

Retrospect.

Out of the humming cares of crowded day
 We climb with tired feet
 Into the sheltering tower of strong, still night—
 Ah, rest is sweet!
 Then through the soothing dark our dust-dimmed eyes
 A bridge of stars may see
 Reaching to that far vision-land which lies
 In memory.
 —GRACE HODSDON BOUTELLE,
 in the *Munsey*.

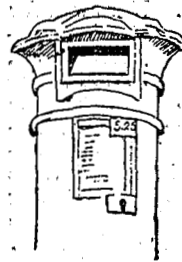
Why have you locked the door, my maid,
 Why have you locked the door?
 O! I have let Grief out, she said,
 Never to enter more.
 Open and set it wide, my maid,
 Open and set it wide!
 Lest Joy should come one day, he said,
 And have to stand outside.
 —“Songs of Womanhood,”
 By LAURENCE ALMA TADEMA

What to Read.

“New Africa: an Essay on Government Civilisation in New Countries.” By E. Descamps. Translated from the French.
 “Why the Mind Has a Body.” By C. A. Strong, Professor of Psychology in Columbia University.
 “The American Advance: a Study in Territorial Expansion.” By Edmund J. Carpenter.
 “Charles James Fox: a Political Study.” By J. L. Hammond.
 “St. Helena, the Historic Island, from its Discovery to the Present Date.” By E. L. Jackson.
 “Messalina.” By F. I. Winbolt.

Coming Events.

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.
 June 22nd.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., 4 p.m.
 June 22nd.—The Women Writers' Dinner, Criterion Restaurant, 7.45. Chairman, Mrs. J. R. Green.
 June 25th.—Earl Cawdor presides at the London Homeopathic Hospital's Festival Dinner, Hotel Cecil, 7.
 June 25th.—City Orthopædic Hospital—Banquet (the Duke of Cambridge presiding), Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.
 June 27th.—General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Great Hall of the Hospital, 3 p.m. Social Gathering, 4.30 p.m. Presentation to Miss Courtenay-Smith, Assistant Matron, upon resignation of office.
 July 7th-11th.—Twenty-first Congress of the Sanitary Institute at Bradford.



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.

STATE REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”
 DEAR MADAM,—I observe to-day in our local paper, the *Rochester Journal*, it is stated, in reference to the R.B.N.A., that “Princess Christian is anxious to protect nurses who have not had a long training in the profession, and who may be on that account adversely affected by State Registration.” What is meant by a long training? Presumably the three years' standard. Now, is it not true that the R.B.N.A. only admits nurses as members who have had a three years' training—perhaps not always in one hospital, but still at least one year in a general hospital and two years more before the nurse undertakes private nursing, that is, works independently of supervision? If the R.B.N.A. is now wobbling on the three years' course, as well as on State Registration, why not admit nurses who have a shorter term of training to membership? That would be consistent with all these doubts and fears as to a definite standard of training and a minimum qualification. It is quite plain that well-educated and well-qualified nurses have no longer any confidence in its medical management. No doubt large numbers of semi-trained nurses would help the Treasurer to wipe out that yearly deficit if they realised that their interests, and not those of thoroughly-trained nurses and the public, caused the hon. officers such great anxiety.

Yours truly,
 A ROCHESTER NURSE.

[In any Act passed by Parliament to register nurses the interests of all will have to be considered. In this country legislation is seldom retrospective, and a term of grace, no doubt, will be granted, during which stated period women who are, and have been, engaged in nursing the sick for a definite period will be eligible for registration, if they wish to register. This is only just. A legally constituted Nursing Council would no doubt be empowered to define a standard of education and examination which would qualify for registration in the future. There need be no sleepless nights concerning the interests of those nurses with a short training, but the sooner a Bill is passed the sooner the short-term, half-trained women will be on the decrease. The present lack of organisation has encouraged hundreds of incapables to compete with the efficient nurse during the past decade—an evil which might have been prevented if the Executive of the R.B.N.A. had not rattled on Registration seven years ago.—ED.]

THE LIMITATIONS OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”
 DEAR MADAM,—There is sound sense in the points brought forward by your correspondent last

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