

The elf-lady of Moorwood is so charming that one wishes it were related at greater length. It is full of a strange knowledge and penetration which this writer possesses in a marked degree.

The style is on the whole so admirable that we feel it a duty to chronicle our astonishment that so able a writer should not have mastered the use of the verbs to lay and to lie. Also that, even if she knows no better, the proof-reader should have passed such flagrant faults as "he had *lain* it on the table."

On the whole, the English is so forcible and so just that it is a pleasure to read and one longs to quote.

G. M. R.

### Ex Votis.

Give me a quiet hour,  
Give me a secret nook,  
And for my spirit's dower,  
Balm in a book.  
"Health and a Day" would be  
Too much, I know, to ask;  
One hour serene and free—  
In bliss I bask.

J. A. NICKLIN,  
In the *Westminster Gazette*.

### Coming Events.

*February 1st.*—Meeting of Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, W. 4.30. p.m.\*

*February 7th.*—Concert in aid of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital at Trinity College, Dublin.

*February 9th.*—The Central Society for Women's Suffrage. President, the Lady Frances Balfour. Procession from Hyde Park Corner, 2 p.m. Nurses wishing to take part in the Procession may assemble at 431, Oxford Street, at 1.30.; Red Cross, three inches square, to be worn on right breast.

*February 12th.*—The Duchess of Albany opens an Exhibition of Pictures in connection with the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund, Guildhall Art Gallery.

*February 12th.*—Examinations in London, Manchester, Newcastle and Bristol, Central Midwives' Board.

*February 12th.*—Opening of Parliament by His Majesty the King.

*February 19th.*—Jubilee Year of the London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission. Meeting in Caxton Hall, Westminster. Chairman, the Earl of Harrowley. 3 p.m.

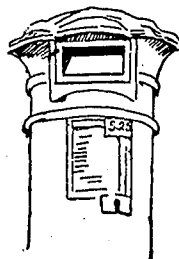
### A Word for the Week.

Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven for ever in the work of the world; by so much evermore the strength of the human race has gained.—*Ruskin*.

\* As this item of information is exclusive to this Journal, the official organ of the Society, it is copyright, and, if quoted, the name of this Journal must be announced as the source from which the information is derived.

### 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.*

#### OUR FIVE GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Will you accept my sincere thanks for awarding me the Five Guinea Prize in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I always read its articles with great interest and profit, and am glad to be allowed in any way to contribute to them.

Believe me, yours very truly,  
MADGE SUTTON,

Dr. Barnardo's Incurable and Sick Home, Birkdale.

#### THE HELPLESS POSITION OF MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—My object of writing to you was to point out the injustice under which midwives are labouring and to suggest organisation on their part with the view of improving their position. I would have expected that your correspondent "Certified Midwife," admitting as she does the necessity of organisation, would have joined our movement, but instead she took upon herself the task to justify the treatment midwives get at the hand of the C.M.B. by telling us that there have been women "ignorant, inefficient, and worse" who acted as midwives. My contention is that these women had no right to this appellation no more than quacks to that of doctors, and they have certainly been outside the class of midwives.

Now the most pernicious effect on the position of the trained woman has been the admission of untrained women into the class of midwives. Here happened the same thing as in schools when scholars of different attainments are classed together. The instruction must conform to the comprehension of the less-instructed scholars. So the C.M.B., having formed one class of midwives, had to lower the qualified midwives to the status of the untrained women, framing rules with the object of making harmless their ignorance, and devising a scheme of supervision to keep in check their bad propensities. No "differentiating between trained and untrained midwife" is made, equal treatment being meted out to all alike. The administration of the Midwives Act tends not to raise, as "Certified Midwife" avers, the status of the qualified midwives, but to lower them in the estimation of the public, there being no possibility to distinguish between the trained and untrained midwife. The public does not look on Rolls or certificates; it judges by results, and seeing that all midwives without distinction are distrusted by

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