

Will they conquer? Can they do it? Is it possible for them to hold out?

The issue is awaited with extraordinary urgency.

And every woman may now turn to Robert Hichens and say: "At last you have understood how women save men. At last you have realised for us a woman who is human, full of passion, full of the *joie de vivre*, full of humanity in its most robust form; but a woman to whom spirit is more than flesh, and the hereafter than the present moment."

It is a great design, achieved with a magic which can only be described as positively enslaving. To have reached the end is like having forced one's own way through mental crisis. Every faculty, every emotion is invoked, to follow the lives of Domini and Boris.

G. M. R.

### Joy After Pain.

The blacksmith's door stood open wide,  
I heard the anvil ringing;  
Then looking in I saw the blows  
That caused the rhythmic singing.

So, oft in life, a bitter pain  
That comes from deepest sorrow,  
Rings from the heart a soft refrain  
Of thankfulness, to-morrow.

CAROLINE WEBSTER D. RICH.

### What to Read.

"How Women as Councillors may Improve Sanitation and Housing in Rural Districts." By Miss Constance Cockrane.

"A Leader of Society at Napoleon's Court." By Catherine Bearne.

"Life in a Crack Regiment." By Baron von Schlicht.

"Jim Mortimer, Surgeon." By R. S. Warren Bell.

"From the Monarchy to the Republic in France, 1788-1792." By Sophia H. MacLehose.

"Memoir of Rosamond Davenport-Hill." By Ethel E. Metcalfe.

"The Blue Moon." By Laurence Housman.

"The Tiger of Muscovy." By Fred Wishaw.

"The Shadow on the Wall." By M. E. Coleridge.

### Coming Events.

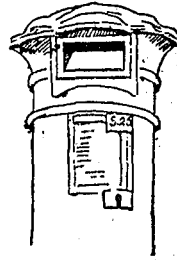
November 16th.—Meeting at the General Hospital, Nottingham, Board Room. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on "The State Registration of Trained Nurses."

November 18th.—General Meeting of Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, Board Room. Miss Isla Stewart on "The Registration of Trained Nurses by the State." Social gathering.

November 23rd.—Meeting at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. "Women on Hospital Boards." Address by Miss Georgiana Hill.

November 25th.—Meeting of Delegates of the Provisional Committee for the National Council of Nurses of England, 431, Oxford Street, W.; 2.30 p.m.

To consider and take action upon a letter from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary International Council of Nurses.



### 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."

Miss Laurence acknowledges the receipt of the guinea prize with thanks, and is very pleased that she has at last been successful in gaining the prize.

Kensington Infirmary, W.

#### PRIVATE NURSING IN THE FUTURE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In a letter signed "A Mother of Girls" in your last issue I see a statement made that the London hospital nurses are sent out to undersell their fellow nurses in private nursing. This underselling, the writer states, is in two ways: first, that they have only had two years' training, and, secondly, that they are paid a salary upon which a "private nurse cannot possibly exist."

I have no time to reply to all the hostile criticisms on the London Hospital which appear so regularly in your paper, but sometimes I am "drawn," and I should like to reply to "A Mother of Girls."

It is quite true that some, not all, of our private nurses have been trained in two years. But it is also true that we are responsible for their being fit to nurse private cases, or we should not send them out. If for no other reason, the reputation of our school for good nursing is too valuable to risk.

I never can appreciate the statement that three years' training makes a nurse, and that two years' cannot. It is not a question of time at all. It is simply a question of what experience and opportunities the nurse has had, and how she has been taught. Ten years at some hospitals would not make a nurse, nor would twenty years' training make a nurse of some women.

A register (ominous word) of every nurse's experience is carefully kept at "The London," and a report is required of her from every Sister under whom she has worked. "A Mother of Girls" writes as though the possession of a three-years' certificate were a nurse's only capital. Rather might we complain that nurses who have been miserably trained, and have seen nothing of illnesses compared with what ours have seen, but have managed to stay three years at, perhaps, some small hospital, and pass some easy examination, should be getting the same fees as our nurses. So there is no question of our nurses underselling others.

The reports of our private nurses from the doctors and patients who employ them, testify to their technical skill and good nursing characters, and are a sufficient answer to "A Mother of Girls."

It is curious how this fetch of three years is set up. I suppose those who write to your paper would not say that neither you, yourself, nor Miss Isla

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