

in spite of prolixity. The love, tempestuous, overmastering, of the young Hercules for Maria, is told with a quite special quality of vividness. At first sight their two souls leap together, though for long Christopher does not know that it is not hatred he feels for the girl, but the one thing in life which is stronger.

The author is not free from that hysterical pedigree worship which we have before complained of as disfiguring so many American books. Most of the enumerations of the family portraits, and even most of the aphorisms of Bolivar Blake, might be omitted with the best results. But the book is full of great merits, such as will make most people pardon minor defects. Perhaps the character of Cynthia Blake—her limitations and her martyrdom—is as finely worked out a conception as any. G. M. R.

### The Rose of Joy.

How shall we use it—our Rose of Joy?  
Pluck it and wear it—a one-day toy;  
Or plant it in pot, in hope it grows  
Like common roses—that one rare rose!

Wouldst keep its sweet scent on hands, on hair,  
Always and ever and everywhere?  
There's only one way—the way one grieves—  
To crush it to death and keep the leaves!

K. M., in *Westminster Gazette*.

### What to Read.

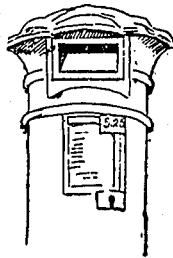
- "The Balkans from Within." By Reginald Wyon.
- "Sir Mortimer." By Mary Johnston.
- "The Imperialist." By Sara Jeannette Duncan.
- "Behind the Footlights." By Mrs. Alec-Tweedie.
- "Life in a Garrison Town." By Lieut. Bilse.

### Coming Events.

April 8th.—Conference of Members of Nurses' Leagues and Societies to discuss "Organisation with a view to International Affiliation," by the invitation of Miss Isla Stewart, Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street. Tea 4 p.m.; Conference 4.30 p.m.

### Notice.

The Hon. Secretary begs to thank all those members of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses who have written to her within the week offering help in various ways to further the object which we all have so much at heart. She hopes to communicate with them after the meeting of the Executive Committee, which is being held as this Journal goes to press. A strong, well organised opposition to a just cause always does good; it arouses interest in questions which might otherwise be treated with indifference by the general public, and as the interests of the public and the nurses are identical on the question of State Registration—as are those of both these sections of the community and the hospitals, if the latter look at the question with unprejudiced judgment—time only is needed to effect reform. As a very great man has written, "to live is to change."



### 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.*

#### REGISTRATION ON ITS MERITS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With others I have read Mr. Holland's manifesto, which is signed by those who in one way or another employ nurses, and one cannot but deeply deplore that some of the Matrons holding positions of great responsibility should have signed so illogical and unconvincing a document. Its arguments do not appeal to the educated mind, and it seems extraordinary in these days, when the white light of reason is brought to bear upon every question, that it is possible to find a class of women such as those placed at the head of so-called nurse-training schools giving evidence in black and white of their reactionary attitude of mind, and proving themselves entirely out of touch with modern methods of thought and work, in the profession of which they presume to be the head. The whole argument used is dry as dust and out of date, and might perhaps have been the vogue twenty years ago; but the narrow, intolerant, autocratic attitude of mind which must inspire any woman who could have signed the manifesto is the most irrefutable argument in favour of democratising the system of nursing education, if we are to hope in the future for a profession composed of reasoning individuals instead of ineffectual automata.

The present system of training in many hospitals is calculated to, and does, produce a class of helpless, hopeless creatures, lacking self-reliance and fine judgment. How often do we hear nurses likened to "a flock of sheep"? Times without number. The "system" is synonymous with the suppression of every creative instinct. I have suffered tortures under it, and I know. Those who have been congealed under the "system" know well the shibboleths—"It is not for you to think, we do that for you; your duty is to obey!"

The truth is the system is effete, and has got to go; it is out of touch with the age, and those Matrons of hospitals who are inspired by the progressive instinct have already realised that official autocracy is doomed—that they must influence their pupils through their reasoning faculties, inspire them with self-respect and self-confidence if they are to be worthy members of our great vocation, and not treat them as so many pawns on the chess-board of charity.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours very truly,

A PROFESSIONAL WOMAN.

#### REGISTRATIONISTS MUST FUSE.

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

MADAM,—Why is it that when American nurses began to feel the need of legal status they turned with one accord to the Superintendents of their training-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)