

how, in a sense, it was "good for Vera that she had been in trouble"; and yet how the consequence of the wrong-doing dogged her footsteps and poisoned her happiness. And all this, including the supreme moment in which Vera "finds God," without one word of cant, without one suspicion of preaching. It is the relation of a vital experience, and as a result vitally interesting.

The children, too, are delightful studies—Vera's half brothers and sisters, to whom she acts the part of mother after the loss of their own.

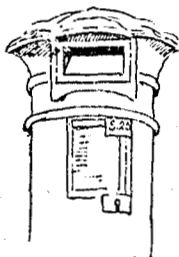
Their relations with each other and with her are all evidently the result of most sympathetic study. In fact, there is so much human nature in this book as to confirm one more and more in the idea that the physician is the person who gets most insight into human documents, and should make the best novelist if he have a taste that way.

Every woman should read "The Way of Escape."

G. M. R.

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 ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE MIDWIFE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—When several years ago a separate List of Midwives appeared in the printed Roll of Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, very little notice was taken of the matter by the amenable supporters of the Hon. Officers, and the fact that this List had been printed and the names of some 200 nurse members inserted without their consent—or, indeed, without the Association being consulted at all—aroused no public protest from those concerned. Of course, the fact that a very important professional principle was involved presumably never occurred to them. The Royal Charter of Incorporation of the Royal British Nurses' Association authorised a List of Nurses—and trained nurses contend that midwives are *not* nurses, any more than they are dentists or chemists, so that Mr. Fardon and his colleagues had no more right to incorporate a list of midwives in the Nurses' Roll than they had to insert a list of dentists or chemists. But here one of the most contentious questions as between the medical and nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association has again arisen, the medical men have always been desirous of recognising specialists, whilst the Matrons strongly disapprove of the principle of separate lists of midwives, asylum attendants, children's nurses, etc.

Now that Parliament is determined to register midwives as special practitioners, Mr. Fardon finds himself in a hole with his Royal British Nurses' Association list, and is actually attempting to make terms with the promoters of the Midwives' Bill to exempt his nurse midwives from the penalties mentioned in the Bill.

Such a suggestion is worthy of its suggester, and is as absurd as it is unjust.

The truth is, the Midwives' Bill knocks the bottom out of Mr. Fardon's Royal British Nurses' Association list, and if it becomes law the latter must be deleted from the Nurses' Roll, and, considering that it was rank folly ever to insert it, the Hon. Officers will have themselves to thank for one more humiliation.

If nurses want to practice as medical practitioners or midwives, it is only just they should prove themselves qualified, and be registered by the Medical or Midwives' Boards, and to expect Parliament to make unjust concessions for a couple of hundred nurses approved by Mr. Fardon is ridiculous. Anyway, he has been twice outvoted in the Royal British Nurses' Association Council on the question, which is a hopeful sign for the future of that Association.

Yours truly,

ONLOOKER.

NURSING AT THE BENDIGO HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In your issue of 22nd March there is a paragraph commenting upon the recent change in the Matronship of the Bendigo Hospital, this is evidently founded upon a partial and inaccurate statement furnished to you.

Ever since the appointment of the late Matron there was friction between herself and the nursing and the working staff, resulting in resignations, charges and counter charges, investigated at great length by the Board, till at last the Sister in Charge of No. 4 Ward lodged a written complaint against the Matron. A copy of this was handed to the Matron, and she was directed to send a written reply to the Medical Superintendent. The Board directed the Medical Superintendent to make full enquiry into the existing state of affairs, and to report to the next Board meeting. The doctor spent several days; the Matron attended, and supplemented her written statement by further written evidence. A large number of nurses and servants were examined, and the Doctor's report and recommendations were submitted to the Board of Management.

The following are extracts from the report:—

There is a deplorable state of ill-feeling between the Matron and a section of the nursing staff.

The constant bickerings and recriminations are a source of worry and annoyance.

For the good of the hospital it is imperative this state of affairs should be promptly ended.

I am convinced it is impossible for the Matron ever again to maintain discipline among her subordinates or ever again live in harmony with them.

Therefore I respectfully urge the Board to adopt the following recommendations:—

That the Matron's tenure of office be terminated by one month's notice with a view to the Board making other arrangements.

There were other recommendations respecting other members of the staff, but they in no way affect this case or your comments thereon.

Prior to the Board Meeting the Matron was informed that the report of the Medical Superintendent was unfavourable to her, and she sent in her resignation, and specially asked that it should be dealt with before the doctor's report was considered. This was conceded, and the board voted £25 to her on leaving.

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