

field. She is married to a splendid man, and has a stepdaughter who, while quite a different type, is as charming as Bertha and Drusilla, both of which facts contribute to the spoiling of Mrs. Lingfield, there being, therefore, no one to cope with her on her own lines.

One has the feeling on finishing the story of having been for a while in the society of some quite normal human beings, who, with but this one exception, form a most desirable acquaintance. Indeed, one is sorry to put the book down, it is so very well worth reading.

E. L. H.

## COMFORT ONE ANOTHER.

O, comfort one another,  
For the day is often dreary,  
And the feet are often weary,  
And the heart is very sad;  
There is a heavy burden bearing,  
When it seems that none are caring,  
And we half forget that ever we were glad.

O, comfort one another,  
With the hand-clasp close and tender,  
With the sweetness love can render,  
And the looks of friendly eyes.  
Do not wait with grace unspoken,  
While life's daily bread is broken,  
Gentle speech is oft like manna from the skies.  
MARGARET SANGSTER.

## COMING EVENTS.

September 25th.—International Moral Education Congress opens at the Imperial Institute (five days).

September 28th.—October 12th.—International Congress on Tuberculosis, Washington, U.S.A. President Roosevelt will preside on the opening day.

September 30th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting of the Executive Committee to consider the proposed amendments to the Nurses' Registration Bill, 431, Oxford Street, W., 4 p.m. Tea.

October 6th.—Women's Industrial Council—National Conference on the Industrial Training of Women and Girls, Guildhall, 10 a.m.

October 12th.—15th.—Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.

October 14th and 15th.—Meeting of the National Council of Women in the Hall of the Y.M.C.A., Institute, Aberdeen. October 14th, 3—5. October 15th, 2.30—4.30.

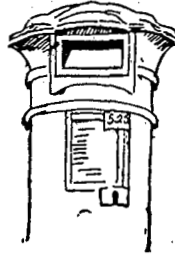
October 20th.—Annual Service of the Guild of St. Luke, St. Paul's Cathedral, 7.30.

October 28th.—Central Midwives' Board Examination, Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

He who does not strive after something with eagerness, finds everything burdensome and tedious. BACON.

## Letters to the Editor.



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.

## A CANKER AT THE HEART OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I beg space in your columns to reply to a correspondent who has written to me concerning my letter in a recent issue, and to thank her for the leaflets of the Eugenic Society, and the list of books she has kindly given me? I had for some time been aware of the Eugenic Society and its aims. I also know many publications on the subject, both English and American; but the penny books are new to me, and as they will be suitable for distribution I think many of your readers will be glad to know that they can be obtained from Mrs. John Penrose, Petworth Rectory, Sussex.

In writing the letter referred to, I was chiefly concerned with the urgent necessity for checking vicious practices in the homes of the class from which the rank and file of the Army and Navy are drawn. This district forms a large recruiting centre. Like hundreds of other rural districts, it is not embraced by the moral educational machinery at work in the towns, and most sorry specimens of young manhood are being reared here. I do not see how the teaching of the Eugenic Society is to reach this class. A close acquaintance with it has convinced me of the utter futility of appealing to the sense of patriotism, citizenship, or even of responsibility, because that sense is practically non-existent. The only preponderating factor in the lives of the cottagers is desire, and that is tempered only by fear of "the sack" and fear of the police. Self-knowledge, self-reverence, self-control, have no place in their scheme of life. Amongst the adults persuasion is useless, and I find this opinion confirmed by a Salvation Army worker and a police inspector. One can only impress them by threats of pains and penalties on the one hand, and by promise of tangible gain on the other. One might just as usefully talk to them on the beauties of a Morris room as on the moral beauty of transmuting the beast within them. It is a lamentable fact that the vocabularies of cottagers, especially of the women, are so limited that in one's serious talks with them the more important words used mean nothing at all to them; but of this they give no sign. It is the same with regard to the little reading they do. They pass over words unknown to them, and so miss the meaning of what they read. Until moral and hygienic teaching becomes part of the elementary school curriculum, the best opportunities for giving such teaching to the children appear to lie in the hands of Sunday School

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