

to comment. Here are some extracts which it may be supposed will set most of us longing for more.

"Sometimes I have wanted a confidant until I ached. I have wanted to go to some level-headed, broad-minded person, and tell the story, and laugh. I have read a clever story now and then in which an Abbé figured. I have always had an ideal of an Abbé in my mind. If I had ever run across him I should have become a convert to Rome for no reason on earth, except that I wanted a confidant. I would throw out as a hint to other mothers, that there is a wonderful career for a poor, clever, ambitious boy in the Church. . . . The idle class in America is made up of women, and men who think along feminine lines. They want a confidant. . . . The priest who can fill this want is a 'made' man. He must be a celibate. Some women find a confidant in a judiciously selected doctor."

"I always thought Becky Sharp a fool. Clever people hold their own. They make the world respect them, and they are seldom found out. I had no advantages of education, not even Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, but I could teach Becky Sharp things that neither she nor her creator ever dreamed of."

"We are a good deal like bread. As raw dough we are promising. Until we get so old that we sour, we may be manipulated into good loaves at any time; but put us in the oven, take us out half-baked, and allow us to cool in that state—and we are done for. As for me, I was below the 'little knowledge' state. I had only been near enough the fire to rise a little."

"We sometimes talked of the people, and my husband wondered why the public schools did not teach them more. We finally came to the conclusion that they are not really taught anything but surface book-knowledge. They can add, multiply, and subtract figures, but not facts. There appears to be a wall between their learning, such as it is, and their actual living. The relation between the two, which is education, is unknown to them."

After these specimens, you will not wonder at the following:—

"My son," I asked, "what do you want to do?"

He laughed easily, and bowed, in a little foreign fashion.

"My dear mamma," he said in French, "I would be a Duke."

"But alas," I returned, "I am not a fairy god-mother."

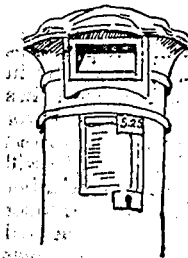
"To my amazement his frank eyes took on a suddenly shrewd expression. He looked at me with almost a beam of real intelligence, of understanding. 'That is not so sure,' he said." (A. M. R.)

What to Read.

- "The Identity of Jane." By Alice Methley.
- "The Old Cantonment; with other Stories of India and Elsewhere." By B. M. Croker.
- "A Rebel Wooing." By J. A. Steuart.

Coming Events.

- April 11th.—Grand Morning Concert in aid of the Oxygen Hospital, Stafford House, 3.
- April 12th.—Select Committee on Nursing. Chairman, H. J. Tennant, Esq., M.P., House of Commons, Committee Room 17, 11.30 a.m.



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,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of cheque for one guinea. It gave me great pleasure, as it is always such a surprise to win anything. With many thanks.—Yours very truly,
Glynrhudd, Ruthin. A. E. HAW.

IN PRAISE OF THE PENSION FUND.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Kindly allow me to say a few words as to a letter *re* Royal Nurses' Pension Fund, signed J. F. Somerville, in the last issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

That letter, speaking for a large body of Queen's nurses, and, I feel sure, many others, we greatly deplore and regret. The Royal National Pension Fund is greatly valued and appreciated by its members, and is one, if not the best thing that was ever set on foot to help nurses, who owe a deep debt of gratitude to the promoters. It has nothing to do with nursing politics either as to State or voluntary registration. It has been adequately proved that the insurance companies do not approach the Royal National Pension Fund in its advantages. I write as one of the first thousand nurses who joined, and also as a nurses' representative.—Yours very truly,

PAULINE W. PETER,

General Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

[Mr. J. Forbes Somerville stated in his letter that "the old-established insurance societies would give greater value for the same money" than the Royal National Pension Fund, and suggested that "some of the ladies who are now annuitants should state how much they have paid and what benefits they are now receiving, so that comparisons may be made with the results of insurance offices doing the same class of business." Why should not this be done? We should think it would be satisfactory to both sides, as of late years the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company and the New York Life Insurance Company have offered liberal terms to nurses. The Pension Fund might publish a comparative list of the terms of the three societies in plain figures and set the matter at rest.—Ed.]

MIDWIVES AS DISTRICT NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder whether one phase of the Registration question has struck your readers. I mean the frequency with which one now sees in connection with District Nursing appointments that the requirement is, "cert. Central Midwives' Board, some general training." One cannot blame the lay public in the present unorganised condition of nursing for de-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)