

side it, the lovely surroundings, and above all, the wholesome living people he meets, are as the waters of Jordan, cleansing and healing his nature, and giving him a new outlook on life.

Esmé Burgess, an enthusiastic budding politician, a leading member of the "New Brooms," is cleverly drawn. The rector of the parish, Mr. Vennable and his daughter Joy, are delightful people. His brother-in-law, the Squire, Sir Giles Mottisfont, and the two maiden sisters, are typical old-fashioned county folk, with all the limitations and prejudices of their class: while in sharp contrast we have the clever, up-to-date young doctor, who gives up his whole life to the amelioration of the sufferings of his fellow creatures. To rich and poor alike he gives unstinted care and attention.

The book is written in a pleasant, easy style, and, in spite of the deep pathos running through it, the reader cannot fail to derive amusement from the skilful characterisation of many of the people, so real that one quite feels one has met them all.

E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 8th.—Women's Freedom League. A Meeting, Queen's Hall, W., to hear Dr. Thekla Hultin, a member of the Finnish Parliament, tell "How the Vote was Won and is Used by the Women of Finland." 8 p.m.

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 16th.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses, to consider the Programme for the International Nursing Conference, July 20th, 1909. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 3.30 p.m.

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

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

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

January 13th.—Operations in Private Houses, by Mr. David Wallace, C.M.G., F.R.C.S.

A Word for the Week.

A LIFE PROGRAMME.

Not to think great thoughts, but to make each thought I cherish a worthy one.

Not to live a long life, but to live with purpose each moment of the time allotted me.

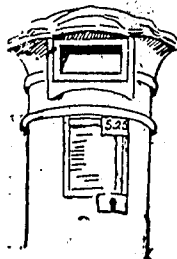
Not to do great deeds, but to perform faithfully all duties, great and small.

Not to have many friends, but ever to justify the friendship of those I have.

Not to long, for a distant and future heaven, but to fill full of heaven the little corner in which I am called to dwell.

THOMAS CURTIS CLARK.

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.

THE SCARCITY OF DISTRICT NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In your editorial remarks in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of December 26th, 1908, on District Nursing, you say that what is needed to avoid the danger of sick nursing falling into the hands of partially trained nurses and midwives in rural England, is the education of the public to a proper appreciation of the worth of a fully trained nurse.

From my own experience, it seems to me that it is the Matrons of our hospitals and our fully trained nurses themselves who need the education, that the best of training and "material" is needed for district nursing.

When a country district does raise enough money for a fully trained nurse, with C.M.B. certificate, it seems almost impossible to obtain her.

I have had a district vacant for months. Salary £72 to £75, furnished cottage, coal and wood. I have advertised, and written to various Matrons, but so far with no result. The answers I get from the Matrons are: "Our nurses don't care about district work, especially if they have to do maternity work; they can earn more, have a better position, and a pension, or help towards one, in other branches of nursing, etc." But surely if a Matron pointed out to her nurses the great scope a district nurse has, her enormous influence for good, etc., we might get more first class nurses encouraged to take up district nursing.

The position of a district nurse is what she makes it herself, and in the "Queen's" there is great chance of promotion and Superintendents of Homes, and Inspectors get salaries which compare favourably with other "heads" of nursing institutions.

I quite agree with what you are constantly speaking of, and urging, viz., to have fully trained nurses, instead of "village nurses," but if the fully trained woman won't go in for district nursing surely you must agree that the village nurse well chosen and supervised is better than the old *bona-fides* and handy women, many of whom thought nothing of performing last offices even while attending a birth.

I need three fully trained nurses with C.M.B. certificates for villages before the end of January—salaries £80 and furnished cottages—but fear that these villages, like others, will have to be content with the partially trained, hospital nurse, or the "Plaistow" trained village nurse, not due

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)