

the ritual as he remembers it. He stands on the rug, facing the others. Wish is anxious that he should not try it; he more than half believes. Evans says that matter is indestructible. Another says there is only one way out of this world for men. Clayton is determined to try. So he tries.

And, though his body remains, his spirit does actually forthwith pass into the land from whence, presumably, the ghost came.

The impressiveness of the whole thing cannot be described. It is the work of an artist in words, and of a man with a singular and colossal imagination.

G. M. R.

London Poverty.

"The least of these."

The beasts and the angels know Him,
 Poor Babe at a starving breast;
 The arm that hides below Him,
 To give the dear one rest,
 Is cold and thin and weary,
 The tender eyes above
 Are famished, hopeless, dreary
 Except for mother-love.

Through many a lowly portal,
 In many a strange disguise,
 Wherever the need is mortal
 And patient love is wise,
 He comes, from power refraining
 Till men have eyes to see,
 No faithful heart disdainng,
 Of low or of high degree.

And be it a scullion lonely,
 Or a king, with a kingdom's gift,
 Who serves for love's sake only,
 He will that man uplift
 To share the Shepherd's blessing,
 Beyond all earthly store;
 And men this joy possessing
 Rejoice for evermore!

A. M., from *Westminster Gazette*.

What to Read.

"King's Letters: from the Days of Alfred to the Accession of the Tudors. Newly Edited by Robert Steele."

"The Life of Richard Cobden." By the Right Hon. John Morley, M.P.

"My Poor Relations. Stories of Dutch Peasant Life." By Maarten Maartens.

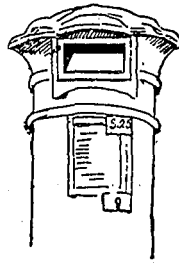
"Turnpike Travellers." By Eleanor G. Hayden.

"The Boy, Some Horses, and a Girl." By Dorothy Conyers.

"The Beryl Stones." By Mrs. A. Sidgwick.

"Over Stony Ways." A Romance of Tennysonland. By Emily M. Bryant. With six full-page Illustrations and Explanatory Notes by the Rev. T. F. Lockyer.

"Memoirs of Mlle. des Escherolles; being Side-Lights on the Reign of Terror. Translated from the French by Marie Clothilde Balfour. With an Introduction by George K. Fortescue."



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 REPUBLIC OF NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It was with much surprise that I read in one of the late numbers of the Journal Miss Wortabet's declaration of advocacy of two classes of nurses and two standards of examinations and qualifications. I cannot but wonder where she has ever seen good results flow from such a system, or, indeed, whether she has studied the actual conditions existing where anything approaching to this double standard is found? In America we have been able to make some observations upon what a double standard would mean, as with us various charitable and educational bodies have tried to create this very class of "cart-horse" nurse, giving an inferior and incomplete training and a certificate. The result has been the most dire confusion—ill-trained women undertaking tasks beyond their capacity; and the evil example thus set, with the best intentions, has been imitated by various mercenaries, each one setting the plane of necessary knowledge for what they call "simple nursing" a little lower than the last, until finally there is nothing left.

This vicious idea of a flexible and diminishing minimum in nursing is the thing we are all struggling against in America, you in Great Britain, and German nurses in Germany. Has Miss Wortabet ever observed the nursing system prevalent in France and Italy? Here is seen in perfection the wretched failure of a dual system, which gives the hard work to a "cart-horse" class of nurses, and the "theory, refinement, organisation, and gift of ruling others" to the superior class.

To my mind it is a serious mistake to imagine that the so-called "higher" parts of nursing work can ever be separated from the "lower." In every calling, profession, or art there is, and always must be, a certain amount of drudgery.

No; never "two classes" of nurses. One sound, thorough basis of foundation for the nurse. On this let her build her specialties.

Was that criticism about organisation and administration fair? I cannot but wonder if that "gentleman" whose chivalrous remark aroused "peals of laughter" was really a gentleman? I am sure, at least, that he was an ill-mannered gentleman, also an un-informed gentleman. If he knows nothing in general about the work of women, he should at least have known that Miss Wortabet's own work refuted him. It seems to me that this erring gentleman was hardly worth quoting.

L. L. Dock.

Rome.

[We entirely agree with Miss Dock's point of view. She has the happy knack of seizing on crucial points and driving them straight home.—Ed.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)