

"Oh, you're mean. You won't tell us a word about it."

"I will, indeed. You are so kind to let me talk shop. Well, then, my book is a collection of epigrams, strung together with a few American millionaires. Its success is assured."

"If you stuck them together with mud, the book might be even more successful," I said."

If these samples seem encouraging, the reader will find a good deal more of the same kind in the nicely-printed and well-got-up volume.

G. M. R.

### Cain's Song.

Lo, I am matched with Jehovah. Life of his giving  
Have I destroyed and made vain. Cold and apart,  
Abel lies dead in his grave, while I, Cain, am living,  
Warm, with the blood in my veins and desire in  
my heart.

Outcast am I : but the earth, fertile and kindly,  
Stretches beneath me. The sun sets in the West,  
Golden and red, and I see it, while Abel sleeps blindly,  
Deaf to the rain, and I hear it. Lord, which is  
best ?

Branded am I : but the deer, russet and sable,  
Still are for quarry. And I hunt not in vain.  
Mine is the triumph of storm and the gladness of rain,  
but Abel

Nothing he knows though his face is upturned to  
the rain.

Cursed am I : but the night has mysterious giving  
Of dreams, and daylight's fires that burn in the  
East and West.

Thy favoured one lies in his grave and I, thine  
accursed, am living,

Quick in the wonder of earth and the sunlight.  
Lord, which is best ?

—From "Songs of Dreams,"

By ETHEL CLIFFORD.

### What to Read.

"Poems." By Valentine Ash.

"Imperial India." Letters from the East. By John  
Oliver Hobbes.

"The Orrery Papers." Edited by the Countess of  
Cork and Orrery.

"Messalina." By F. I. Winbolt.

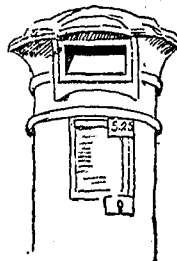
"Impressions of Indian Travel." By Oscar  
Browning.

### Coming Events.

July 22nd.—Annual Meeting of the Registered  
Nurses' Society, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.,  
5 p.m. It is hoped that as many members of the  
Society as possible will attend the meeting.

July 27th.—Opening by the King of the new Royal  
Victoria Hospital at Belfast.

July 28th to 31st.—British Medical Association,  
seventy-first Annual Meeting, Swansea. President,  
Mr. Walter Whitehead, F.R.C.S., Consulting Sur-  
geon, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.



### 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.*

### TRAINED NURSES AS MATRONS OF WORK- HOUSES, AND THE COMBINED APPOINT- MENT OF MATRON AND SUPERIN- TENDENT NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I see in your issue of July 4th you note my support of the advantages accruing from the above practice. Those holding opposite views might at least be fair in dealing with this recommendation of the Departmental Committee and not make such a statement as the following, viz., "this recommendation was not supported by the witnesses whose opinions on nursing matters and whose knowledge of general organisation is of the highest value, Miss Gibson being strongly opposed to the suggestion." On perusing the evidence one sees that Miss Gibson's opinion was not based on any personal knowledge of actual facts. Those who had the opportunity of seeing and judging for themselves recognised that there were obvious advantages in the Matron being a trained nurse, also that trained nurses can and are at the present time holding successfully the combined appointment of Matron and Superintendent Nurse. Moreover, if opposed by one inspector, it was supported by several, and very strongly by one, who said in his district out of forty-seven Matrons twenty-six were trained nurses; that for many years he had suggested to Guardians when appointing Matrons to give the preference to trained nurses, and he had every reason to be satisfied with his advice. If the Workhouse Nursing Association have no other arguments against this matter than those placed before this conference by one of the speakers, surely in the face of the above facts, and the conspicuous benefit which the evidence proves to result from the practice, they cannot expect the President of the Local Government Board to set aside this recommendation of his Committee.

Yours faithfully,

A. RICHMOND, Matron.

Luton Workhouse.

### NURSES' VIEWS ON THE PENSION FUND.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I agree with your remarks on the Royal National Pension Fund—the tone assumed towards nurses by the majority of the advocates of this fund is a very humiliating one. To begin with, it sails under quite a wrong title, it is not a Pension fund at all, it does not grant pensions; it is a Society for granting Deferred Annuities pure and simple, and those who join it pay for doing so on a business basis, and if they wish their money returned they have 5 per cent. deducted, instead of having a fair percentage added to their money for the loan and use of it to the managers of the Pension Fund. Nurses are

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)