

known to Luce Abinger. Into the garden one moonless night, a stranger strays; as he lights his cigar Poppy sees his face, and falls in love with him. They talk together for a long time, but he never sees her or knows who she is, though she discovers his identity by a photo. When years after they meet again, she having loved him all the time, he learns to love her without having the least suspicion that she is the girl who one summer night had been so much, and yet so little, to him. Looking back, he had thought the meeting all a dream, accounted for by his being in the first stages of tropical fever.

Between her first and second meeting with him, three years elapse. Poppy has been living in London, struggling to make her own living. Literature is her aim, but her muse, for the time being, fails her, and she goes through many and terrible vicissitudes, on the stage, a companion, a governess, it certainly seems rather wonderful that in the short space of three years she should have lived through all these experiences, and yet return to Durban, a successful, celebrated author, with a comfortable assured income, drawn from royalties on novels and plays. If such things can be, then surely no literary aspirant need despair.

E. L. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*December 10th and 11th.*—The Santa Claus Society. Annual Exhibition of Dolls and Toys for Children, and Gifts for Adults in Hospitals and Infirmaries. Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, South Grove, Highgate.

*December 11th.*—Toy fair in aid of St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Plaistow.

*December 11th.*—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Social Gathering, 4 p.m.

*December 18th.*—Central Midwives' Board Examinations.

*December 16th.*—Meeting Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, S.W., 2.45 p.m.

*December 16th.*—Meeting of Grand Committee, Territorial Force Nursing Service, Mansion House, 3.30 p.m.

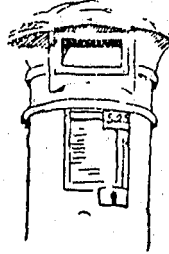
*January 12th.*—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on Operations on the Stomach and Intestines, Preparations and After-Nursing. By Professor Alexis Thomson, F.R.C.S.E. Extra-Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Nurses cordially invited.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Christ telleth by order six works of mercy. . . I hungered, he saith, and then ye fed me in my members; I thirsted and ye gave me drink; and when I was a guest ye harboured me in your house and gathered me to rest. I was naked and ye clad me, sick and ye visited me. I was in prison and then ye came and visited me. The seventh work of mercy is said in the book of Tobit—burying of dead men that have need thereto. All these seven works of mercy do men to Christ when they do them to his members devoutly in his name.

From *Medieval Hospitals in England*,  
By ROTHAMARY CLAY.

## 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.*

SISTER TAYLOR, M.D.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Is it surprising, after reading such police cases as that of "Sister Taylor, M.D.," that well-educated women of good moral tone hesitate to become nurses? I thoroughly agree with you that the constant scandals widely reported in the press are lowering the class from which Matrons can now secure probationers. In a few London hospitals this may not be the case, but in the country it seems useless to try and get the same type of woman of which there was an ample supply twenty years ago. I feel sure this is because nice girls hesitate to be associated with the "Sisters Taylor, M.D.," who, apparently, are approved by our legislators. In this large Yorkshire town some married nurse friends of mine carefully hide the fact that they have ever been hospital nurses, jokingly alluded to as "a loose lot" by the average man. It is a wicked shame that narrow-minded hospital managers should be permitted to force the best class of woman out of the nursing ranks because they will no longer submit to be ranked with disreputable and criminal persons. It is time some of us became "registrettes" as apparently constitutional appeals for justice to nurses and the public are useless, so long as we are voteless.

Yours, etc.,

A HARD-WORKING MATRON.

NEEDED, A CONSTRUCTIVE NURSING POLICY.  
*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—The Guardians in this town, at any rate, do not deserve your pity, and what they call a "comely gal" would inevitably be preferred by the majority to the most efficient "registered nurse," if she happened to be a plain person. Impudence and cheek they enjoy as "reppertee." "Live and let live" covers neglect of duty, unpunctuality, noisy conduct, and over-working the patients, and the lady guardians, although they have never been trained, can be taught nothing—they are completely competent to instruct the Superintendent Nurse by Divine right. Two years in the position of a Superintendent Nurse is enough to dishearten the most optimistic spirit. I would rather break stones than continue in such a position, where at any moment one may be blamed for the ignorance and ill-doing of others. Nurse Bellamy has my deepest sympathy, and also congratulations, that she had the support of your plucky paper in her terrible position.

Yours sincerely,

A LATE SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

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