

Hope gave us the glitter and the champagne. Here we have the actuality:—

"'It's as good as being married, without the bother of a husband,' said Ethel to Vera. And Vera replied:

"'It's a sight better, for we are minus brats and taxes, and plus a latch-key.'

"A latch-key was a matter of vital importance to the ladies who lived in Bachelors' Buildings, though none of them, so far as anyone could learn, made any very tremendous use of it. For the most part they were soberly in bed by half-past ten, except when they went to a performance at the theatre, or a lecture on freethought, or universal peace, or some other mental dissipation. Still, a latch-key is a sign of freedom, and the ladies in Bachelors' Buildings were free. They entertained their friends, male and female—females very greatly predominated—as they pleased. It is true that is a prerogative permitted to girls in their fathers' homes, but the entertainment seems more really your own if you boil your own sixpenny-halfpenny kettle on your own spirit stove and pull your own biscuit box out from under your own wicker chair. At least, so it seemed to the younger dwellers in the buildings. For the most part they were young; the majority ranged between eighteen and twenty-eight. But, of course, there were some who were older; they entertained fewer friends, and cared less about the latch-key; also they treated the King's English more respectfully, but they seemed to enjoy life less. After thirty the dwellers in the buildings were spinsters, up to that age they were bachelors; it was the bachelors who had named the buildings, which in the directory were known by another name."

It may be remarked that the researches for which Mark sacrificed everything else were in no sense inspired by a desire to benefit humanity in general, but that their motive seems to have been purely commercial. When he has succeeded in producing a marketable dye his scientific ambition is satisfied, and he sets to work to make money in the frankest manner. He is the least lovable of heroes.

G. M. R.

What to Read.

"The Papal Monarchy: From Gregory the Great to Boniface VIII. (590—1303)." By William Barry, D.D.

"Memoirs of Paul Kruger." Told by Himself.

"The Old Bailey and Newgate." By Charles Gordon.

"The Serf." By C. Ranger-Gull.

"Tales about Temperaments." By John Oliver Hobbes.

"Cecilia: a Story of Modern Rome." By Francis Marion Crawford.

"Words to Women Workers." By Lady Battersea. (In the *Empire Review*).

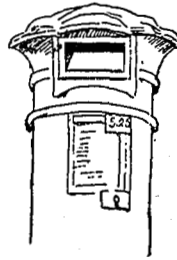
"A Child at the Helm." By Winifred Graham.

"At Sunwich Port." By W. W. Jacobs.

"Aspirations." By Constance West.

Coming Event.

December 8th.—Meeting at St. Andrews House to discuss State Registration of Trained Nurses, by the kind permission of Miss Edith Debenham. Tea and coffee, 8.30 p.m.



Letters to the Editor. NOTES, QUÉRIES, &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.

"LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is turning its attention to the education of the public in the necessity for this reform. The public have an enormous stake in the question; which they are not slow to realise when the matter is placed clearly before them; moreover, they are the employers of nurses, and if they learn to desire the guarantee afforded by registration they will work to obtain its enforcement. Being independent, they can look at the question from an unbiased point of view, and are not amenable to pressure from economic and personal motives.

On the other hand, those who have endeavoured to arouse in nurses the conscience to carry out this reform know, and none should know better than yourself, the difficulties which beset the movement. Women are a most dependent class, and the nursing section the most dependent of all. They depend both on the public and on the medical profession for support, and they shirk touching any contentious question because they think it will interfere with their professional prospects, and, self-interest being the strongest impulse with most people, I do not personally think that registration of nurses will ever be accomplished by themselves. Reform, and consequently reformers, are never popular; not, at least, until the end desired has been achieved. Many nurses, therefore, may conceive it to be their duty to stand aside; but, if so, then their position must be understood by the public, they must not be regarded as unbiased witnesses. And it is to the public we must appeal; the public who are our employers, the public whose opinion must require evidence of definite professional knowledge before trusting their lives to the care of women who claim to be nurses. That it was right the gospel of registration should first be preached to nurses is unquestionable. It was due to them that they should have the opportunity of effecting their own professional salvation.

But whenever I think of the registration movement I am irresistibly reminded of the attitude adopted by St. Paul and St. Barnabas, when they preached at Antioch and achieved a certain amount of success. "When the Jews saw the multitudes they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming." It is observable that they did not disprove anything the Apostle asserted, but adopted the tactics of obstructionists all the world over. Did the Apostles pay any heed to them, or wait till the leading Jews came round to their way of thinking? Not at all. They knew well enough that reform movements neither begin nor are carried through by those in high places. Were they

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