

gentle Indian figures. There is an attack on a coach—not as creepy as that which opens "Snow-bound at Eagles," but very weird, for all that. Throughout the volume Bret Harte reasserts himself as the past master of the Short Story, which, publishers assure us, is losing its popularity.

G. M. R.

Be useful where thou livest, that they may

Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.

Kindness, good parts, great places are the way

To compass this. Find out men's want and will

And meet them there. All worldly joys go less

To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

GEORGE HERBERT.

What to Read.

"Steadfast unto Death; or, Martyred for China: Memorials of Thomas Wellesley and Jessie Pigott." By C. A. Pigott.

"In the Guardianship of God." By Flora Annie Steel.

"Sons of Francis." By Anne Macdonell.

"The Flame and the Flood." By Rosamond Lang-bridge.

"The Diary of a Year. Passages in the Life of a Woman of the World."

"Old Squire: the Romance of a Black Virginian." By B. K. Benson.

"The Heights of Hell." By Archibald Lamont.

Coming Events.

June 2nd to 5th.—Medical, Surgical, and Hygienic Exhibition, Queen's Hall, Langham Place. Nurses should pay a visit to this Exhibition; there is much to see and learn.

June 4th and 18th.—Examination of the British Gynæcological Society in Maternity and Gynæcological Nursing, St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand.

June 7th.—The King and Queen attend the Afternoon Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, when collections will be made on behalf of the London Hospitals.

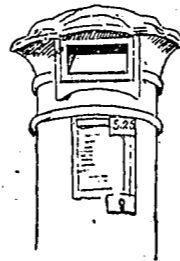
June 8th.—The Princess of Wales opens the Nurses' Home of the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, 3.30.

A grand Café-Chantant at the Queen's Hall, afternoon and evening, in aid of the Metropolitan Hospital, at which most of the leading artists in London will appear.

June 10th.—The Prince of Wales presides at the Festival Dinner of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, Hôtel Cecil.

June 13th.—Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) opens the new buildings of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale.

June 20th.—General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses, St. John's House, 2.30 p.m. Social Gathering, 4.30 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.

THE TRAINING-SCHOOLS AND REGISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very pleased to read your editorial remarks last week on the position of the hospital training-schools in relation to the question of the registration of trained nurses. It embodies my own view exactly. As a certificated nurse it has for long seemed to me that although the training-schools have some stake in the question, it is by no means so large a one as is often represented. Nor are the nurses working in hospitals the chief sufferers from the present lack of organisation in our ranks. They work under conditions of discipline and professional control, and they have a recognised position in the institution, where the value of their work is well known. But directly one gets outside the hospitals and is launched into the private nursing world one feels the pinch. The most skilful nurse is by no means the most appreciated. Personality, of course, must, and should, tell in a private nurse's stock-in-trade. She must be courteous, tactful, and adaptable. But, granted these characteristics, she still often finds herself at a disadvantage in competition with the flashy, self-sufficient, ignorant woman who adopts her uniform and demands her fees, the woman who is a constant menace to the well-trained nurse and to the public. I think, therefore, that hospital committees should not be allowed to bar the way of those who, in the true interests of competent nurses and the sick, are working for registration. The hospitals suffer little for the lack of it. The other classes I have mentioned suffer continually, and they must look after themselves if hospital committees have not sufficient public spirit to help them.

One thing I think we certificated nurses might do—ought to do, namely, refuse to work on equal terms with women whom we know to be insufficiently trained. Medical practitioners will not meet in consultation unqualified practitioners, and although until we get State Registration we have no such sharp line of demarcation between the qualified and unqualified as they have, yet we know that probationers who have left their training-schools half-way through their term of probation, or women with a few months' maternity training, are not, even in the present accepted sense, trained nurses. Then let us have the courage to insist that they are not regarded as such. I do not say that one should never work with them, but it should be on the distinct understanding that their knowledge is limited, and that they work under one, not on equal terms.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

THREE YEARS' CERTIFICATE.

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