

Verses.

"*Cogito, ergo sum.*" *
 "*Cogito, ergo Deus est.*"

When all the while her wings were growing
 She thought her soul was bowed with woe.
 Invisible—without her knowing
 God let those lovely pinions grow.

When she believed her hopes were dying
 And life was more than she could bear,
 She found her wings, and she was flying
 To breathe a clearer, purer air.

Poised high above earth's thirst and hunger,
 Where all is calm and true and still,
 She saw the soul of things grow younger;
 She learnt to know; she learnt to will.

The "I" that cursed the life material
 Lay hidden far below in dust
 While the great peace of life ethereal
 Taught her to love the law "thou must."

A liberty, not of her seeking—
 Filled her with joy, filled her with awe:
 She heard the voice of Nature speaking,
 And felt the freedom of its law.

A law so young, old and undying,
 That circles rise and blend and fall,
 Yet not one human song or sighing,
 But lends perfection to the "All."

And while her spirit winged adoring,
 She felt the charm of little things;
 She heard the cry of earth imploring;
 She bowed her head; she spread her wings.

Not upward to celestial beauties,
 Where ransomed sons of God rejoice,
 But earthward to earth's daily duties,
 Led by a little human voice.

A suffering child: she soothed its crying:
 Earth's wounds. She healed them where she
 could:

She stood consoling by the dying,
 And she believed that *God is good.*

LINA MOLLETT.

Coming Events.

December 25th.—Christmas Day.

January 1st and 2nd.—Christmas Entertainments
 in the Great Hall of St Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

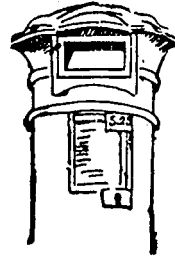
A Word for the Week.

"Literature does its duty . . . in aiding the communication of clear thoughts and faithful purposes among distant nations, which will at last breathe calm upon the sea of lawless passion, and change into such halcyon days the winter of the world, that the birds of the air may have their nests in peace and the son of man where to lay his head."—*Ruskin.*

* Motto of the Matron's Council.

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 CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I thought it immensely plucky of Miss Breay to get up before all those men at the Hospital Conference at University College last week, and denounce, quite politely of course, the unjustifiable use of charitable money by the Central Hospital Council for London, in fighting the nurses who are claiming to be protected and registered by the State. Neither Sir Henry Burdett nor Mr. Sydney Holland can advance a scrap of excuse for this mis-application of hospital money—and the sooner this matter is brought both to the notice of the King's Hospital Fund and the House of Commons the better.

It is most significant that Miss Breay's uncontrovertible statement was not answered by any of the members of the Central Hospital Council in the room, and also that not one paper—so far as I have seen, either daily or professional has reported her accusation. This is especially significant in Burdett's organ.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as President of the Hospital Fund, should demand at once that these men should not deprive the poor, by using money given to hospitals for their care, to fight a class of working women, who are themselves finding all the money for their appeal for justice to Parliament. If the employers of nurses are determined to keep them cheap and dependent let them use their own money for their ungenerous purpose, but not add to their inhumanity by using charitable funds. This is about as big a scandal as one has heard of in connection with hospital management for some time, and these persons must be shown up.

Yours truly,

AN INDIGNANT WOMAN.

[Very much the same class of persons opposed, at very great cost, the granting of the Royal Charter to the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1893. The balance-sheet of the protesting hospital officials and others has never been made public, but it has always been surmised that the legal expenses were met out of charity money belonging to the hospitals. If this is not so, the sooner the Chairmen of these hospitals prove that it was not the case, the better for their own reputations. The nurses' legal expenses ran to £1,000, and they paid the bill promptly, as they had saved it from their own subscriptions in the first five years of their Association's existence. This was in the palmy days when the nurses managed their own affairs.]

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