

with real interest every development of Virginia's life and character.

Like many very young girls, she is "in love with love," believing it to be a deep and absorbing affection for her extremely common husband, but when disillusionment comes, as come it inevitably must when tied to a man of his type—her high principle and sterling common sense stand the test—for the sake of her children she goes on bravely with her daily life as though no tragedy had crept in.

It is essentially a woman's book, everything seems taken from a woman's point of view. There are several very well drawn characters, varied, and typical of the set to which they so clearly belong. The group of artists, Keble's friends, gives the slightly Bohemian touch which never fails to interest. Mrs. Cortelyou and her daughter bring us in contact with music hall life, its struggles and triumphs, and unconventionalities. Connie Malet, Virginia's girlhood's friend, who works such unhappiness in the little home in Clerkenwell, gives only too vivid an impression of a woman of her type, vain, selfish, and utterly heartless, a striking contrast to the sweet tempered wholesome minded Virginia.

Miss Peggy Webbing is, we believe, a new writer. She is to be congratulated on treating equivocal situations with restraint and discretion. She has insight and a certain charm of style which should win her a place among readable authors.—E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS.

February 12th.—The Society for State Registration of Nurses. Special Meeting of the Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4 p.m.

February 16th.—Opening of Parliament by the King accompanied by the Queen in State.

February 16th.—Conference on Tuberculosis opens, Caxton Hall (four days).

February 16th.—Annual Central Poor Law Conference, Guildhall.

February 18th.—Territorial Nursing Service for London. Meeting of the Committee, Mansion House, 3 p.m.

February 18th.—Ulster Branch Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture on Tuberculosis, by Dr. McIlwaine, The Nurses' Club, Crane's Buildings, 7.30 p.m.

February 19th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Meeting of Debating Society, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, 7.30 p.m.

February 20th and 22nd.—Nurses' Missionary League Conference, Mission House, Newington Green, N.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

Lectures.—Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Trained Nurses cordially invited.

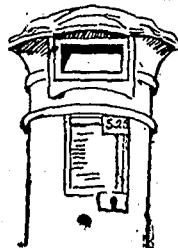
February 24th.—"The Electric Current Production, and Uses of," by Dr. Dawson Turner.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful. Beauty is God's handwriting, a wayside sacrament.

KINGSLEY.

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.

NURSING IN SANATORIA.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have been a good deal interested in reading your Commissioner's account of the Naylands Sanatorium, her comments on the nursing arrangements, and the Matron's (Miss Synge's) explanation in last week's Journal.

As Matron for eight years of the Royal National Sanatorium for Chest Diseases at Bournemouth, I have had some little experience of the special factors to be taken into consideration when organising the nursing of these institutions, and it seems to me that in deciding the best method to adopt, either in a charitable sanatorium or a "private venture," we must bear these two points in mind:

(a) The class of patients for whom the sanatorium is intended.

(b) The financial condition of the institution.

As regards (a) it is obvious that the amount of skilled nursing which the patients require will be very different in an institution when only early cases (and those not suffering from complications) are admitted from that in one where patients in an advanced stage of the disease are taken and allowed to remain. While this is frequently the case in private sanatoria it is certainly an exception in a sanatorium supported by voluntary subscriptions.

The salaries of qualified nurses are a great consideration in a struggling charity, trying to do its best for the greatest number of unfortunate sufferers; whereas in a wealthy private organisation, where patients each pay from five to ten guineas a week, this question does not arise.

In an average public sanatorium, just as in any hospital, it is quite unnecessary to employ fully qualified nurses only. No Matron would dream of trying to work a hospital, whether containing 10, 50, or 500 beds, with none but fully-trained nurses. A very large proportion of her staff would consist of probationers working under trained women, and so learning the details of their profession. In any institution for the care of the sick, whether sanatorium or hospital, there must be a great deal of work which can perfectly well be done by an unskilled person working under trained supervision.

In a sanatorium where the majority of the patients are not very ill a far larger percentage of unskilled workers can be employed than in a hospital for the acutely sick, and Miss Synge's plan of probationers, though she does not call them so, acting under a fully-trained sister, seems to me the right one provided that the sister is free to supervise the nursing only, and does not occupy the dual position of Matron and Head Nurse, and that the

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