

Can any man ever know? Does he dream what it means to us women to sacrifice ourselves, as they often require us to do? I have been travelling in old lands, so old that the history of each goes back until we can follow it with our eyes no longer. But, as far as we can see, we see this sorrow, the sorrow of women who have wished to be first in the love of the men they have loved. You, who read everything! Cannot you see them standing all through history, the sad figures of girls who have only asked for what they gave, love in its purity and singleness—have only asked that there should be no other before them? And cannot you see what a girl feels when she consents to accept anything less—that she is lowered to herself from that time on—has lost her own ideal of herself, as well as her ideal of the man she loves? And cannot you see also how she lowers herself in his eyes, and ceases to be his ideal, through her willingness to live with him on a lower plane? That is our wound. That is our trouble and sorrow: I have found it wherever I have gone.” G. M. R.

Verse.

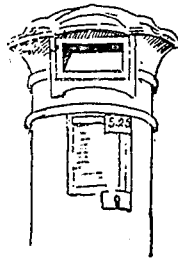
“Twofold is the life we live in—
Fate and Will together run.
Two wheels bear life's chariot onward;
Will it move on only one?
“Look, the clay dries into iron,
But the potter moulds the clay;
Destiny to-day is master—
Man was master yesterday.”
—Book of Good Counsels.

What to Read.

“After Sunset.” By Rosamund Marriott Watson.
“Within the Pale: the True Story of Anti-Semitic Persecutions in Russia.” By Michael Davitt.
“The Bayard of India: a Life of General Sir James Outram, G.O.B., &c.” By Captain Lionel Trotter.
“Katharine Frensham: a Novel.” By Beatrice Harraden.
“Romance: a Novel.” By Joseph Conrad and Ford Madox Hueffer.
“Old Quebec: The Fortress of New France.” By Gilbert Parker and Claude G. Bryan.
“The Stolen Emperor.” By Mrs. Hugh Fraser.

Coming Events.

November 3rd.—The King lays the foundation stone of His Majesty's Sanatorium for Consumption at Lords Common, near Midhurst.
November 3rd to 6th.—Opening of the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at the Imperial Rooms, Cheltenham, 10.30 a.m.
November 4th.—Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Princess Hall (Ladies' College), Cheltenham, 10.30 a.m.
November 28th.—General Meeting of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses to consider the Draft Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, 20, Hanover Square, 2.30 p.m.
November 28th.—Social Meeting of the Matrons' Council, to discuss “The Twentieth-Century Matron.” Paper by the President, Miss Isla Stewart, 8 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.

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE SISTERS WHO DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”
“Now and not hereafter, ere the meaner years go by.”

DEAR MADAM,—Nearly two years have elapsed since the conclusion of the war in South Africa, and a duty still remains to be fulfilled which we venture to commend to the generous sympathy of the whole nation. While all honour has been accorded to the nurses who have returned from active service, and acknowledgment has been made of the value of their work by the award of Orders and Decorations, nothing has been done to express the nation's appreciation of the devotion of those Nursing Sisters who died in the service of their country.

Surely it is fitting that their names should be perpetuated in connection with some National Memorial erected to their honour. The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland at a recent meeting decided that steps should be taken to open a fund for this purpose. To give effect to this decision a representative committee is now being formed to organise this National Memorial. It is proposed, at an early date, to invite subscriptions from those who are desirous of honouring the memory of our colleagues who died on active duty in South Africa.

ISLA STEWART, President of the Matrons' Council.
ETHEL G. FENWICK, }
M. MOLLETT, } Councillors.

LADY DOCTORS, NURSES, AND MENTAL STRAIN.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—I thought how true your words were last week about the far greater mental strain which nurses have had to suffer than young lady doctors during the past quarter of a century. I look back to my own probationer days with amazement, and wonder how ever I did those terrible months of solitary night duty without turning a hair. On duty alone, from 10 p.m. till 7 a.m., no Sister even sleeping on the floor, with half-a-dozen little wards in which were placed bad cases, some delirious, all requiring an eye at the same time, which it was quite impossible to give. And the number of narcotics ordered verbally by young medical men—what wonder that accidents occurred sometimes, and that Daddy 1 or Mammy 2 forgot to wake up at 5 a.m., when the unfortunate nurse had to begin her “ward work,” no matter how ill the patients were? Others besides myself have, no doubt, suffered that appalling anxiety, peeping at these snoring folks, fearing they had somehow had an overdose, and that they would never wake up again. And then the blessed

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