

proves. He goes to India for a year immediately after their secret engagement, and her strange and misguided act of self-abnegation. At the end of two years he offers her freedom. After a short time he writes again. In her diary we have extracts from his letter. "When the divorce is over . . . I did not think when I asked you to promise that I could change, but I find it is so. . . . Don't let anything that has happened worry you." As will be seen, the girl's life at twenty becomes a tragedy, and all through the book there is a suggestion of sadness, and equally all through there are amusing situations and flashes of keen humour. Naturally the part of the diary written when a child is the most entertaining, her quaint way of putting things often raises a smile.

The story is laid in Australia; her grandparents are Methodists, and the curious wrestling of the child's mind with matters religious is wonderfully natural. Endowed as she is with a liberal infusion of the "old Adam," her futile endeavours to be good are both pathetic and amusing; God is a very real personality to her, and she has a curious way of making compacts with Him, her prayers are truly original. A neighbour's infant, of whom she is passionately fond, is very ill, so we have "Oh, God, don't take the dear little thing away. Please let him get better; I will try and be good at school." . . . "I love Paul" (her terrier puppy) "more than anything I've got, and I will give him up if You will make the dear little baby better." The child recovers. Then comes the entry, "Paul has gone." Then a little later, on first day of new term, "It's no use, I shall be bad to the end. . . . Now I feel half a worm and half a devil, and I don't care. I suppose it's not keeping my word to God. Anyhow, He's got the dog."

"Patricia Baring" is a book both interesting and instructive, for anyone who has to do with the educating and guiding of young people; it carries a deep moral lesson.

E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS

April 22nd.—Lecture on "Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment of Cancer," by Dr. F. M. Sandwith, Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C., 6 p.m.

April 23th.—Lecture on "The Results of Recent Research on Certain Diseases," by Dr. F. M. Sandwith, Gresham College, 6 p.m.

The lectures, which will be illustrated by lantern slides, will be free to the public.

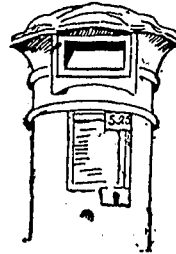
April 24th.—Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. Meeting, 9.45—11.30 a.m. Conversazione, 2.30—5.30 p.m. Meeting, 7.30—9.30 p.m.

April 26th.—International Suffrage Conference opens (six days)—Meetings, St. James's Hall, 9.30-5; Public Meeting, St. James's Hall, 8.

April 27th.—London Society for Women's Suffrage.—Demonstration and Pageant in honour of the International Alliance of Women's Suffrage Societies, Royal Albert Hall, 8.

April 27th.—The Lord Mayor opens the Central Poor Law Conference, Dr. Macnamara, M.P., presiding, Guildhall (two days).

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.

TO PRIVATE NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Being one of the representatives of the Registered Nurses' Society on the National Council of Nurses, I suggested, at the meeting of the Council, on the 7th inst., that I thought probably the members of our Society would wish to participate in offering some hospitality to our country's guests during the time they are with us for the International Congress of Nurses in July. I should like to ask the members, through our Journal, whether any of them would like to join with me, in giving a Luncheon to some of the foreign nurses, on the opening day of the Congress, if possible; also to ask all members of the R.N.S. who approve my suggestion to communicate with me by letter to the Office, 431, Oxford Street, as soon as possible, so that I can arrange with the Chairman of the Hospitality Committee before her list is completed. I do not wish to confine it to members of the R.N.S. only, and I should be glad to co-operate with any private nurses who wish to join us if they will write to me.

Many will have read the account in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the splendid arrangements that are being made for the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in London, and will be looking forward to next July, anticipating the most interesting time nurses have ever had in England.

Yours faithfully,

JULIA HURLSTON.

431, Oxford Street, W.

THE CARE OF THE DEAD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see your editorial on the care of the dead in our hospitals. The following is an extract from a letter I received a few weeks ago:—

"You will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Smith's son died in the hospital. They had him brought home to be buried. When the coffin arrived they had it opened, when, to their horror, they found the poor young man simply dressed in an old newspaper. Knowing the poor folk here, I will leave you to imagine the state they are in about it."

I did not see this insult to the dead, neither did my correspondent, so I cannot give the name of the hospital.

Such a thing could never have happened if the dead had been in charge of a nurse.

Yours truly,

MARY HARVEY.

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