

## Death and the Boy.

DEATH.

Whither away, dear boy?  
Whom dost thou follow with those flying feet?

THE BOY.

Life calls, and Hope, and Joy;  
O stay me not, they run so fleet, so fleet,  
Look how they beckon! See  
That smile! Ah, shining ones, will ye not wait?  
What shadow falls on me?  
Is it the sunset? Can it be so late?  
I thought 'twas not yet noon.  
Art thou the shadow? Wherefore dost thou keep  
Thy face all hidden?

DEATH.

Soon  
Thou shalt behold me; now is time to sleep.

THE BOY.

Sleep, and the race half-run?  
Then I shall lose them. Tell me, have they fled?

DEATH.

Nay, for the race is won,  
Here they stand smiling round this grassy bed.  
B. PAUL NEUMAN, in *Westminster Gazette*.

## What to Read.

"The Cavalier in Exile; being the Lives of the First Duke and Duchess of Newcastle. Written by Margaret Duchess of Newcastle."

"The House on the Sands." By Charles Marriott.

"The Countess and the King's Diary." By Percy White.

"The Last Word." By Alice MacGowan.

"The Washingtonians." By Pauline Bradford Mackie (Mrs. Herbert Müller Hopkins).

"Pitcher in Paradise." By Arthur Binstead.

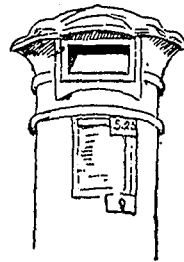
## Women and the Church of England.

Lady Roberts-Austen writes: "Amongst the readers of your last week's issue many must have been pained by the curiously ungenerous spirit shown by the members of Convocation in dealing with the subject of the Church franchise as regards women; one voice alone, that of the Bishop of Guildford, was raised earnestly in protest.

"In the past, women have given much to the Church—service, devotion, and money—but is it sure that these will be given so lavishly in days to come?

"The persistent belittling of women noticeable for the last few years is already alienating the younger thinking women from the Church of England.

"Is it wise, or even prudent, to treat with something very like contempt those who, through the upbringing of the children, have the future of the Church largely in their hands?"



## 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 FORMATION OF NURSES' LEAGUES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is not often that I find myself differing with your editorial expressions of opinion, but last week I just did not agree with your reply to "Certificated Staff Nurse" about Nurses' Leagues. Surely it is permissible in this country for certificated nurses to take the initiative in forming a League of their school colleagues without it being a *sine quâ non* that the Matron of the hospital must take and keep a leading part in such organisations; if not, I don't see where your self-government comes in. In my country (America) the Superintendents of the training-schools have gone out of their way to impress upon the graduates that the Alumnae Association is their "show." The Superintendents have their own Society—and a splendid one it is, first and foremost in every movement for the good of the whole profession—but they have purposely kept out of office in the Alumnae Associations, doing all they can to encourage the nurses to take the management of these Associations in their own hands, and by so doing to acquaint themselves with self-governing methods, proper procedure in business affairs, and self-reliance in expressing opinions on professional affairs. It appears to a mere "Amurrican" that, if Matrons are to be recognised as possessing a right to veto the formation of Nurses' Leagues, or to have a claim when they are formed to dictate their policy, they will not be of much use to the profession at large, as the very basis of these co-operations of graduates should be the freedom of the members to act and vote without prejudice—a policy almost impossible with the Matron in the position of "Chair." From my personal experience of your English Matrons—and I have met many—they are certainly not all imbued with the broad-minded liberality towards nursing politics for which the Matron of St. Bartholomew's is renowned at home and abroad; and it seems a pity to accept as a rule that the nurses of any given school must wait to organise until they happen to have an up-to-date woman at their head. Surely, many of them will have to wait for many a long day if this rule is imperative. So long as the certificated pupils are still working as Sisters or Staff Nurses in their training-school, they do not feel the need of co-operation; but it is those of their number who leave the school, and go forth to work in various nursing fields, especially the private duty nurse, who long for co-operation, and all the support and happiness it brings along, and surely these workers have a right to initiate a League if they realise the need of it. Say, do you not agree?

Yours cordially,

AN AMERICAN NURSE IN LONDON.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)