

blood and steam, here are the gut shovellers, and those wretches who at last are brought down to handling the blinding, stinking dust made out of burnt entrails and sold for "Fertilizer"—stuff so awful that the reek of it in your throat takes away the capacity to swallow food, and so penetrating and insidious that no washing will remove the taint!

Inspectors winking at breaches of factory laws, police conniving at gambling hells, houses of ill-fame, and cock-fighting; overseers seizing upon young, helpless wives and girls, on the threat of putting the whole family out of work, should they be refused; building societies with a quibbling cheating agreement, lies, fraud, violence, oppression, famine—one puts down the book blind and sick.

One dare not hope that the indictment is untrue, the whole manner of the book is of one who has braced himself to expose a state of things which seems to show a more depraved phase of human nature than any record of history affords. The question that arises in the mind is—If America is really peopled by such monsters of corruption as this, how is she to be saved? By Socialism, Mr. Sinclair thinks. But is that so? G. M. R.

### What to Read.

"The Boyhood of a Great King." By A. M. Broadley.

"The Face of Clay." By Horace Vachell.

"Thalassa." By Mrs. Baillie-Reynolds.

### Coming Events.

June 5th.—Festival Dinner of East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, at Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, Lord Brassey in the chair.

June 11th.—Laying of Foundation Stone, School of Advanced Medical Studies, Nurses Home and Maternity Students House, University College Hospital, by Sir Donald Currie, G.C.M.G. 4 p.m.

June 12th.—Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association. Fête and Sale of Work at the Home, 80, Nichols Square, Hackney Road, N.E. 3 p.m. Her Highness Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein will receive purses from children. 3.30 p.m.

June 14th.—Conversazione, organised by the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, at the Gallery of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, S.W. London Viennese Band. 8 p.m.

June 17th.—Hospital Sunday—Hospital Sunday Fund. Patron, his Majesty the King; President and Treasurer, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.

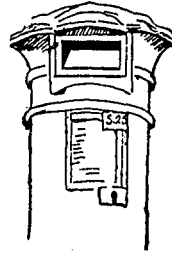
June 26th and 27th.—Grand bazaar at the Albert Hall in aid of the funds of the Great Northern Central Hospital and for the establishment of a Convalescent Home. To be opened by the Duchess of Connaught.

### A Word for the Week.

Man is born with his hands clinched; he dies with his hands wide open. Entering life he desires to grasp everything; leaving the world, all that he possessed has slipped away.—*Talmud*.

## 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 NURSING INQUISITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—No one could read the correspondence published in your last issue between Miss Burr and the Editorial Committee of the R.B.N.A. without realising the helpless position of the nurse members in relation to their own official organ, the *Nurses' Journal*. As you say, it appears simply to be used to place before absent readers what views and interpretations the officials choose, and any letters throwing light upon our affairs are ruthlessly excluded. We cannot wonder that no Matrons or nurses of any professional standing now join the Association, or that self-respecting old members will have nothing to do with it. I for one was so indignant at the manner in which the business was conducted on February 7th that I thought of sending a letter to our Journal, but was told what is quite true that I should waste my time as the officials would exclude it, and no doubt they would have treated me with the same contempt with which they have treated Miss Burr. Now, I would ask our legislators to consider what would be the fate of nurses if placed under the control of the same sort of men as the Honorary Officers of the R.B.N.A. propose in the Bill to which so many of us take strong exception? We should be worse off than we are at present, without any legal status at all. The manner in which the few doctors who govern the R.B.N.A. during the past ten years have treated the nurses has been a lesson and a warning to nurses all over the world. Feeling sure that space will be found in your justly conducted journal,

I remain, yours truly,

GEORGINA B. MACVITIE.

### VISITING NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The letter in this week's journal suggesting Visiting Nursing as a solution to the problem of nurses for the middle classes was specially interesting to me. I am, with another nurse, now putting the scheme to a practical test. In the first place we sent round circulars to all principal parts of the town, simply stating our scheme, and giving a scale of fees (very little practical result from this, circulars mostly lost or never looked at!). A special typed letter was sent to every doctor, asking for his co-operation, and pointing out the advantages of the scheme. Our fees are graduated according to time spent, and the means of patients attended.

We find the visiting is much appreciated when

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)