

Ruth's companion, Miss Cruickshank, is another bright and cleverly depicted character. The book is full of human interest and incident, and wonderfully free from exaggeration.

E. L. H.

#### WHY THE BLACKBIRD HAS A GOLDEN BILL.

Magdalen at Michael's Gate

Toiled at the pin:

On Joseph's thorn sang the Blackbird—

"Let her in. Let her in."

"Hast thou seen the wounds?" said Michael,

"Do'st thou know thy sin?"

"'Tis evening, evening, evening," sang the Blackbird,

"Let her in. Let her in."

"Yes, I have seen the wounds,

And I know my sin."

"She knows it well, well, well," sang the Blackbird,

"Let her in. Let her in."

"Thou bringest no offering," said Michael,

"Naught save sin":

"She is sorry, sorry, sorry," sang the Blackbird,

"Let her in. Let her in."

When he had sung himself to sleep,

And night did begin,

One came and opened Michael's Gate

And Magdalen went in.

From the *Watchword*.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*January 5th.*—Charing Cross Hospital. The Nursing and Resident Staff At Home, 7.30—11.

*January 5th and 6th.*—Christmas Entertainment for the Resident Staff, Great Hall, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., 8 p.m.

*January 6th.*—Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Diseases, Queen's Square, Bloomsbury. Children's Christmas Party, 3.30—5.30.

*January 7th.*—Pound Day on behalf of the Princess Christian Hammersmith Day Nursery. H.R.H. Princess Christian will receive purses, and her Grace the Duchess of Somerset will receive Pound Packages (which may be purchased at the door on entrance.) Speakers: The Mayor of Hammersmith in the chair, and Sir William Bull, M.P.

*January 12th.*—Meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety. Discussion on "The Action of Alcohol," opened by Dr. Arthur R. Cushney, A.M., C.M., F.R.S., in the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., 4 p.m.

*January 18th.*—Annual General Meeting of Midwives' Defence Association. 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, 5.30 p.m.

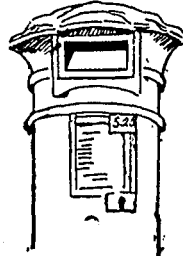
#### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

For the Past—Sweet Remembrance.

For the Present—Fair Greetings.

For the Future—Bright Hopes.

## 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.*

#### DIETITIANS IN HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think the idea of Miss Corbett, noted in your issue of last week, that a woman trained in food administration should be at the head of the dietary department of hospitals, is a most admirable one. Good and appetising food is half the battle in successful nursing; it also contributes greatly to the contentment and health of the nursing staff and reduces the sick list.

But, for the Matron of a hospital, and the Ward Sisters, actual nursing duties come first, and are often all engrossing. I have often felt how inexpedient it is that so important a duty as the supervision of food should be relegated to a second place. Moreover, many Matrons and Sisters have had no scientific education in food values or practical knowledge of cooking, therefore they cannot, even if time permits, exercise the expert supervision which is so necessary, and which certainly should be given in a public institution.

I should welcome the appointment of a trained dietitian in this hospital to supervise the dietary department. It would relieve me of great anxiety, and, I am sure, prove a great factor in maintaining efficiency.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A BUSY MATRON.

#### A WORKING COLONY FOR TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your account of the working colony for tuberculous patients in connection with the Waikato Sanatorium, New Zealand, is most interesting. It is quite comprehensible that if such a colony is in charge of a sister, who can still supervise the convalescent patients, and look after essential details, that they are able to leave the Sanatorium earlier than would otherwise be possible, and so begin to be self-supporting members of the community once more, a benefit both to the State and to their own families. The authorities of the Sanatorium are to be congratulated on their venture, and the Government on their assistance to the scheme, by permitting the men to do work for the Government Forestry Department. There is no class of patient more sincerely to be pitied than the sufferers from tuberculosis, and the change experienced by convalescents when they leave the sheltered care of a sanatorium and return to their own homes to work in order to live, is often too sudden to be good for them. A time of gradual

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