

the miserable, scheming little companion, who fights for her own hand, and real life is not denied us, in that she wins. The honest George Coigne calls for special mention as Lady Morfa's choice for Hermia, and also on his own account, for his portraiture is one of the best bits of comedy possible entirely free of anything farcical and impossible. Hermia's lovers are many, and of the several with whom we come into contact two are very well contrasted. There is so much to be said in favour of the book that it is difficult to be sufficiently brief and yet do it justice. This point in particular should be mentioned; everyone must agree that the historical value of the work is unimpeachable, but, while the political issue of the plot is thoroughly well maintained, Mr. Hewlett never allows himself to be prosy or dreary for a moment. The historical personages freely strewn throughout the romance serve only to give atmosphere to strengthen the interest, and heighten effect. It is undoubtedly a bit of work that will add greatly to the author's popularity.

E.L.H.

### Coming Events.

November 15.—London County Council Examination of candidates for six scholarships which it will award in 1908 to students in midwifery.

November 16.—Nurses' Missionary League, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, Miss Rogers "At Home," 9, Asburnham Mansions, Chelsea, S.W., 3 to 5.30.

November 19.—Princess Henry of Battenberg opens the sale of work by patients at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Streatham.

November 19 and 26.—Meetings under the Church Missionary Society. Nurses invited. 67, Guildford Street, W.C., 10.30 a.m.

November 20.—Rural Midwives' Association. Distribution of "Good Service" certificates by H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, 66, Ennismore Gardens, 12.30.

November 20.—The Duchess of Albany opens the Infants Hospital, Vincent Square.

November 22.—Conference convened by Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair. 1. The Equality of Rich and Poor in Sickness, the Relation of Cottage Nurses to the Nursing Profession. 2. The Place of Trained Nursing in Prisons. 3. The Organisation of a Nurses' Defence Union.

November 22.—Princess Henry of Battenberg attends a concert in aid of the funds of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Æolian Hall, 3.

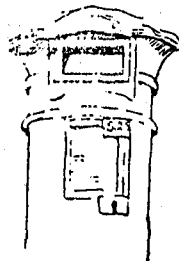
November 25.—Meeting of Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster.

November 26 and 27.—Bazaar in aid of the Funds of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E., Hyde Park Hotel. Opened by the Duchess of Portland and Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein.

December 5.—Meeting of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives.

### 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 JOURNAL."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think after reading Miss M. Burr's forcible paper in last week's issue on "Our Journal" even the most reactionary person will be a little stirred by its history, and the vital principle for which it stands. Even after all these years nurses are so ignorant of economics that they are quite incapable of realising the danger to personal liberty of subsidising the commercial organs of their employers by providing them with copy and cash. Those who read between the lines can deduce two lessons during the past month of this danger. Take the struggle in support of the Matrons' status—and incidentally the status of nurses as a whole—and the liberty of speech of the shareholders of the Nurses' Hostel Co., Ltd. In the former case, beyond getting copy, what have the two commercial anti-registration journals done to help nurses? Turn to the advertisement columns and the reason why they have done nothing is there. They are subsidised by the employer. Take Miss I. Grace Steuart's letter addressed to the Nurses' Hostel Co., Ltd., and suppressed by the directors at the annual meeting. Where does it appear in full? Only in the paper which is not subsidised by advertisements by the directors. Now, that is the economic condition of affairs. The commercial nursing press, run to make money, cannot afford to support the nurse against her employer, the giver of good advertisements, and that is why it has always been, and must remain, a dangerous enemy to the class of workers it exploits. That is a fundamental, economic law, and trained nurses are to blame if they encourage and submit to it. I have committed Miss Burr's "moral" to memory, and should advise all self-respecting nurses to do the same.

Yours ever truly,

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

[Read carefully the article published this week on the "Founding of the American Journal of Nursing." It also contains some good lessons for us based on the highest professional ideals. "In order to secure freedom of expression of opinion or criticism, or advocacy of plan or policy in nursing matters, it became evident that the journal must be a something more than an adjunct. It must be independent, an entity, unhampered in its expressions of truths, as seen and interpreted by nurses by either fear, favour, or prejudice. To that end it must be owned, edited, and controlled by nurses." This truth underlies all liberty of conscience and speech for trained nurses.—ED.]

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