

guise in the person of Hannah, the cruel, narrow, ultra-respectable strict woman. But one need not believe that Mrs. Clifford intended her for a type; and we need not suspect so able an author of trying to persuade us that religion has a bad effect on character, because it failed to accomplish its purpose in the small mind of poor Hannah. The partial conversion of Hannah, and the frantic prayer to the Christ in whom she does not believe, of Margaret, under pressure of great sorrow, make us acquit the writer of any such unworthy motive in the writing of her fascinating story.

G. M. R.

### Verses.

Gray hills, gray skies, gray lights,  
And still, gray sea—  
O fond, O fair  
The Mays that were,  
When the wild days and wilder nights  
Made it like heaven to be!

Gray head, gray heart, gray dreams—  
O, breath by breath,  
Night-tide and day  
Lapse gentle and gray,  
As to a murmur of tired streams,  
Into the haze of death.

By W. E. HENLEY.

From "Hawthorn and Lavender."

### What to Read.

"All the Russias." Travels and Studies of Contemporary Conditions and Problems in European Russia, Finland, Siberia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. By Henry Norman, M.P.

"The Real Siberia, together with an Account of a Dash through Manchuria." By John Foster Fraser.

"Out in China." By Mrs. Archibald Little.

"A Hero of Donegal: Dr. William Smith." By Frederick Douglas How.

### Coming Events.

May 27th.—Sir Edward Sassoon, Bt., M.P., presides at the festival dinner of the City of London Hospital for Chest Diseases, Victoria Park.

May 27th.—Westminster Hospital Ball at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington.

May 28th.—Chelsea Hospital for Women, annual meeting of the governors, the Lord Glensk in the chair.

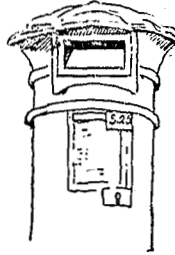
May 29th.—Annual Conference Matrons' Council, Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, 2.30 p.m.—Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair.

May 30th.—Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square. Address by Miss Louisa Stevenson, 3 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 BABY'S BATH.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I note that Mr. Grimsdale, in his interesting article on the "Nursing of Diseases of the Eye," says that during an infant's first bath care should be taken that the eyes are not touched, even by the water of the bath, as the discharge from the body of the child, even when diluted, is still able to act as a source of infection. But, surely, neither at the time of its first bath, nor subsequently, should a child's eyes be bathed after it is placed in the bath. My own plan, and I believe that of most well-trained maternity nurses, is to wrap the child when ready for its bath in a bath towel, and supporting its head in the left hand, hold it over the bath, and bathe each eye separately, away from the nose, with absorbent wool which can afterwards be destroyed, and then to wash the face, using no soap. The child should then be laid on the nurse's lap, she of course wearing a flannel apron, and beginning with the head (not the face) be well soaped from top to toe. It is then placed in the bath, supported on the nurse's left arm and sponged, with the exception of the face. If the child's eyes were bathed when it is in its tub I should certainly expect it to get what are known to nurses as "sore eyes" or more correctly *ophthalmia neonatorum*. I think some person having practical experience might well give some demonstrations to nurses on the bathing of infants, for as many of them do not obtain maternity training they know nothing of this important duty, and as at any time if nursing in a children's ward they may have to care for sick infants, it appears to me most important that they know how to wash healthy ones.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MATERNITY NURSE.

### THE CASE FOR HOSPITAL NURSES.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—May I endorse your view in connection with the scheme for the re-organisation of the Paris hospitals, that the value of building new hospitals, perfect from a structural point of view, is comparatively little if, at the same time, the nursing arrangements are not brought up to date. One has seen it in relation to Poor Law Infirmaries many of which are most admirable architecturally, and yet, when the nursing department is not organised in conformity with modern knowledge, the patients are very little better off than they were in old buildings. One realises more and more as one observes institutions where lack of discipline prevails amongst the nurses,

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