

That an intelligent woman, of noble mind, should be able to live in daily contact with such a man, and continue to be perfectly happy and to believe him all that is good, demands, in order to make it credible, some effort on the part of the writer which he does not attempt. Anastasia is a puppet, and that is the truth.

Practically, this is the only weak place in the story.

The character of Westray is well realised; he has the qualities and the defects of a large number of young men of the present day. He only just stops short of enlisting our sympathy; he would have it quite if his author were not so terribly afraid of being like other authors, and creating a quite loveable person. It is perhaps an instance of his consummate art that Anastasia is made so nebulous; if we had grown fond of her, her early widowhood might leave us grieving. As it is, nobody cares in the least what becomes of her; we are only conscious of a certain feeling of relief that her iniquitous husband should close a life of baseness by what was either an act of supreme heroism or a deliberate suicide—we are not quite sure which. There seems no reason why he should not have escaped from the church if Westray could. But he did not.

G. M. R.

What to Read.

"A Queen of Tears: Caroline Matilda, Queen of Denmark and Norway, and Princess of Great Britain and Ireland." By W. H. Wilkins.

"The Creevey Papers: a Selection from the Diaries and Correspondence of Thomas Creevey (1768-1838)." By the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P.

"The Letters of a Portuguese Nun (Marianna Alcoforado). Translated, with an Introduction, by Edgar Prestage."

"Women Workers: the Papers read at the Conference held at Cheltenham and Gloucester on November 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1903."

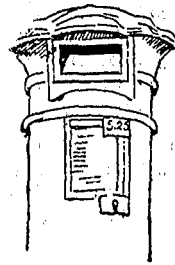
Coming Events.

January 23rd.—Special General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. AGENDA: To receive and consider Amendments suggested to the Draft Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. 3 p.m.

January 26th.—Meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association to discuss the "Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses," 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

January 28th.—Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council, at 431, Oxford Street, W. 4 p.m.

February 2nd.—Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. AGENDA: To consider the Draft Bill upon the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which will be submitted to the meeting; and to consider any amendments that may be proposed thereon; and to move and, if thought desirable, to adopt the following resolution:—"That the Draft Bill, as amended, be approved; and that the Executive Committee be directed to take such steps as they may think necessary to have it submitted to Parliament."



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.

MATERNITY NURSE OR MIDWIFE?

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

DEAR MADAM,—The paper in your last issue, entitled "Maternity Nurse or Midwife?" raises some questions which I think deserve very full consideration. There are, I believe, many medical practitioners who prefer to employ as monthly nurses women who have also received midwifery training; patients are often of the same mind. The reason is obvious; doctors are not always able to attend a midwifery case at the exact time they are required, and it is a relief to many of them to know that a woman who has been trained and fully qualified as a midwife will be able to take charge of the patient in case of their unavoidable delay.

We may fairly assume that doctors are chiefly concerned for the welfare and safety of their patients, therefore the question of possible "competition" would surely not be considered?

Midwives should, I think, be encouraged, not discouraged, to register themselves during the next fifteen months; although at present practising as monthly nurses, many of them may, later on, be glad to feel that when they desire to settle in a home of their own, and to take up midwifery practice, they are on the Register and entitled to practise without examination.

Further, a midwifery certificate is essential for many of the foreign and Colonial posts; for these, monthly nursing certificates are of little use. In these it is required that the woman shall be thoroughly qualified, if necessary, to undertake normal cases in the often unavoidable absence of a doctor. It should further be remembered that there is, and will continue to be, a larger demand in the future for midwives than for monthly nurses, and that, however useful the latter calling may be, it is already overstocked.—Yours faithfully,

AMY HUGHES.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE MATRONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Although the Metropolitan Matrons have with one brilliant exception stood aside all these years, while we of the rank and file have been striving for better organisation in our profession, and thus they have not taken any part in helping us to evolve order out of chaos as the American Matrons did, still I am strongly in favour of a good number of seats on any governing body being secured in the Bill for Matrons of leading training-schools. Once we have Registration, the future generations of Matrons will be registered nurses first and official potentates second, and will realise that their responsible position compels them to deal with the general interests of the profession. I hope, therefore, that by some means seats

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