

with which the unhappy girl's obsession is given to us. We may be forgiven for saying that we should not wonder if her lover grew rather sick of her letters from abroad, full of crude opinions on things which men have judged beforehand, and breathing out that pagan spirit which cannot appreciate the masterpieces of Christian art, because no pulse in the spectator responds to the message embodied in the painting or the statue or the building.

Pagan—absolutely pagan in their very essence. But they should be read, as a subtle indication of that reaction to which I have tried to call attention, that turning of the tide in favour of man as the all-absorbing end of woman, and woman as the legitimate amusement of man, of which we seem to be catching glimpses in the newest literature; which is indeed, to my mind, bound to come, if the Christian ideal be obliterated in the minds of men and women. G. M. R.

New Year Song.

We climb the hill; the mist conceals
That valley where we could not stay;
Surely this hill's crest, gained, reveals
The glory of the sunlit day.
The hill is climbed. Still shadow-land—
Still darkling looms another hill.
Oh! weary feet! climb that to find
A new ascent, 'mid shadows still!
We dare not stop to think of rest,
This one hill may be all that lies
Between us and our souls' desire—
The splendour of the eastern skies.
Through long, long lives we till and tend,
Sow, weed, and water, all in vain;
Without the flower we looked to find
Each year springs blooms and dies again.
Bowed down with our unanswered prayers,
Our face averted from our past,
We watch each year grow green, and cry,
"Surely this brings our flower at last!"
Failure on failure! Heart, dare you die
When this new year may bud and bear
Your longed-for flower of Liberty?

E. NESBIT.

What to Read.

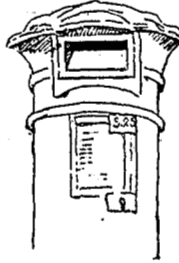
- "Poems: Translations from Philostratus and Original Pieces." By Percy Osborn.
- "Ideals in Ireland." Edited by Lady Gregory, and written by W. B. Yeats, "A. E.," George Moore, D. P. Moran, Standish O'Grady, and Douglas Hyde.
- "The Fourth Generation." By Walter Besant.
- "The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg, etc." By Mark Twain.
- "The Yellow Man." By Carlton Dawe.

Coming Events.

January 10th.—Matrons' Council Meetings: 3 p.m., Buffalo Delegate Fund Committee; 3.45 p.m., "Nursing Directory" Committee; 4.15 p.m., Executive Committee; 4.30 p.m., General Council—Annual Meeting.

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.

CIRCULAR WARDS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—Will you kindly give us your views through the medium of the NURSING RECORD of "Circular Wards." There are still two pavilions to be built in connection with this hospital, and it is hoped before long the work will be started, and it is estimated that the complete cost will be £46,000.

If I can possibly manage it I intend next year to go to England, thence to Buffalo for the Nursing Congress. I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you there.

To-morrow evening the members of the Prince Alfred Trained Nurses' Reunion will meet in the Nurses' Home; a paper will be read on "Nursing Ethics" by Miss Blanche Bricknell, member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. At the conclusion I propose to tell the members all I know about the International Council of Nurses.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

S. B. MCGAHEY.

Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney,
November 26th, 1900.

[We are delighted to hear that Miss McGahey, who is the Councillor for the Commonwealth of Australia on the International Council of Nurses, is to be at the New Century Celebrations at Buffalo. What interesting meetings will take place! We have asked the Matrons of Hospitals where Circular Wards are in use to give us the benefit of their experience from a nursing point of view, and hope next week to insert their answers. If Circular Wards are in use at any hospital where we have not inquired we shall be very grateful for opinions from the same.—ED.]

WEEDING OUT.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I quite agree with "A Martinet" that numbers of weak women—mentally and physically—are now bolstered up and piloted through their training with disastrous results generally. I know one hospital, where the medical adviser to the nursing staff has entire power from the committee, to grant three months' leave of absence, without any reference to the Matron, and it is an open secret that this condition of affairs leads to no end of malingering upon the part, of course, of undesirable probationers, who do not hesitate to "skulk," and cause disorganization of work in the wards whenever they find it convenient to need a change. The Matron is powerless—any protest on her part being put down to her persecuting proclivities.

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