

When Miriam, at the eleventh hour, is carried from the burning city by Gallus, the Roman captain, and taken to Rome to walk in the Triumph of Titus, and sentenced to be sold in the slave market to the highest bidder, the interest of the tale waxes high. Marcus buys her, over the head of the agent of Domitian, with half his fortune, and this gives the occasion for what should have been the great scene of the book.

Marcus has risked not only half his wealth, not only his life, but his honour also, to save the woman he loves. She is his slave by Roman law. All he asks is that she becomes his honoured wife. This, on account of the difference in their faith, she will not do, neither will she accept the perfunctory baptism which he offers as the price of her consent. It is here that the author notably fails. Though the right note is struck in the scene, it is struck by a hand which cannot harmonise it into greatness. The author comes so near achievement that one feels all the more sorry for his failure.

G. M. R.

### Only One Life.

We pass this way but once.  
Then weave thy robe with care,  
Life's robe ill-spun  
Is ne'er undone;  
The robe we weave we wear.

We pass this way but once.  
Then live to-day thy best,  
In all you do  
Be kind and true,  
With God leave all the rest.

We pass this way but once.  
The ripened harvest white  
Has waited long  
The reaper's song,  
Thrust in thy sickle bright.  
—A. H., *British Indian Recorder*.

### What to Read.

"David and Bathshua." A new Dramatic Poem.  
By Charles Whitworth Wynne.

"The Tale of a Tour in Macedonia." By G. F. Abbott.

"Women Workers and South Africa." Some Hints regarding Lucrative Employment for Women in South Africa and How to Obtain It. By Alys Lowth.

"A Woman's Wanderings and Trials during the Anglo-Boer War." By Mrs. (General) De la Rey. Translated by Lucy Hotz.

"In the Tail of the Peacock." By Isabel Savory.

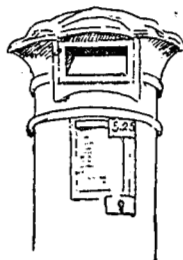
### Coming Events.

March 18th.—Lord Strathcona presides at a Festival Dinner in aid of the Funds of University College Hospital.

March 19th.—Meeting to discuss State Registration of Nurses, Royal United Hospital, Bath, 3.30 p.m.

March 19th.—The Lord Mayor presides at the annual Court of Governors of the Royal Hospital for Chest Diseases, City Road.

March 19th.—Annual meeting of Governors of University College Hospital.



### 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.*

#### MR. DOUGLAS BRYAN'S SCHEME FOR NURSING ORGANISATION. — THE MATERNITY NURSE.

To the Editor of the "*British Journal of Nursing*."  
DEAR MADAM,—As Dr. Douglas Bryan invites discussion on his suggestions as to the better training and organisation of nursing, I should like to say that, firstly, his scheme appears to me to be unnecessarily intricate; secondly, that if it were carried out it would mean the institution of an inferior as well as a superior order of nurses, which is undesirable from every point of view.

Experience all goes to prove that the public, though as deeply concerned in the matter as private nurses themselves, are not disposed to devote time and thought to differentiation on the point of training. Indeed, in the case of sudden illness, delay through making inquiries as to a nurse's exact qualification might often be dangerous. Therefore, the simpler the scheme for qualification the better. Why not, in organising nursing, preserve as far as possible an analogy to the medical profession? It seems to me that no other system could be made to work more satisfactorily. To have "qualified," "doubly qualified," and "qualified monthly nurses" would inevitably deepen the present chaos. As you have yourself repeatedly pointed out, the triple qualification in nursing, as in medicine, would be the simplest solution and guarantee on this point; those nurses wishing to specialise on maternity, mental, or other branches doing so after they had gained this. That nurses for such an important branch of nursing as maternity work should be trained for a shorter period, and in "Minor Training-Schools," would prove most prejudicial to the interests and standing of all those private nurses who might spend years and money in becoming "doubly qualified." For then, as now, this would lead to these specialists being drawn from a class of women of limited education and social experience, and whose ideas of nursing would be wholly commercial as opposed to professional. Consequently they would be "minor trained" in more senses than one. I do not think many fully-trained nurses realise the great extent to which their reputation and their social standing, to be made or marred, rests in the hands of those women who undertake the nursing of the maternity cases of this country. And so long as these cases are nursed by women of little education and inferior training, so long will the "doubly qualified" private nurse have to endure the present hard and unsatisfactory conditions which she so frequently has to encounter in her work. In raising the standard for maternity nurses lies the key to this particular difficulty. A very large section of the public forms its opinion of nurses and nursing *entirely* from the maternity nurses it employs, because it is a section

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