

unheeded, fans into flame, and the Squire receives a shock. If he will do nothing for George, she declares, she will—she will go to him. And she does. Then it matters very much to the reader how George will act, and what will be his fate, because to see that tender spirit crushed by failure would be insupportable.

It is a powerful book, written with excellent balance and reserve; from beginning to end one is jarred by no heroics, no unnatural situations; they are all on a par with George's reception of his mother's final proof of devotion, which is inimitable.

E.L.H.

Verse.

Give me a spirit that in life's rough sea
Loves to have his sails filled with a lusty wind,
Even till his sail-yards tremble, his masts crack,
And his rapt ship run on her side so low
That she drinks water, and her keel ploughs air.
There is no danger to a man that knows
What life and death is; there is not any law
Exceeds his knowledge; neither is it lawful
That he should stoop to any other law;
He goes before them, and commands them all;
That to himself is a law rational.

CHAPMAN.

Coming Events.

October 8.—Nurses' Missionary League, Valectory Meetings, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., 2.30—6, 7—9 p.m.

October 9.—Sale of Work in aid of the Queen's Nurses at 43, Bryanston Square, opened by Lady Alice Leslie, at 3 p.m.

October 9.—Meeting of Council of the Midwives' Defence Association, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, 5.30.

October 10.—Meeting, Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, S.W.

October 11.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., 4 p.m.

October 12.—Hospital Saturday in London.

October 21 to 25.—Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, Manchester.

October 23.—Conversazione given by the Medical Staff and Lecturers, New Outpatient and Special Departments Block, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. Music. 9—12.

October 24.—Central Midwives' Board, Examination, London, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

November 4.—Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland. Examination for Certificate in Nursing and Attending on the Insane.

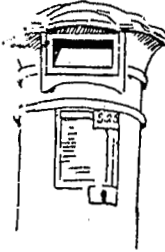
A Word for the Week.

The heart of moral force is conscience, a faint unextinguishable flame, whose light we call duty, and its heat love.

AMIEL.

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.

COTTAGE NURSES' TRAINING HOME, GOVAN

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

MADAM,—I am reluctantly compelled to request your forbearance once more to enable me to reply to a few points in the letter from Miss Alice Balfour, which appeared in your issue of 21st September.

In attempting to deal with the questions that have been raised concerning the management, or rather, mis-management of the Govan Cottage Nurses' Training Home, Miss Balfour seems not to have made herself acquainted with the facts of the case. She tells us that the nurses of the East Lothian Nursing Association, of which she is President, are not allowed to undertake maternity cases without a doctor being engaged, whether they have the L.O.S. or C.M.B. certificates or not, and that with all other patients, they work under, and have to obey the orders of the doctor attending the case. That may be true concerning her particular nursing association—I have no means other than her word of ascertaining—but in Govan the practice is the very reverse. Here the bulk of the midwifery work is performed by the pupil nurses under the supervision of a certificated midwife, without a doctor being engaged, and numerous surgical and medical cases are attended and treated by the pupil nurses without any doctor being in attendance, so that there can be no comparison between the two institutions. If the same practice were followed in Govan and elsewhere as said by Miss Balfour to be the rule in East Lothian, there is every probability that the relations between the doctors of Govan and the Home would be more pleasant and cordial than they actually are, although the opinion of the doctors about the haphazard and happy-go-lucky nature of the training received by the nurses would be still the same.

It seems to be a common failing with my opponents in this controversy to call statements made by me in good faith as untrue without being sure of their ground. The statement that "when these partially trained nurses are sent to their country districts they are sent as certificated nurses" is not so absolutely untrue as Miss Balfour asserts. No doubt we have been told since this correspondence began that no certificate is granted to a nurse until she has worked in her district for three years subsequent to her training, but that is a mere verbal quibble intended

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)