

"If I were in monetary difficulties, young gentleman," said the Vicomte, with extraordinary dignity, 'do you suppose I should refuse to allow my old friend to assist me?'

"I am quite sure you would, sir," said the American."

After this delightful passage it is quite disappointing to find the story progressing along most conventional lines. Iron Brett turns out to be the regulation American of the modern stage—the man without weaknesses, with unlimited command of wealth and of himself. There might have been interest in his wooing of Rosaleen had it not been sacrificed to the love-making of two other pairs of lovers. The pairing off at the end leaves one resentful. But a book which holds the Vicomte must be a book worth reading.

G. M. R.

Verse.

Give me my scallop-shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of glory, hope's true gage;
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

Blood must be my body's balmer,
No other balm will there be given;
Whilst my soul, like quiet palmer,
Travelleth toward the land of heaven;
Over the silver mountains,
Where spring the nectar fountains;
There will I kiss
The bowl of bliss,
And drink mine everlasting fill
Upon every milken hill;
My soul will be a-dry before,
But after it will thirst no more.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

Coming Events.

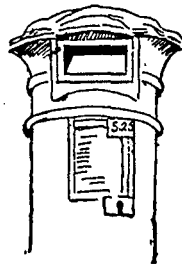
February 6th.—Written Examination of the Central Midwives' Board; London, at the Examination Hall, Thames Embankment; Newcastle-on-Tyne, at the Lying-in Hospital; Bristol, at University College; Manchester, at the University of Manchester, 2-5. Oral Examination.—Newcastle and Bristol, Saturday, Feb. 10th; Manchester, Monday, Feb. 12th; London, Feb. 12th and 13th.

February 7th.—A Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, By Order of the Executive Committee, to consider the following Resolution:—"That the resolutions passed at the Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association held on Wednesday, January 17th, 1906, be rescinded, and that the Draft Bill be re-introduced in the form in which it left the Special Meeting of the General Council held on Monday, January 8th, 1906."

February 14th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Lecture on Bacteriology by Dr. F. W. Andrewes, at the Hospital, 5.45.

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.

THE R.B.N.A. DISFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

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

MADAM,—May I ask you to be good enough to allow me space in your next issue to contradict an absurd story which has arisen from the exceedingly careless reporting of the representative of the *Hospital* newspaper, who was present at the Special General Meeting of the R.B.N.A. on January 17th. As your readers are aware, the whole of the amendments wrung from the Executive Committee of that Society are now repudiated, and the proceedings rendered null and void on the grounds that a person or persons not being members of the Association moved a resolution, and may have taken part in the voting on that occasion.

Thanks to the *Hospital*, which not only refers to me by name as being present, but actually reports words which I am supposed to have said, I hear that I am credited with having attended the meeting and invalidating the proceedings. As a matter of fact I was not in London on that day. Had I been a member of the Society I should most certainly have been there to add my protest to those of the ladies who fought so nobly against the R.B.N.A. Executive Committee in its endeavour to disfranchise the nurses and refuse their very reasonable and just demand for a proper representation on their own governing body

Yours faithfully,

HELEN TODD, Matron.

Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.

THE INSULT TO THE NURSING PROFESSION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Inspired letters are being written—and will no doubt find space in the columns of the lay nursing press—stating that the "doctors were insulted," and "the doctors were disfranchised" at the R.B.N.A. meeting on the 17th. Now, all those who were present know the first accusation to be absolutely false, and as to their "disfranchisement" because we passed an amendment requiring that a nurse should represent the Nurses' Association, they take it as a personal affront. No more outrageous claim could have been advanced by the medical members than that they should represent the nurses. They have dozens of medical associations of their own which rigorously exclude nurses from membership, and quite right too. The truth is, nurses should manage their own societies, and when they do my experience is that the greatest harmony prevails. And *vice-versa*. What would have been

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)