

"For a tower in ruins keeps guard o'er the steep."

It is pretty well known that Overstrand claims to have the honour, but Dunwich fits in curiously with the terms of the description.

Master Dicky Bowen is the hero—doubly orphaned at the age of eight, and committed to the care of Uncle Jenico, an amiable visionary and inventor of inventions that never came off. They come to Dunwich—I beg Mr. Capes's pardon, Dunberry is the name he gives it—fascinated by a description in some old guide-book of the treasure washed in by the tide. The place is a nest of smugglers, but a sudden and awful stop has been put to the smuggling by what is locally known as the earthquake. The resort of the dealers in contraband was the vaults of the old church on the cliff, to which they gained access by a path from the beach. One night a terrible shock was felt in the village, there was a sound like thunder, and a portion of the hill fell in, burying under it the wretched men and all their treasure.

The unravelling of this mystery is curiously and most ingeniously intermixed with the fortunes of Dicky Bowen himself, and the adventures, especially that on the Weary Sands, are of the most thrilling description. The landlady, Mrs. Puddephatt, who, having dwelt in London, despises her bucolic neighbours, is an amusing figure. The rector is a most delightful person; and the fight between Dicky and Harry Harrier is almost worthy to rank with Jan Ridd's fight in the first chapters of "Lorna Doone."

G. M. R.

At Chrystemasse Tyde.

Two sorrie Thynges there be,—

Ay, three,—

A Neste from which the Fledglings have be taken,

A Lambe forsaken,

A Redde leaf from the Wilde Rose rudely shaken.

Of gladde Thynges there be more,—

Ay, four,—

A Larke above the olde Neste blythely singing,

A Wilde Rose clinging

In safety to a Rock, a Shepherde bringing

A Lambe, found, in his armes, and Chrystemasse Bells
a-ringing.

ANON., in *Light*.

What to Read.

"A King's Romance." The Story of Milan and Natalie, first King and Queen of Servia. By Frances Gerard.

"From a Venetian Balcony, and other Poems of Venice and the Near Lands." By Lady Lindsay.

"The Path of Empire." By George Lynch.

"A Court in Exile. Charles Edward Stuart and the Romance of the Countess D'Albanie." By the Marchesa Vitelleschi.

"Hetty Wesley." By A. T. Quiller-Couch.

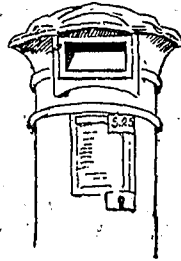
"The Proud Prince." By Justin Huntly McCarthy.

"John Maxwell's Marriage." By Stephen Gwynn.

"The Native Problem in South Africa." By A. Davis.

"Li Hung-Chang: His Life and Times." By Mrs. Archibald Little.

"The Defence of Guenivere, and Other Poems." By William Morris.



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 NURSES' BILL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have to thank you for your courtesy in sending me a copy of your valuable paper—of which I am a weekly reader—containing the draft Registration Bill. I have studied it as best I can, and thoroughly approve of its impartial constitution. Laborious as drawing up this Bill must have been—and every member of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses owes a deep debt of gratitude to its officers and Committee for the trouble they have taken—I think a word of warning to the members is necessary to impress them with the tremendous difficulties which face a Women's Bill in Parliament—difficulties which can only be overcome by the most strenuous work upon the part of every member of the Society; and, even with the utmost devotion to the cause, the system of balloting for a place is a matter of pure luck, and so very little time is allowed for the discussion of private members' Bills that, like the midwives, we may be years before we can get a hearing. I am not writing to discourage the Registrationists, but to urge them to united effort, so that no chance is lost in this gamble—for the present Parliamentary methods are nothing less. Any way, to have the Bill read for the first time is important.

Yours truly,

AN INTERESTED MEMBER.

[Early in the new year we propose to have an article dealing with the Parliamentary procedure in reference to private members' Bills to which our always-kind correspondent alludes.—Ed.]

NURSING REGULATIONS AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—We, the Sisters of Charing Cross Hospital, will feel much obliged if you will be kind enough to grant space for this letter in your issue of this week.

Regarding the question of discipline, we wish to state that late leave and theatre leave were never granted to any of us by the late Lady Superintendent oftener than once a week; at the same time we did not understand that we were privileged by right to expect extension of time once a week. We assert that any indulgence granted to us by our late Lady Superintendent was entirely dependent on her discretion at the moment.

Since October, 1903, the present Matron has instituted an extension of time—by right—to the Sisters to 11.30 p.m., on their day off and half-day off; staff nurses 11.30 p.m. on their day off, and 10.30 p.m. on their evening off. With this exception, our hours off

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