

So he decided to go to chapel, a proceeding which would save him quite £20 a year in subscriptions, and yet cause him to be thought, at chapel, a liberal donor. He approved of the financial constitution of the chapel. It was run on a sound business basis, he thought, with approval!

Naturally, this man expects to be a little tin god to all his children and his poor relations also. The history of his disappointments is bitter reading. His wife dies; his youngest daughter is an invalid, owing to his declining to call in a doctor for her when first she was taken ill as a child. His eldest son disgraces the family. His youngest son rebels. Through it all he keeps the one idea that he and his money are a power, a power that can be felt.

Then at last come the symptoms of mortal disease, and in a moment the foundations of the greatness of Josiah Porlick are sapped. He had built a hospital; he had been made a baronet; he had meted out vengeance to his enemies. All was as naught against the fell name of cancer.

We should hear without surprise that this book came from the same hand which wrote "Borlase and Son." In any case, it is a most able book of its kind, and one which one feels might be read with profit by some thousands of people in the present day.

G. M. R.

Women's Ways.

Time was, not very long ago,
When Mabel's walking-skirt
Trailed half-a-yard behind to show
How well she swept the dirt.
But "short and sweet" are in again;
No more the grievance rankles,
For Mabel's now curtailed her train
And shows her dainty ankles.
But Mabel has a thrifty mind;
To supplement her charms,
The frills that once she wore behind
She fastens on her arms.
Her sleeves are made in open bags
Like trousers in the Navy;
No more she sweeps the streets, but drags
Her sleeve across the gravy.

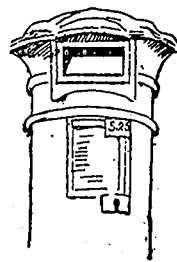
—Punch.

What to Read.

- "Correspondance de George Sand et d'Alfred de Musset." Edited by Félix Decori.
"The Lady of Loyalty House." By Justin Huntly M'Carthy.
"The Blue Fox." By W. H. Helm.
"The Merry-Go-Round." By W. Somerset Maugham.
"In the Closed Room." By Mrs. Hodgson Burnett.
"Letters from a Silent Study." By John Oliver Hobbes.

Coming Events.

- October 13th and 14th.—A Conference, National Association for the Feeble-Minded and National Union of Special Schools, at the Guildhall.
November 7th to 11th.—Annual Conference National Union of Women Workers, York.



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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much for the prize of one guinea, which I have been so fortunate in winning and very glad to receive.

Yours truly,

MARGARET WHITWORTH.

West Kent General Hospital,
Maidstone.

COTTAGE HOSPITALS AS PREPARATORY SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As Matron of a small hospital I was interested in "Sister's" letter, and think some scheme of amalgamation would benefit the small hospitals, while the large ones need not lose by it. We cannot give a thorough training, but a small hospital, under a trained Matron, is worked as nearly as possible on the same lines as a large one, and a suitable woman could be grounded in her "housework," learn the names and uses of ward appliances, how to pad splints, make bandages, prepare invalid food, and have begun her training in habits of neatness, punctuality, and order. Given sufficient help, the Matron would be willing to give theoretical teaching. It is very difficult to find suitable candidates, but I think they would be easier to find if the year in a cottage hospital could be counted as training.

Then there is the staff nurse difficulty. In the larger cottage hospitals some trained help is necessary. A Matron cannot always be in the wards; accidents, bad medical cases, and operation cases are taken in, and there is no house surgeon. At present I fear nurses are apt to look down on "little places," but, if they knew they would not lose caste, I think some nurses just out of their time would be glad for a short time of the quiet of a small hospital.

I have heard much lately of nurses in small hospitals having to do "pros' work." If in the future we are to employ only registered nurses, will they do "pros' work," or must we have more ward maids to wait on the nurses? and would it be wise to let maids have anything to do with the patients? I have not found it desirable, and I know of one maid, who was allowed to help in a "rush," who expected to be treated for ever after as one of the nurses.

Yours faithfully,

A LITTLE MATRON.

A GLIMPSE OF THE GUTTER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The sordid story reported in your journal last week under the above heading poured a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)