I do not now belong to the R.B.N.A.

It is not only Miss Rogers, but the whole system; the present state of affairs does not allow a nurse to do her duty, and for the sake of the nursing profession, inmates, and guardians themselves, the matter ought to be thoroughly gone into, not by Boards of Guardians, who are not trained nurses (and a great many are prepared to fight against a Superintendent Nurse before they see her) but by Inspectors of Workhouses and experienced trained Matrons, and there will not be peace until this has been done.

If you will kindly through your paper let it be known when a fund is started, Miss Rogers will find many helpers I am sure, and she ought to.

I am yours, ANNIE E. ROSSITER.
(late Superintendent Nurse.)

Shirley Cottage, Beulah Road,
Thornton Heath.

December 10th, 1900.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)