

all the advances. Up till now, he had never come in absolute conflict with a nice discrimination such as had looked at him out of those grey eyes which began to haunt him like a reproof. Probably there had been many Lauris Desmonds on board during past voyages, who had passed him by in silent condemnation, but he had not troubled about them. Now that a chance thing . . . had drawn his attention, he fancied that he was face to face with a unique experience. . . . Why did not the girl like him? Why should this one of all womankind stand aloof? "He did not realise that Lauris's type had always stood aloof from him, and that, therefore, he was seeing it now for the first time."

In those words, the writer touches the edge of a deeper truth than that she goes to prove. There were always women of the right type. But Amyas had never cared to seek them. He had made his own fate, and was as personally responsible for his own moral shipwreck, as for that other shipwreck which engulfed him at the last. G. M. R.

### Yesterday.

All the past things are past and over,  
The tasks are done and the tears are shed,  
Yesterday's errors let yesterday cover,  
Yesterday's wounds that smarted and bled  
Are healed with the healing which night has shed.  
Yesterday now is a part of forever,  
Bound up in a sheaf which God holds tight,  
With glad days, and sad days, and bad days, which  
never  
Shall visit us more with their bloom and their  
blight,  
Their fulness of sunshine, or sorrowful night.  
Let them go, since we cannot revive them,  
Cannot undo, and cannot atone;  
God in His mercy receive and forgive them;  
Only the new days are our own,  
To-day is ours,—to-day alone.

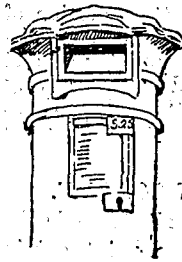
SUSAN COOLIDGE.

### What to Read.

"Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee." By his Son, Captain Robert E. Lee.  
"The Secret Woman." By Eden Philpotts.  
"The Land of Bondage." By John Blundelle-Burton.  
"The Scarlet Pimpernel." By Baroness Orczy.  
"Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War." By Lieut.-Col. G. F. R. Henderson.

### Coming Events.

Matrons' Council Winter Meetings:—  
February 6th.—Miss Amy Hughes on "The Work of County Nursing Associations," 431, Oxford Street, W. 8 p.m.  
February 7th to 10th.—Conference on School Hygiene, arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute, University of London.  
February 21st and 22nd.—Central London Poor Law Conference, Guildhall, London, E.C.



### 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.

#### CZARISM.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In your admirable report of the Bournemouth Registration Meeting, I note you omit an important statement made by Miss Georgina Scott, that the reason nurses have not got their registration is the fault of the Matrons. This is a fact, and we nurses had better take note that our greatest enemies are not laymen or doctors, but those in our own ranks, who, having climbed to the top of the tree, are showing a lamentable spirit of selfish intolerance where less fortunate members of their profession are concerned, and are working with a quite surprising energy to prevent us having a say in our own affairs. The truth is the "absolutist" Matron fears the rank and file, and it is where the Committees permit absolutism in the nursing department, and shuffle over their rightful responsibility for the nurses they employ to a paid official, that the whole opposition to organisation and just conditions for nurses, and protection for the public springs. So long as the Committees of certain London hospitals permit their Matrons to summarily discharge probationers and nurses without a just hearing, just so long will the type of woman who loves absolute power fill these important posts, and, of course, fight against any system of reform which will decrease her autocracy, which is pernicious and out of touch with the age.

Miss Monk's article in the *Monthly Review* is an insult to womanhood—to say nothing of the nursing profession—the existence of which she attempts to deny. It denies to us the right of reasonable judgment or any liberty of conscience. Miss Scott did well to speak out, and I, with others, regret her words were not reported in full. It is time all the ambiguous nonsense talked by the absolutists was met by plain outspoken truth, and I, for one, consider the Metropolitan Matrons—with a few generous exceptions—the greatest enemies we nurses have.

Yours truly,

TRAINED IN THE COUNTRY.

[If the anti-registration Matrons are the nurses' greatest enemies—and with regret we must own they are—as laymen and doctors are often swayed by the views of these ladies in forming opinions and taking action in nursing matters, we must not forget that the liberal-minded Matrons are their greatest friends. These ladies, both in London and the country, have up till now done most of the arduous mining and sapping, excavating on stony ground, and laying of sound foundations upon which, by and by, will arise, in spite of all the intolerance, the splendid edifice of the Organised Profession of Nursing. And are the rank and file quite blameless in this matter? Not in our opinion, as they have shown a most deplorable lack of intelli-

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