

ignorance if we pooh-pooh as the vapourings of an unbalanced mind well-authenticated evidence of psychic conditions. The day has gone by in the domain of medicine for the designation of all nervous diseases by the generic term of hysteria. We know now that hysteria is but a term which implies that medical wisdom is unable to make an accurate diagnosis. Is it not time that we also recognised the futility of contemptuously rejecting the occurrence of all phenomena in the unseen world which are unaccountable in our present stage of knowledge, and owned that persons exist who are suffering neither from delusions nor hysteria when they assert that they have seen and heard things which are a closed book to most of us? It is not unreasonable to assume that, as in the animal and human world some nervous organisations are more highly developed than others, so in connection with the unseen here and there certain persons are endowed with spiritual antennæ which enable them to penetrate further than the majority of mankind. Thus we shall be saved from the unscientific frame of mind which assumes that the unknown and the impossible are interchangeable terms.

If we approach "The Dream and the Man" in this spirit, we shall find nothing incredible in the story of Honor Gray, who, when the tale opens, is living in "the destitution which spoke her virtuous," and who obtains temporary relief from the dreariness of her existence by her visits, when asleep, to the dream house, to which she ultimately comes into actual possession. The story shall not be spoiled in interest by an epitome of its plot. The wheel of fortune plays strange pranks, and none stranger than that by which the happiness of Honor and "the Man" is ultimately secured.

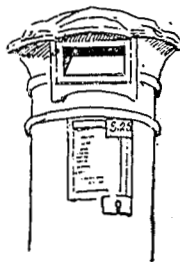
M. B.

### Future Life.

Sweet! in the land to come we'll feed on flowers;  
Droop not, my child. A happy place there is;  
Know you it not (all pain and wrong shut out)?  
Where man may mix with angels. You and I  
Will wander there with garlands on our brows  
And talk of music. We will shed no tears,  
Save those of joy: nor sighs, unless for love.  
Look up, and straight grow happy. We may live  
There without fear: no mother there, no gold,  
Nor hate, nor human perfidy, none, none.

### What to Read.

- "The Youth of La Grande Mademoiselle." By Arvede Barine. Authorised English version by I. G. Meyer.
- "The Brunt of the War, and Where it Fell." By Emily Hobhouse.
- "Selected Poems." By William Watson.
- "Tales about Temperaments." By John Oliver Hobbes (Mrs. Craigie).
- "Hidden Manna." By A. J. Dawson.
- "Love and Louisa." By Madame Albanesi.
- "Mrs. Craddock." By W. S. Maugham.
- "Lavender and Old Lace." By Myrtle Reed.
- "The Charity Ghost." By Tom Gallon.
- "The Other Man." By Martin J. Pritchard.



### 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.

#### PRIVATE NURSING AT SWANSEA.

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

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to a statement in your last week's issue to the effect that upon a motion of mine the Committee of the Swansea Hospital has decided to start a private nursing department, with a view to making "money for the charity out of nursing labour."

This is not the first time that my position with regard to this question has been, apparently wilfully, misrepresented in your journal. Though I have hitherto ignored these unfounded allegations, in the present instance, inasmuch as the Hospital with which I have the honour to be connected is implicated, I feel called upon to reply.

I shall be obliged if in common fairness you will with this letter publish in full the last paragraph of the Report of the Hon. Medical Staff (p. 13 of the Annual Report) of the Swansea Hospital for the years 1901-2, which I enclose. This report was drawn up by myself and adopted by my colleagues, and represents the attitude of the Committee of the Hospital on the question of private nursing. It likewise, I think you will admit, gives the "lie direct" to the statement above referred to.

The want of accuracy on the part of your informant is only equalled by the irony of the position which he (or she) creates:—In 1891 that excellent institution the Nurses' Co-operation was founded, its object being to secure to nurses full remuneration for their work; in other words, to stamp out the then prevailing practice of sweating nurses whether by private individuals or by hospitals. How thoroughly that object has been achieved you must be well aware. I had the privilege of serving both on the provisional committee and on the first executive with, among others, Mrs. Emmett Large (then Miss Philippa K. Hicks), Sir Henry (then Mr.) Burdett, Messrs. Chester, Slaughter, Bernard-Pitts, and Dr. Goodheart, while among the bitterest opponents to the movement was the *Nursing Record*.

In conclusion, I would suggest that for the credit of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and the *Nursing Record* you should seek a correspondent in Swansea whose regard for veracity bears some proportion to his (or her) creative faculty.—I am;

Yours faithfully,

W. J. Brook, F.R.C.S.,

Senior Surgeon to, and Chairman of  
the Medical Staff of, the Swansea Hospital.  
Swansea, December 11th, 1902.

P.S.—I am sending the above with a marked copy of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, &c., to the editor of the *Hospital*, with a request to publish same.—W. J. B.

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