

tremely bad effect on all the inhabitants of this corner of England, caused by the persistent absence of the landowners. With all the energy of a young American he resolves to do what he can to improve matters. Acting under his own name his efforts might have been accepted, but he preferred to pose as the paid servant of the absent millionaire.

Then he falls in love with the daughter of the chief county man, and, anxious to be loved for himself, he succeeds in winning Clarice as Theodore Duncan. He meets with strenuous opposition on all sides. Sir Francis, not unnaturally, refuses his consent to the engagement, and half the people in the place oppose all his contemplated improvements for the amelioration of the masses; he is denounced as a Socialist, an Anarchist, and an American Revolutionist.

There is a subtle touch of humour when Sir Francis writes to the millionaire in America, complaining of the conduct of his secretary, and requesting his removal.

There are many capital scenes and incidents in the volume. Some readers may find parts too drawn out, but it is a pity to miss any; every paragraph is full of good writing and excellent thoughts.

E. L. H.

Coming Events.

February 25th.—Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster, 2.45 p.m.

February 27th.—State Registration of Nurses. A Meeting of those interested in the registration of nurses in Scotland will be held in the Merchants' Hall, 30, George Square, Glasgow. The chair will be taken by Lord Inverclyde, 3 p.m.

March 3rd.—The Royal Sanitary Institute. "The Control of Infectious Diseases in Schools." To be opened by Dr. A. Carruthers, M.D., D.P.H., County Education Medical Officer, Bucks.

March 5th.—59th Annual General Meeting of the London Homœopathic Hospital, in the Board Room of the Hospital, the Right Hon. the Earl Cawdor presiding, 3.30 p.m.

March 10th.—Royal Free Hospital. Annual Meeting at Mansion House, Lord Mayor presiding, 3 p.m.

March 15th.—The Territorial Force Nursing Association for the City and County of London. Meeting at the Mansion House for Trained Nurses, Egyptian Hall, 4 p.m.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

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

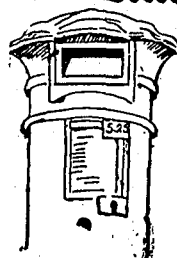
March 10th.—"Bacteria," by Dr. Theodore Shennan.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Do something; do it soon;
Do it with all thy might;
An angel's wing would droop
If long at rest, and God Himself
Inactive, were no longer blest.

—WILCOX.

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.

DECENTRALISATION INJURIOUS TO SCOTTISH NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note with alarm the suggestion made by some of the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of the Edinburgh and Glasgow hospitals to have Scottish nurses removed from the Nurses' Registration Bill, and this ought not to be done without more consideration being given to the question. It seems to me the matter has been sprung upon the nursing world. My professional career convinces me that Scottish nurses would suffer in many ways if they are left out of a Bill legislating for England and Ireland. I am a Scots-woman trained in a Welsh hospital. I then returned to my native land and worked as a private nurse in Glasgow. I came to London five years ago, where I have been able to earn much more than was possible in my native land. If the scheme proposed by Dr. Mackintosh is adopted, and Scotland has its own Registration Bill, and that Bill, as it proposes to do, maintains the present unsatisfactory system of dozens of hospital examinations and certificates qualifying for registration, in fact, sets up no central qualifying examination, and also registers fever specialists, is it likely that these unknown standards will be accepted in England and Ireland, or in the Colonies? From what I know of the nursing world this side the Border, I feel sure they will not be accepted, and there will be but one result.

Scottish nurses who want a defined curriculum of training, who are anxious to have a standard examination, who do not think it just that the great Municipal Fever Hospitals should give such a specialised training that women who work in them are not general trained nurses when they have done their term, will soon learn of these disadvantages, and they will not waste their time and health in training in Scotland, but will come to England and take the best training they can get, and register here. The work in English hospitals is much less hard than it is in the majority of Scottish hospitals, and Scottish girls are very popular with English Matrons. Their health is good, and they are fully alive to the fact that, once trained their remuneration is on a higher and more just scale. Thus hospitals in Scotland will suffer. The statement that Scottish nurses are too poorly paid to pay four or five guineas for examination and registration combined may be true. If it is, it is a disgrace to the managers of hospitals in Scotland that such hard work should be so badly paid. Nurses move about so much that any Bill for their registration should legislate for the United King-

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