

with the faithfulness of a dog to her terrible lord—all these are most excellently dealt with. The personalities of the Earl of Breadalbane, Jerome Caryl, and Sir John Dalrymple are cleverly sustained throughout. Of these last, John Dalrymple, Master of Stair, is the most powerful. Nothing could be better done than the description of his turning spy and impersonating the expected Jacobite messenger. The fact that the reader is behind the scenes with him all the time is a masterpiece of sensational writing, because so unemotionally treated.

There is very strong feeling displayed in the account of the feud between the Campbells and the ill-fated Macdonalds, and, in spite of the knowledge one possesses of the end of that struggle, our author succeeds in arousing keen excitement by her narration. Whether she is justified in so certainly affirming that the extirpation of the clan Macdonald was a matter of military execution, and not mere unlicensed massacre one is scarcely prepared to say. If her account should be the true one there is scarcely a pin to choose between it and the older version of the Massacre of Glencoe for brutality. According to the preface the majority of historians are either conscious or unconscious perverters of the truth. Then, by all means, let us give rein to our imaginations and enjoy the romancer to the top of our bent. Miss Bowen is to be congratulated upon giving us such a good opportunity. E.L.H.

Verse.

A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!
 Rose plot,
 Fringed pool,
 Ferned grot;
 The veriest school
 Of peace; and yet the fool
 Contends that God is not.
 Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
 Nay, but I have a sign:
 'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

T. E. BROWN.

Coming Events.

August 5.—Opening of the Second International Congress on School Hygiene, University of London, by the Earl of Crewe.

August 10.—The Annual Pound Day, Home for Mothers and Babies, Wood Street, Woolwich.

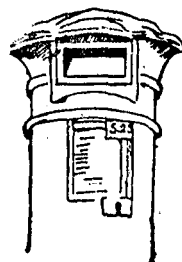
August 21.—Princess Henry of Battenberg attends the Annual Meeting of the Gosport Victoria Nursing Society, and afterwards presents certificates to the Members of the Gosport, Alverstoke, and Fareham Centre of the St. John Ambulance Association.

A Word for the Week.

"She doeth little kindnesses,
 Which most leave undone or despise;
 For naught that sets one heart at ease,
 And giveth happiness or peace,
 Is low esteemed in her eyes."

Lowell.

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.

LOWERING NURSING STANDARDS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A letter which Dr. Forbes Brown has contributed to the *British Medical Journal* by order of the Govan Medical Association, dealing with the management and training of nurses at the Govan Nurses' Training Home, brings under notice some important questions.

The members of the Govan Medical Association have had that institution under consideration, and after due deliberation their finding has been unfavourable.

Dr. Brown states that "the two most objectionable features of the institution are (1) the competition with medical men, and (2) the inadequacy of training of the nurses, and their competition with highly trained nurses." These are serious charges.

He further states that eighty nurses have passed through the Home, and have been sent to districts as cottage nurses, and "rural" midwives.

The question, as it affects medical men professionally, may be left meantime to be judged on its merits by medical men.

Short training has been generally condemned. For years the best brains and the strongest wills in the nursing profession have thought and fought for raising the standard of the training of nurses. In this medical men have been ready to help on every hand, while the great mass of the British public have supported their efforts.

State registration is coming surely if slowly, and what is it but the result of combined efforts?

Yet, here we have an instance, as Dr. Brown says, of "a deliberate attempt" by the Executive Committee of the Govan Cottage Nurses' Training Home to lower that standard, and institute an inferior grade of nurses."

We look forward to the time—in the near future let us hope—when there will be no such "training" as a "six months' training." Till then, such training should be made as efficient as it is possible to make it.

That many cottage nurses have done splendid work in country districts, surely none will deny. During the years in which I was Superintendent and Secretary of the Sutherland Benefit Nursing Association, I had many opportunities of judging. In absence of immediate medical aid, I have known nurses act with admirable promptitude and discretion, and I have heard medical men speak highly of their nursing of patients. Much

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