

the navy and the volunteers. The account of the last battle is very fine.

The personal side of the story is less well handled; it would have been better to omit it altogether. Tom Pratt, the little boots at a Liverpool hotel, who gets so strangely mixed up in the desperate adventures of Major Forster, is an amusing young person, though an impossible one; and having passed through such experiences in his company, one receives a sudden shock when he is curtly dismissed from the story, and we are informed that we have heard the last of him. The present reviewer is at a decided disadvantage in pronouncing judgment on invented military tactics, but certainly this story is written with a brave air of vraisemblance, which carries the reader in its train.

G. M. R.

Verse.

"TO THE FIRST SPROUTING BULB IN MY GARDEN."

Out of the garden bed,
Thrusting a glad, green head,
Comes this shining thing.
"I must off with the earth's dull clod;
I must up, nearer to God!"
This is its heralding.

"Good-bye to the dear earth—
The great God calls me to birth
In a world new begun."
Prophet of April's green,
Promise of flowers unseen,
Fruit of December's sun!

E. E. O. in the *Pilot*.

What to Read.

- "At the Gates of Song: Sonnets." By Lloyd Mifflin.
- "The French Monarchy" (1483-1789). By A. J. Grant, M.A.
- "Disciples of Æsculapius. With a Life of the Author, by his daughter, Mrs. Geo. Martin. By Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., F.R.S.
- "The Master Sinner." A Romance. By a Well-known Author.
- "French Life in Town and Country." By Hannah Lynch.
- "The Countess Cosel." A Romance of History of the Times of Augustus the Strong. By Joseph J. Kraszewski. Translated and edited by S. C. de Soissons.
- "A Narrow Way." By Mary Findlater.
- "The Monster." By Stephen Crane.

Coming Events.

February 26th.—Central Poor Law Conference at Guildhall (two days).

February 27th.—Paper by Mr. H. J. Manton (Birmingham) on "The Proper Use of Poor Law Infirmaries" and Discussion thereon. 2.30 p.m.

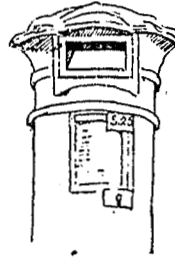
February 27th.—Annual meeting Royal Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Bridge Road, at the Mansion House, Lord Mayor presiding.

February 28th.—Annual meeting Central London Ophthalmic Hospital.

Annual court of governors of King's College Hospital.

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.

SHOULD NURSES PAY FOR THEIR TRAINING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Burr's Paper on the above question was in my opinion the more valuable because it is written by a nurse, and not a Matron, because it is so difficult for Matrons to see quite eye to eye with nurses, after they are placed in an official position by Committees who do not understand the nurses' point of view—as we know many of these gentlemen with the best intentions in the world do not. I am specially glad to observe that Miss Burr, whilst evidently in favour of just payment by probationers for benefits received, brings out the fact that nurses would pay something towards their training, even if they did not do so in hard cash, by giving their labour, and surely such labour after the first few months must be of very considerable value to the hospital which would otherwise incur very great expense for manual labour by domestic servants. I think all thinking nurses are agreed that we are evolving and that things cannot long remain as they are, but if we nurses are to pay for our training we must have "our pound of flesh," in other words, we must be *propitius* of a well organized nursing college—with a systematic curriculum of education provided—and we must have legal status by State Registration at the end of our training. Is it reasonable to suppose that sensible women are going to pay to remain the unprotected domestic servants of hospital committees and medical men, compelled to work in private nursing in competition with a horde of semi-trained, untrained and disreputable women, who, under unscrupulous patronage, pose as trained nurses, and make our vocation stink in the nostrils of decent persons?

The Burdetts, and Fardons, and Bezly-Thornes have done their best to suppress the justifiable attempt by conscientious matrons and nurses to accomplish by co-operation the necessary reforms in the nursing world—by "nobbling" the Nurses' Association and denying the very principles upon which the nurses founded their association. But public opinion is being aroused by the Matrons' Council, and your most courageous editorship of the *NURSING RECORD*, and these "wily wire-pullers" will no doubt be soon heard clamouring for the very reforms they have done their best to damp down. There is a perceptible change in the attitude of many medical men within the last few years in their relation to this question of nursing reform, and it is impossible day by day to read in the police columns of our daily papers the convictions of fraudulent nurses for forgery, theft, and false impersonations, and still worse criminal offences, without coming to the conclusion that legislation is necessary. A thousand thanks for the firm stand you are making.

Yours truly, late M.R.B.N.A.

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