

of Régina may be called unreal by some. But she is a magnificent conception. She has no principles, but her impulses are all good. She may be forgiven much for the greatness and singleness of her love.

In spite of the apparent sordidness of the theme, the book is neither sensational nor unpleasant. And it is, without doubt, thrilling enough for the greatest lover of incident.

G. M. R.

El Highland Holiday.

Why did ye gather me,
Lad wi' the bonny e'en,
Pluck me awa' frae the sweet mountain side?

Mony a garden
Hae blossoms more fair to see;
Why could ye no let the wild-flower bide?

Why did ye gather me,
Lad wi' the bonny e'en,
Throw me awa' on the pitiless tide?

Noo I am drifting
Doun to the open sea,
Far frae my hame on the sweet mountain side.

—ELEANOR ESHER, in the *Westminster Gazette*.

What to Read.

"The Hungry Forties" is an account of life under the Bread Tax, from the letters of Living Witnesses. With an introduction by Mrs. Cobden Unwin.

"The Dream of Peace." By Francis Gribble.

"Vanessa." A romance of the new century and the New World. By Constantine Ralli.

"Paths of Judgment." By Anne Douglas Sedgwick.

"Boden's Boy." By Tom Gallon.

Coming Events.

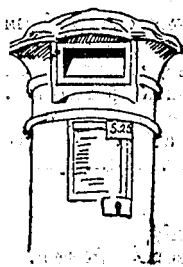
November 23rd.—Meeting at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. "Women on Hospital Boards." Address by Miss Georgiana Hill.

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. Dook, Hon. Secretary International Council of Nurses.

November 25th and 26th.—National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Friday, November 25th, National Convention at the Crown Room, Holborn Restaurant, 10.45—1 p.m., and 2.30—4.30 p.m. Saturday 26th, public meeting in the smaller Queen's Hall. Chairman, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., 3 p.m.

November 26th.—Messrs. Jerome K. Jerome, Pett Ridge, and W. W. Jacobs give readings from their respective works at the Birkbeck College, Chancery Lane; in aid of the Rotherhithe District Nurses Fund. Tickets may be obtained at the College or of Miss Mary Simmons at the Bermondsey Settlement.

November 30th.—Mrs. Choate opens a sale of the patients' work in the hall of the British Home and Hospital for Incurables at Crown Lane, Streatham, 11.



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.

BACTERIOLOGY FOR PROBATIONERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is gratifying to find that the surgical cleanliness of a nurse's hands is a live question, and is arousing correspondence in your valuable paper. It seems to me that the honours in the discussion which has taken place are with those who maintain my point. Miss Eden, who has found the impossibility of clean hands when called off from ward work to assist at surgical dressings, tells us she "felt worse than Lady Macbeth." "A Practical Person," on the other hand, defends the combination of ward cleaning and surgical nursing because she, personally, has not had any ill results from the practice, but that does not prove that the system is right. "A Puzzled Matron" again admits that, "theoretically, of course, 'Surgical Sister' and E. L. C. Eden are quite right," but practically it is impossible to make other arrangements. With all deference, I may point out that we look to our Matrons to say how the matter is to be arranged. The argument of impracticability can be brought, and has been brought over and over again, against every improvement for the benefit of patients and nurses, including the scrubbing of ward floors by nurses, their sleeping and taking their meals in the wards, and a variety of customs now justly considered reprehensible. Who would now dare to declare that the patients were not the gainers when the nurses were relieved of duty of scrubbing the wards and other similar offices? Yet it was once held essential that they should do so.

And in a matter of principle, surely if the principle is conceded, then it remains for those in authority to discover the method of its application. I appeal to your readers. Who is in the more tenable and admirable position—the nurse who at a few seconds' notice turns from her cleaning to assist at surgical dressings, and whose surgical conscience makes her exclaim: "I feel like Lady Macbeth," or the Matron who says: "I know it is wrong that these things should be, but it is impossible to make other arrangements"?

After all, would what one asks for necessitate such a violent readjustment of the ward work? I think not. Probably in medical wards no alteration would be requisite. Surely it could be arranged that an occasional empyema case could be attended by some nurse with clean hands, and if in the surgical wards an extra ward-maid and a probationer less had to be employed, what then? It would cost the hospital a little more (and this, after all, is the crux—the probationer's £8 against the ward-maid's £16), but there would be a gain in the thoroughness of the training. Neither did I ever plead that the probationers should do no ward work; on the contrary, it is a most valuable part of their training, only that those who are engaged in cleaning should not touch sterile dressings and aseptic wounds.

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