

of love in his up-bringing. An affectionate, not very strong character, his lapses are the lapses of weakness and not of vice. He is madly in love with Lilian, and she realises that she must see him no more.

The original quality of the book is, that, having realised that she loves George Conyers, Lilian thinks it necessary to confess to her husband that such is the case. She is astonished to find that, on her confession, all his vaunted broad-mindedness breaks down, and he becomes the bitterly jealous husband.

The irony of the position lies in the fact that he has himself been all the time carrying on a *liaison* with a woman whose husband divorced her on his account before his marriage—a woman whom he had neither the courage to marry nor the decency to drop. This makes him to our mind so despicable a character that it is hard to take the least interest in him afterwards. The same, or much the same situation, was treated in Miss Netta Syrett's "The Day's Work," and was there dealt with in a manner full of force and sympathy.

Lucas Cleeve's story is not so natural, not so convincing; yet it has points of great merit.

The despair of poor Lilian, when she finds that she has renounced and torn from her heart the man who filled it, and that, all the time, her husband has never been really hers, but has lived a double life, and that George Conyers himself knew her to be a deceived wife, is very well given. Also, the great point of the book, that her suffering has not been in vain; that the mere fact of her being what she was has enabled her unworthy husband, the poor woman whose life he ruined, and even the weak George Conyers, to rise to the full height of their respective capacities. Lucas Cleeve should do far better than this some day.

G. M. R.

### What to Read.

"The Management of a Nerve Patient." By Alfred T. Schofield, M.D.

"Russia: Travels and Studies." By Annette M. B. Meakin.

"The Africander Land." By Archibald R. Colquhoun.

### Coming Events.

January 30th.—Meeting of Central Midwives' Board to deal with disciplinary matters.

February 6th.—Next Examination of Central Midwives' Board in London and the Provinces.

### A Word for the Week.

The chief use, then, in Man of that he knows

Is his painstaking for the good of all;

Not fleshly weeping for our own made woes,

Not laughing from a melancholy gall,

Not hating from a soul that overflows

With bitterness, breathed out from inward thrall;

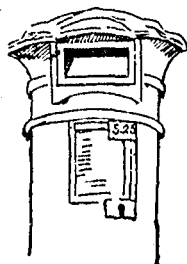
But sweetly rather to ease, loose, or bind,

As need requires, this frail, fall'n humankind.

Fulke Greville.

## 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. RE-DRAFTED BILL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The Re-drafted Bill of the Royal British Nurses' Association was, and is, so full of such glaring injustice to the whole nursing profession, that it was impossible to contest every point, more especially as there was sufficient evidence at the Special General Meeting to show there are still many nurse members who prefer to be done for, rather than to think and act for themselves.

One very important point has not been sufficiently noted, it is this—that whilst provision is made for a medical practitioner to represent the British Medical Association, and three medical men to represent England, Scotland and Ireland from the General Medical Council, and one medical practitioner to represent the Medico-Psychological Society—i.e., mental nurses, there is no provision made for the representation of any self-governing body of nurses.

Why should not the Matrons' Council have a representative? The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses surely has more right to representation on the governing body of the nursing profession than the General Medical Council; and where do the Nurses' Leagues come in?

I noticed, too, the pathetic manner in which the Hon. Medical Secretary pleaded that we could take it for granted a nurse would be sent to represent the R.B.N.A.; if it was a foregone conclusion, why object to having it incorporated in the Bill? It is neither wise or businesslike to take important points for granted, and surely expert business men like the Hon. Medical Officers of the R.B.N.A. will agree with me upon this point if we disagree on everything else.

Yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

The Chestnuts, Ebford, Topsham, S. Devon.

[It is illuminating in this connection to call to mind in connection with the position of Vice-Chairman in the R.B.N.A. that there are three holders of this position. Two have always been medical men, and when Miss Thorold, after sixteen years of office, resigned the Vice-Chairmanship, Dr. Bezly Thorne immediately slipped into the position thus vacated. Thus all the Vice-Chairmen of this Nurses' Association are now medical men.—Ed.]

### THE DISFRANCHISEMENT OF THE RANK AND FILE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The spirit animating the few medical members present last week at the Special

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)