

first realise that he is a native, nor does she in the least understand the hard and fast line drawn by the Anglo-Indians between themselves and the natives. Before they either of them know where their friendship is leading them, a warm attachment is formed. He understands the hopelessness of it, knowing, as she cannot do, how mixed marriages are regarded, both by Europeans and Indians. He wisely withdraws from Hosur; then Alanda yields to Sir David's persistent pleading. When he meets with a tragic death and she says to a sympathising friend, "Pray that I may not be too glad," one knows how far she has been from loving him. There is an intense and varied interest carried all through the volume, not only in the parts dealing with the English, but also the reader gets vivid descriptions of the hidden seditious movement, some native meetings and speeches being cleverly introduced.

E. L. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*November 26th.*—The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting of the Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, W., 4 p.m.

*November 26th.*—The School Nurses' League, Benevolent Fund. Concert and Informal Dance, "Horns" Hotel Assembly Rooms, Kennington (near Oval Station). 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each, from Miss Layton, 70, Muswell Road, Muswell Hill, N.

*November 27th.*—Society of Women Journalists, Annual Dinner, Waldorf Hotel, 7 p.m.

*November 29th.*—Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation. Reception. H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, will attend. Grafton Galleries. 3.45.

*November 30th.*—Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Lecture on "Rickets." By Dr. Ralph Vincent. 5 p.m.

*December 1st and 2nd.*—Central Midwives' Board. Penal Cases Sessions, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W. 2 p.m.

*December 2nd to 4th.*—General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth. Bazaar at Camelford House, Marble Arch, W., will be opened by H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg.

*December 3rd.*—The Nurses' Co-operation "At Home" at the Nurses' Club, 35, Langham Street, W. Show of Nurses' Needlework Guild. 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

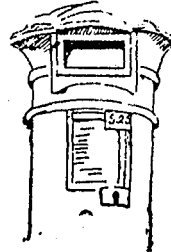
*December 7th.*—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Reception to welcome Miss L. V. Haughton as Matron of Guy's Hospital, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart, President, will receive the guests.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Civilisation is a condition of freedom to use your faculties to their fullest extent; and your faculties are every power of mind and heart and muscle and sense.

From *Open Country*,  
MAURICE HEWLETT.

#### 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.*

#### A CONSTRUCTIVE NURSING POLICY.

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

MADAM,—I also have worked in a small work-house infirmary like your correspondent, "Fair Play," and the difficulties are simply heart-rending, the majority of which arise from the terrible shortage of trained nurses, the overwork of conscientious women, and the deplorable ignorance of the class of young women admitted to care for the sick and infirm, some of whom can hardly write and read. As far as they go, Guardians mean for the best, but many are totally ignorant of the nursing education, and do not realise, for instance, that a certificated mental nurse is not a general hospital nurse, nor that a few months' work under the Metropolitan Asylums Board does not qualify a young woman for full charge. I was often sorry for the Guardians; they cannot possibly know one class of nurse from another, and State Registration would be of the utmost value to such lay persons, who have no means of classifying their nursing staff. It is a pity the Matrons of well-organised Poor-Law Infirmaries do not combine to urge the Local Government Board to push on organisation and reform through Statutory Registration of Nurses. No private effort can bring order out of the present disorganisation in nursing matters. The State owes it to the poor people it professes to care for in Poor-Law institutions, to say nothing of justice to nurses, to put an end, and that soon, to the sad condition of neglect which is reported in the press far and wide. Mr. Sydney Holland did not say a word too much of existing Poor-Law abuses in his evidence before the Poor-Law Commission, where he errs in using his influence against reform outside the gates of the London Hospital. Once a minimum nursing standard was defined, bewildered Guardians would appreciate "registered nurses," and be compelled to employ them, and that would indeed be a happy day for all the neglected senile cases, poor idiots, unnursed babies, patients left to die alone, and maddened Superintendent Nurses unable to do the work of half-a-dozen able-bodied women.

Yours very truly,

A SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

[We agree heartily with this correspondent. We want a constructive policy in nursing, and that alone can be attained through the law.—Ed.]

#### PATRIOTISM BURNING ALL THE TIME.

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

DEAR MADAM,—How is it that there is any need to poke nurses up about joining the Imperial Military Nursing Reserve? It appealed to me as

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