

### What to Read.

"The Children of the Nation: How Their Health and Vigour should be Promoted by the State." By The Right Hon. Sir John E. Gorst.  
 "Puck of Pook's Hill." By Rudyard Kipling.  
 "The Grip of the Wolf." By Morice Gerard.

### Coming Events.

November 3rd.—Registered Nurses Society At Home. 431, Oxford Street, W. 4.0—6.0.

November 5th.—Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland. Examination for Nursing Certificate.

November 6th.—North London or University College Hospital. Opening of New Building by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G. 3 p.m.

November 9th.—Opening Lecture on Public Health and Hygiene of a course to be given by Dr. Newman, D.P.H., to the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 5.45 p.m.

November 13th.—In aid of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, a Sale of Men, Women, and Children's Clothing, suitable for guilds, etc., and many other useful articles, will be held at 20, Portland Place, W., the residence of Sir Marcus and Lady Samuel. Entrance, 1s. Open from 2 o'clock to 6.30. Tea and coffee.

November 13th.—Lady Knightley of Fawsley presides at the annual general meeting of the Ladies' Guild, St. Thomas's Hospital, 3.30.

November 19th.—Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll opens the new wing of the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road.

November 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.—Provisional Committee National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland Conference Practically Illustrated on the Nursing of Tuberculosis, Maternity, and Mental Nursing: St. George's Hall, Mount Street, London, W. 11.0 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

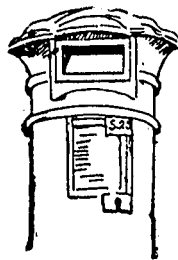
November 28th.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught will preside at the festival dinner of the Royal Free Hospital at the Hotel Cecil.

### A Word for the Week.

There is a theory, widely spread in this day of unchastened, uncontrite, unworshipping thought upon religion, a theory which makes God and man ultimately identical, so that man, as it were, is only God in disguise slowly developing towards a consciousness of his own divinity. Whatever that theory can do, it can never minister to the human spirit the joy of God. It beclouds the very conception of the transcendent and all blissful personality, and so it takes the breath of life out of the instinct of adoration. It is only in right relations to that love that man can ever be developed upward in his own creaturehood, to its fuller and ever fuller joy in the sense of a perfection, always alive with a pure and delightful growth, and that implies adoration before a God supreme above him, yet unspeakably related to him.  
 —Bishop of Durham.

### 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.*

#### FREE TRADE IN NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—No one will deny that the nursing world in parts is terribly over-crowded, and your last week's editorial should make us pause and inquire if free trade in nursing is an advantage.

You say that many foreigners—Scandinavians and Germans more especially—are coming to England for training in our hospitals, and I gather that it is not their intention to return to their own lands, and there give the benefit of their skilled services, but that they are working in England, and even in one case a foreigner has been appointed matron to a British hospital in India.

Now, I do not want to be narrow-minded, but surely with the very keen competition in our nursing world to-day, it is only just that British women should be given well-paid and influential positions in hospitals at home and in our colonies and dependencies. It seems very hard that foreigners should be given these appointments.

Of course, we all know that now much of the need for nursing reform is over—the work does not surround itself with the old romance—and that in consequence the best women are not offering themselves in very great numbers for training as nurses. That with the crowd of semi-educated, and not extremely cultured girls who are admitted to hospitals for training, it will be difficult to build up a first class profession, and that the best material is often disheartened, and eliminated, by the unsympathetic attitude of many Matrons to their desire for professional organisation and status. All the same, the competition of foreigners is not going to make things better. The only remedy with nursing on the down grade is to make the best British women proud to belong to the profession, so that each woman who enters shall have power to uplift it and keep it at a high level.

In the majority of hospitals the nurses are not encouraged from year's end to year's end to realise that each individual holds the reputation of nursing in her hands. I do not belong to a Nurses' League (our Matron loftily disapproves of them), but they seem to be doing a very wonderful amount of uplifting, and the whole profession in this country owes the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a huge debt for encouraging their formation, and the high professional ideals it has put forward against the most shameless opposition.

Yours sincerely,

LATE LONDON HOSPITAL SISTER.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)