

week. Much solitude and communing with Nature has made him full of simple faith. He pores over the New Testament, until it almost seems as if the Christ walked with him on the lonely moor.

But, says the author, from the heights of his own knowledge,—

"Of the Christianity of churches he knew nothing; of the sacerdotal structure, lifted to its present altitudes through centuries of human ineptitude and human craft, he was profoundly unaware. The machinery of the sacraments, and kindred conceits, he had not discovered in the record," &c.

This suggests that the writer himself may be profoundly unaware that the "machinery of the sacraments" was in full swing before a line of the "record" was penned, or that the men who penned it one and all held the Sacramental system to be vital to Christianity. It also explains the fact, duly noted by the author, though probably without comprehension of its significance, that poor Nicholas's religion failed him wholly at the supreme crisis of his life.

This unsophisticated, big, simple, honest Nicholas sees, and falls in love with, Hannah Bradridge, daughter of the landlady of the "Ring o' Bells" at Two Bridges. (Is this Postbridge?)

Timothy Oldreive is the rival suitor, and, as owner of land and money, much preferred by Hannah's mother, who resolutely shuts her eyes to the man's bad character. Timothy, though he admires Hannah, has many other strings to his bow, and a certain amount of struggle takes place in his mind previous to submitting to the yoke of matrimony. Piqued at this, Hannah engages herself to Nicholas, whom she really prefers. The treachery with which Timothy robs him of her cannot here be told. Perhaps the most impressive moment in the book is when Nicholas takes his gun, goes to Oldreive's house to shoot him on the eve of the wedding-day, and is the unseen spectator of the misery of the guilty couple.

After a while Nicholas gets engaged to Mary Merle, who worships him. Then Timothy is dramatically removed, and Hannah is free. Nicholas has to grapple with this complicated moral situation: If he marries Mary, Hannah will be miserable, he will be miserable, and Mary—who released him from his engagement when she heard Hannah was a widow—must surely be miserable too. If he marries Hannah, he fears it will ruin Mary's life. He makes up his mind to adopt the course which means wretchedness to three people, rather than that which means wretchedness to one. Whether Mary accepts the sacrifice we are not told.

G. M. R.

### What to Read.

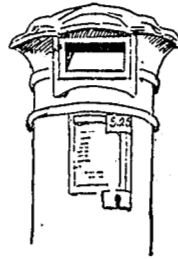
"The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem." Being a History of the English Hospitallers of St. John, their Rise and Progress. By Rev. W. K. R. Bedford and Lieut.-Col. Richard Holbeche, respectively Genealogist and Librarian of the Order.

"Wit and Wisdom of Modern Women Writers." Selected by Frances Tyrrell-Gill.

"Through Hidden Shensi." By Francis H. Nichols.

"Mrs. Craddock." By William Somerset Maugham.

"The Story of Mary Maclane." By Herself.



### 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.*

#### OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*  
Miss Milne begs to acknowledge, with many thanks, the prize of one guinea which she was so fortunate as to gain in the puzzle competition.  
Cornelia Hospital, Poole.

#### SHOULD SISTERS DIET THE PATIENTS? *To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I don't quite grasp "Behind the Times" arguments. Does she mean that the little extras for the patients are needlessly or improperly called for by the Sisters? If so, of course it should be stopped at once. But, otherwise, it is the duty of every good Sister to see that, as far as practicable, her patients have, within the limits of the medical man's orders, food that they like and can eat. If "Benger's Food" is called for regularly, I require it to be written for on the diet card and signed by the visiting medical man, but if Sister came to me for some Benger, "to try if I can get Mrs. Jones to take it," I, knowing Mrs. Jones's failing appetite, would immediately produce it. And there are certain harmless extras such as jelly, gelatine for milk jelly, Quaker oats, and the like, which I never refuse to a Sister in reason. It makes the nursing so much easier. Many a patient who is sick of milk will take milk jelly; and a patient who is refusing his breakfast will take a cup of porridge, and so forth. To give a patient a cup of cocoa in place of tea is not altering his diet. Of course, I am not speaking of patients who are being strictly dieted by the medical man. Of all things committees are most lenient about food for the patients. The first year I held my present post I found it necessary to spend about £400 more than my predecessor on food.

The Committee wanted to know whether it could be done cheaper, and I told them Yes, but that I neither could nor would do it cheaper, as it could not be done properly for less. And I have ever since found them most considerate and reasonable on the subject.

A COUNTY HOSPITAL MATRON.

#### THE ROLL OF THE R.B.N.A.

DEAR MADAM,—You say, in your remarks about the Roll of the Royal British Nurses' Association, that "nurses who paid their money in June, 1901, find their names printed for the first time in November, 1902." This is untrue, as the names of Miss Eveline M. Dawson and Miss Ellen Hailey, who were registered on June 14th, 1901, both appear in the Roll issued last year for 1901, so have not had to "possess their souls in patience for at least eighteen months before receiving the very doubtful equivalent of their money." There may be mistakes on the Roll, but we nurses must recollect that all the work done for our benefit

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)