

The character of Rachel Bickersteth might have been made impressive, had it been followed up; but she has no real part in the story, and so sinks away, inarticulate. To the lay mind, perhaps the cleverest scene is that in which the unscrupulous Felshammer gets himself made manager of the business of Bickersteth and Sachs.

Much in the book is smart and cleverly put in. The two sisters of Mr. Gloucester are excellent studies; but, indeed, most of the characters are real—all, perhaps, except Prince Paul. G. M. R.

### What to Read.

"A Christmas Poesy of Carols, Songs, and other Pieces." By Lady Lindsay.

"Letters of Dorothea Princess Lieven during Her Residence in London, 1812-1834." Edited by Lionel G. Robinson.

"Just So Stories for Little Children." By Rudyard Kipling.

"The River." By Eden Phillpotts.

"The Princess of Hanover." By Margaret L. Woods.

"Fuel of Fire." By Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler.

"His Majesty Baby." By Ian Maclaren.

### Coming Events.

October 13th.—A Non-Party Women's Protest Meeting against the Education Bill on account of the Disqualification of Women being a Three-fold Injustice:—

1. Towards Women;
2. Towards Children;
3. Towards the Electorate.

Lady Strachey in the chair. St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

October 15th.—Mass Meeting Women's Liberal Federation to Protest against Education Bill, Countess of Aberdeen in the chair, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

October 16th.—Meeting at St. George's Hospital to consider measures for obtaining more extended public support, 4 p.m.

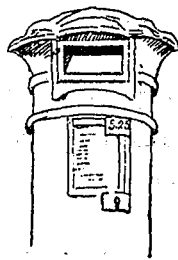
October 24th.—Meeting Provisional Committee Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, 5 p.m.

October 25th.—Royal Progress of their Majesties the King and Queen through the streets of London.

October 26th.—Their Majesties attend the Coronation Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

October 28th to 31st.—The Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland in St. Cuthbert's Halls, Edinburgh—President, the Lady Battersea—including Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, October 30th, 10.30 to 1.

October 30th.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council, The Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4 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.*

#### SHOULD SISTERS DIET THE PATIENTS?

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Permit me to draw the attention of your readers to the fact that a system of ward management which works admirably in a large and busy London hospital is not always the best suited to the needs of a provincial hospital with 50 to 100 beds, and to express the opinion that there is something to be said for Ward Sisters dieting the patients within a limited degree. For instance, in all well-ordered institutions there is a prescribed diet list from which the feeding of the patients in the abstract is easily arranged by the medical officer. But the condition of the patients fluctuates from day to day, and it is in watching with keen observation, and keeping in hourly touch with their needs, that a woman shows herself a good nurse and a good ward administrator or the reverse, and it is such domestic details as changing of diets that it is almost impossible for busy house doctors to direct, with the best care of the sick. For instance, a patient on meat diet has been ordered an aperient; the medicine may or may not have acted, the patient may be feeling sick—not up to the mark. Sister going her rounds in the morning notices his state. Must she order chop or steak, knowing full well that it will not be eaten, or is it not permissible for her to order a bit of boiled fish or some light refreshment which he will relish and digest? Surely the laws of the Medes and Persians are not suited to the dietary of sick people, always, of course, remembering in a public hospital that there is a prescribed limit to the procurable diets, and that any change is reported to the medical officer at his next round. Where the discipline of dieting is too rigid, I feel sure the patients suffer, and some discretion should be left to an intelligent Ward Sister.

With regard to the question of "Behind the Times," "is it customary in the present day for Ward Sisters to administer aperients and enemata, and even to pass the catheter on female patients, without orders from the house surgeon and entirely on their own responsibility?" there can be but one answer. Certainly not, where the training-school is conducted on well-disciplined lines.

Yours truly,  
A COUNTRY MATRON.

#### THE NURSING OF CHRONIC CASES.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—There is an expression of much nice feeling in a "Trained Nurse's" letter in last week's issue, and it is very disheartening to own that it is becoming daily more difficult to obtain and keep nurses to attend on chronic cases, and, indeed, in my experience it is only in Sisterhoods that these poor

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