

"sort o' watcher," are capital contrasts. And when at last these people shake themselves out of the humdrum surroundings we first find them in we follow their fortunes with breathless interest, because they are all endowed with flesh and blood—the breath of real life is in them, we know them, and we are bound to care what becomes of them.

E. L. H.

#### AN EASY WAY.

"Would'st thou be wretched?"

'Tis an easy way;

Think but of self, and self alone, all day!  
Think of thy pain, thy grief, thy loss, thy care,  
All that thou hast to do, or feel, or bear;  
Think of thy good, thy pleasure and thy gain,  
Think only of thyself, it will not be in vain.

"Would'st thou be happy?"

Take an easy way;

Think of those round thee—live for them each day;  
Think of their pain, their loss, their grief, their care;

All that they have to do, or feel, or bear;  
Think of their pleasure, of their good, their gain;  
Think of those round thee—it will not be in vain."

E. G. SNELL,

From *Wings*.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*April 2nd.*—Demonstration of the Rideal-Walker bacteriological method of testing germicides, by Dr. Samuel Rideal, D.Sc., F.I.C., at the London School of Tropical Medicine, Connaught Road, Albert Dock, E., 3.30 p.m.

*April 2nd and 3rd.*—Conference on Employment for Educated Women at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. Thursday, 3 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

*April 6th.*—Miller Memorial Hospital, Greenwich. Lecture to Nurses. Anaesthetics (before and after treatment), Dr. Bligh Wall, 8 p.m.

*April 7th.*—Royal Ear Hospital, Dean Street, Soho. Lecture to Nurses on "Nasal Operations," by Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., 4.30 p.m.

*April 8th.*—Nurses' Missionary League. Anniversary Meetings throughout the day at University Hall, W.C.

*April 9th.*—Monthly Meeting Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., 2.45 p.m.

*April 10th.*—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, 4 p.m.

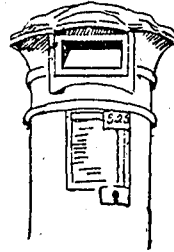
*April 28th—May 1st.*—Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition, Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer Street, Regent Street, W. Applications for tickets should be made to the Organising Secretary, 32, Sackville Street, W. Free to nurses and midwives.

#### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Forgetful is green earth; the Gods alone  
Remember everlastingly; they strike  
Remorselessly and ever like for like.  
By their great memories the Gods are known.

## 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.*

#### TO MY FELLOW NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The attitude of the governing body at the London Hospital towards its nursing staff is so different to that now in practice at the majority of training schools that had Mr. Holland drafted his Directory Bill for the nurses he superintends it would be nothing unusual. Private nurses on the "London" staff are compulsorily employed after their two years' training, and, as Mr. Holland has told us, are reported upon by every patient and doctor in a manner which must deprive them of the last rag of self respect. Thoroughly trained, efficient, and reliable women should be trusted when nursing in private, and evidently the London Hospital does not trust its nurses, or why these private reports? My reason for writing, however, is that nurses in other well-managed hospitals are naturally very indignant about this Directory Bill, which has been sprung upon them through the House of Lords, and they are not at all likely to submit to it without a very determined protest. It is almost incredible that a second attempt should be made to legislate for 60,000 women workers in secret, and proves that the promoters of the Bill feared our criticism of it, and our resistance to its most unjust proposals. Let us prove that this fear was justified by determined resistance to Mr. Holland's Bill becoming law. We can do this in several ways. (1) By pointing out to Lord Balfour of Burleigh its reactionary constitution and how repugnant it is to us. (2) By writing with the same purpose to any member of the House of Lords living in our district, inviting his opposition. (3) By writing to the Member of Parliament of the constituency in which we live to oppose the Bill. (4) By writing to the press, in the hope that our cause may have a hearing. (5) By appealing to societies of women like the National Union of Women Workers, asking for their help to prevent this Bill becoming law. (6) By protesting in public meetings against any legislation for nurses, concerning which they, as a class, have not been consulted. All this can be done. The question is, have nurses the energy to do it, and save themselves from intolerable oppression? It is not now even a question of "What shall I gain by legislation?" but what you will lose by it. Don't forget to get every man friend you have, medical or lay, to help to save you from being sucked under by legislation which is only fit for babes. Men have votes, therefore they have influence and power.

Yours truly,

C. S.

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