

Christmas.

The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young.
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
And its soul full of music breaks forth on the air,
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, Old Earth, it is coming to-night!
On the snowflakes which cover the sod.
The feet of the Christ-Child fall gentle and white,
And the voice of the Christ-Child tells out with
delight,

That mankind are the children of God.

On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor,
That voice of the Christ-Child shall fall,
And to every blind wanderer opens the door
Of a hope that he dared not to dream of before,
With a sunshine of welcome for all.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field
Where the feet of the holiest have trod.

This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed,
That mankind are the children of God.

—PHILIPPS BROOKS.

"It Really Doesn't Matter."

BY JOE CONE.

It really doesn't matter much
If bank accounts are small;
If we have sunshine in our hearts
We're rich enough for all.

It really doesn't matter much
If beauty knows us not;
If we have tact and intellect
We'll lead the common lot.

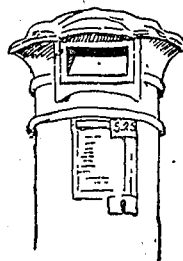
It really doesn't matter much
If we've no shining fame;
If we work on, and do the square,
We'll get there just the same.

What to Read.

"A Tramp in Spain." From Andalusia to Andorra."
By Bart Kennedy.

"The Soul of Chivalry." By Arthur Goldsmith-Sparrow.

At the General Election this week in the Commonwealth of Australia there are two lady candidates. Both are standing for the Senate. As all the electors of a State vote for Senators, a lady has a much better chance of getting into that Chamber than if she wooed one of the constituencies that return members to the House of Representatives. Miss Goldstein is standing in Victoria as a Protectionist, and Mrs. Martell in New South Wales as a Free Trader. The latter is a vice-president of the Australian Free Trade League. As the feminine electors are numerically stronger than the masculine, the lady candidates would be returned if they could secure a block vote of their own sex. But many of their sisters regard them with disfavour.



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.

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is certainly a surprise to hear the members of the R.B.N.A. are awakening once more to take an interest in nursing progress. Seven years is rather a long sleep for anyone. I, for one, am glad to hear of it, for I always find the active people of this world, whether they use their energies for good or evil, do less harm than the indifferent ones.

The mere fact of the old Association thinking it expedient to return to the object for which it was founded—viz., to obtain State Registration for Nurses—shows plainly it acknowledges the mistake it made in repudiating its responsibilities when the new By-Laws were passed by so doing losing many members, and also the interest of leading medical men who had helped us so ably to gain the Royal Charter, and who never grudged the valuable time which they spent in endeavouring to help us, but who have of late years almost entirely given up attending the meetings.

I wonder if it is the members of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses who are still members of the R.B.N.A. who have brought about this awakening. If so, they are to be congratulated, for their task cannot have been an easy one. We will hope that many members of the R.B.N.A. have availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the meetings of the Society for State Registration, and by this means are well-informed on the subject under discussion, and will therefore see that their Bill is drafted on the same liberal lines.

In my capacity as a private nurse I have the opportunity of discussing this subject with a great variety of people. I never find any, either among the general public or doctors, who disagree with the arguments brought forward in favour of State Registration for Nurses. It will come sooner or later. Of course, there is a small ring of people who always oppose everything in the shape of progress, but they will "come into line" when they are sure which way the wind blows.

We have only to watch the large nurse-training schools to see how things are progressing. One after another their committees are reorganising and bringing the nursing arrangements up to date, insisting on all probationers signing for at least three, and, in some instances, for four years' training in the wards before sending them to patients in private houses or taking hospital appointments.

For many years it has been the nurses themselves who have been so dead to their own interests; therefore, any sign of life in their ranks is welcome.

I hope that all trained nurses will combine and form one large society, independent of any hospitals or associations to which they may belong, and work for the object many of us have had at heart since the day the R.B.N.A. was founded, nearly sixteen years ago,

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