

book comes in. We cannot be in doubt because John is John. Yet he himself is not full sure, and Prior Nicholas, in his great love for John's soul, still hopes. You will know for yourself how John will act, when you come to the Valley of his Decision, before he knows it himself.

There is one quotation out of many which I cannot resist giving you:

"I think life is not just living, but giving. And I don't know whether the Christian life is practical or only ideal and impossible, but I'm sure it's the one heroic thing in the world, and I don't care where it takes me or how soon it ends so long as I have it. And where can you find any failure in that?"

A. L. B.

THE BRIDGE.

Life is a bridge that all must cross
From birth to death, a narrow way.
Fools build on it, and suffer loss,
Striving to dwell were none may stay,
The two eternities between;
The wise press on with steady feet
Through suns that shine and storms that beat
Toward the further shore unseen.

—PRISCILLA LEONARD.

Coming Events.

April 14th to 17th.—Midwifery and Nursing Exhibition and Conference, Grafton Galleries, Grafton Street, London. Admission free.

April 16th.—Lantern Lecture to Nurses by Mr. Stephen Paget, F.R.C.S. Royal Society of Medicine, 20, Hanover Square, W. The Hon. Sydney Holland in the chair. 3 p.m. All tickets are now allotted.

April 16th.—Inaugural Meeting, Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League, Out-patients' Hall, London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W., 7 p.m. Wards on view, 6—7 p.m.

April 20th.—Opening of the New Nurses' Home and Out-patient Department of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital by Princess Alexander of Teck.

April 22nd.—Meeting, Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster. 2.45 p.m.

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.

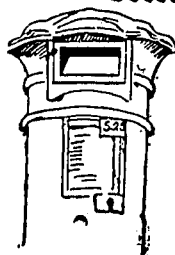
April 26th to May 2nd.—Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, St. James' Hall, Great Portland Street, W. President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, United States of America.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"The world the nurse lives in is no larger than her interests. If her interests are limited to the routine work of the sick room, she can never be expected to accomplish her best for the betterment of humanity in general."

CHARLOTTE A. AIKENS
In *The Canadian Nurse.*

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.

LOYALTY TO PATIENTS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Much has been written and said about the Carlyles, yet it seemed as if the cruel controversy which raged over these two people had been laid to rest. In a limited measure it has been renewed by the publication of the letters of Thomas Carlyle and Jane Welsh. There is considerable difference of opinion as to whether the publication of these letters is justifiable. In justice to the Carlyles there are several letters in these volumes which should have been published long ago; but the wholesale giving to the public of their letters—published under a sensational title—is, I think, deserving of condemnation. The principle is a wrong one, and saps at the root of honour and regard for the feelings and private affairs of the living and dead.

As many nurses will see and read these volumes, perhaps a word or two of counsel may not be out of place. Nurses are taught a great deal about loyalty to doctors and their superiors, which is quite right and proper, but I sometimes think that too little is said about loyalty and regard for the feelings of their patients. A nurse often finds herself in the position of companion and friend—her charge, perhaps, having no one else to trust to, or confide in. Now, as long as this world remains as it is, "affairs of the heart" are likely to find a place in every-day life, either to the happiness or misery of mortals. In many instances a nurse has much in her power, for when people are ill they often want not only sympathy but help. A nurse sometimes has to read letters—sometimes to write them. There are people—they are generally those who wear their hearts on their sleeve, I think—who do not object to being talked about, but there are also those who would rather undergo the most painful operation without an anæsthetic than have their affairs spoken about, not that they have anything to be ashamed of, but simply because it causes them to suffer intense pain.

"Heart affairs" and "bank books" are often matters into which a nurse gets much insight. They are certainly very different, but there are individuals who are as jealous of the privacy of their money matters as others are careful to guard the secrets of their own and other people's hearts.

The curious and vulgar are always deeply interested, and only too ready to encourage nurses to talk, but nurses who are women of honour should have little difficulty in keeping such persons at a distance. When people are ill they are so far helpless, and to take advantage of helplessness can only be characterised as cruel and dishonourable.

I am, yours, etc., JUSTICE.

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