

safely in New York. Quite another when back again among local influences, enveloped in the native atmosphere and influence which has been the making of her, and is her real, unalterable *milieu*. Prince Hagané is her father's feudal chief. When he hears of old Tetsujo's unspeakable horror, of the infatuation of his only child for the detested Pierre Lebeau, he agrees that the only thing is to marry little Yuki promptly. But to the overwhelming ecstasy of the old man, he offers himself as the bridegroom. With infinite subtlety the author lets it be seen that this man of iron, this leader of Japanese progress and patriotism, is really in love, desperately in love with the sweet, fragile, yet spiritually strong Yuki.

He shows us vividly the conflicting ideals of chastity, of the respect due to womanhood, of the value of human life, of the ethics of marriage, which sunder the East and the West so utterly. He lets in new light on the ultimate moral purposes of a people, of a civilisation, vast and ancient whom we have been content to treat as barbarians for so many years. A prominent Japanese lately said to an English man of letters: "We have for many years been sending to your country works of art such as no Western artist can produce, and you have still called us barbarians. Now that we have sent tens of thousands of Russians to the bottom of the sea and blown up forts and made great slaughter, you are beginning to think that we may be civilised."

This book shows us something of the meaning of life and death as understood by this wonderful, astounding nation. G. M. R.

What to Read.

"Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV." By W. H. Wilkins.

"The Duke of Reichstadt." By Edward de Wertheimer.

"A History of the Civil War in the United States, 1861-65." By W. Birkbeck Wood, M.A., and Major J. E. Edmonds, R.E.

"The Princess Priscilla's Fortnight." By the Author of "Elizabeth and her German Garden."

Coming Events.

November 23rd.—American Bazaar at the Town Hall, Stratford, in aid of the Extension Fund of the West Ham and East London Hospital.

November 29th.—Presentation to Miss Pauline Peter, late General Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, in London.

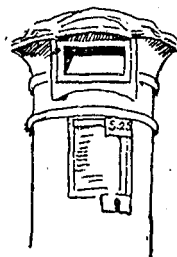
December 1st.—Opening of the new Hammersmith Workhouse Infirmary by Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg.

December 2nd.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' Winter Social Gathering, Medical School Library, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 4 to 6.30 p.m. Guests of the League, The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

December 2nd.—Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture by Dr. Peacocke on "Some Therapeutic Measures and their Methods of Administration," 86, Lower Leeson Street; Dublin.

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.

A STANDARD FOR MATRONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a constant reader of your valuable journal, and one who looks to you for an outspoken expression of opinion on all matters that affect us professionally, I have been disappointed not to find some comment from you on the recent appointment to two important Matronships, of London Hospitals, of ladies holding only a one year's certificate of training, one as a Lady Pupil, the other from a Provincial Poor Law Infirmary. Is it not time that some standard of training was required of Matrons? I speak what I know when I say that there is a very strong feeling amongst many of those who apply for appointments as Matrons that there is very little encouragement to be obtained from Committees of hospitals to qualify oneself thoroughly for a Matron's post. A woman with a three years' certificate, who has obtained subsequent experience in the supervision of nurses and in institutional house-keeping, has no better chance of appointment, apparently, than one with a one year's certificate of training, or perhaps with no certificate at all. Experience has taught me that, except for the satisfaction of one's own conscience, thorough painstaking work is of no account whatever. It is not appreciated. It has no market value in the nursing world. Proof of it is of very little use if one applies for a post. Indeed, a friend of considerable experience in the nursing world recently said to me: "If I were applying for a post nowadays I should let my qualifications take care of themselves, and should bend all my energies to devising the most becoming costume in which to interview the Committee. That, after all, is the most important thing." I quite believe her. I know one lady who *hired* her costume for such an occasion—and got the post!

One remark I may make, however. I do not think that even nurses with good certificates realise always that something more is needed in applicants for special hospitals. The Matron of a Hospital for Women, for instance, needs a thorough knowledge of gynaecological work. Mental training is requisite in a candidate for an Asylum post. The average nurse is rather apt to think it goes without saying that if she holds a three years' certificate she is competent to care for any and every disease. If words of mine have any weight, I should like to strongly urge that no one can know how to nurse special diseases by instinct. Every nurse should realise the importance of a certificate in maternity nursing, in gynaeco-

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