

lingers about the patriarchal household is distilled for us drop by drop with singular simplicity and cunning by Paul Waineman. The army of women in the kitchen drinking coffee—the housekeeper—"Mamsell"—always so courteously addressed by the dear little Baroness—the monosyllabic fishermen, the bare-footed women sweeping the garden paths, or dusting the chairs in the saloon, each of them armed with—a sea-gull's feather!!" Picture it, ye modern women!

The growth of passion between the lovely Ingrid and the Russian visitor is also very successfully given. The heart beats more strongly, the breath comes faster in the reading. It is excellent, sympathetic writing. But there the power of the writer stops short. He can describe the situation, but he can think of no way out. He brings his couple into a cul de sac, and there leaves them, with a mournful minor chord, like the haunting melodies he describes as being the heritage of his countrymen. Peace has fled from Fridholm. Aching heart, unsatisfied passion, unavailing regret, are left there. The incursion of the outside world, in the person of Count Rostoff, has meant desolation; the spell is broken; the Prince from without has awakened the Princess, only to find that she was betrothed in her previous existence, and that the truth must be kept.

After all, there is a note of modernity in this Finnish writer. The soul emerges from unconsciousness to the consciousness of suffering, and is there left; no further stage is possible to the author. On the surface the book seems very light literature; but there is an under-current of depth in its simplicity.

G. M. R.

Verse.

Not all who seem to fail have failed indeed,
Not all who fail have therefore worked in vain,
For all our lives to many issues lead
To work out God's own purpose, pure and plain.
The Lord will fashion in His own good time
Such ends as in His wisdom fittest chime
With love's sublime eternal harmonies.
There is no failure to the good and wise.

What to Read.

"Lord Kelvin, G.C.V.O." By John Munro.
"Autobiography of Sir Walter Besant." With a Prefatory Note by S. Squire Sprigge.
"Facts about Flogging." By Joseph Collinson.
"The Inconsequences of Sara." By Danae May.
"A Girl of the Multitude." By the author of "The Letters of Her Mother to Elizabeth."

Coming Events.

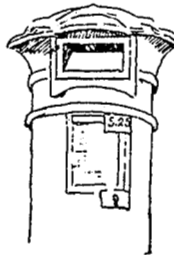
Thursday, April 10th.—Lord Hillingdon presides at the Festival Dinner of the Metropolitan Hospital at the Whitehall Rooms.

Monday, April 28th.—Sir John Cockburn presides at the Annual Festival of King's College Hospital at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole.

Wednesday, April 30th.—Annual Ball in aid of the London Hospital Convalescent Home at Tankerton, at the Grafton Gallery.

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 MIDWIVES' REGISTER OF THE L.O.S.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In a recent issue of your valuable journal you reported the statement of a member of the Standing Committee on Law when considering the Midwives' Bill, that since 1872 the London Obstetrical Society has examined 7,500 persons, 6,527 of whom are still on its register, which would form an excellent nucleus for the new body of midwives. The statement interested me because I gained the diploma of this body more than twelve years ago, and presumably am one of the 6,527 persons on the register, but as the Society has never communicated with me from that day to this, nor so far as I am aware with any of my acquaintance who have gained its diploma or certificate, of what possible value can this register be for the practical purpose mentioned above? I may be married, dead, or the other side of the world for all the London Obstetrical Society knows about me. Those who have had any practical experience of the difficulty of keeping registers up to date can best form some estimate of the correctness of one when the authority which maintains it never communicates with those whose names are entered upon it.

Yours faithfully,

L. O. S.

MEDICAL STORES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I understand from a statement in your last issue that medical stores are now being accumulated by the Admiralty, so that in the event of a naval war four hospital ships could be rapidly equipped. This Government office is no doubt shaking hands with itself over its prevision in this particular, but is it nobody's duty to inform it that medical stores, and indeed stores of any kind, deteriorate by keeping? Ten, five, even two years hence, the large proportion of these stores will be practically useless, though, no doubt, an economical department will insist upon their being used up before buying more.

If the report commonly circulated be true that the surplus bully beef purchased at the time of the Crimean War has been consumed by Tommy during the present one, then the sister Service at the War Office might usefully advise the Admiralty as to the quality of stores which have been kept for an indefinite time. In any case some expert information should be given to it on the subject, not only for the prestige of the department, but also because it is unfair on the British taxpayer who after all has to bear the brunt of such incompetent arrangements that he should pay his bills twice over. Nine women out of ten could furnish a reliable report if invited.

Yours obediently,
AN UNENFRANCHISED FEMALE.

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