

dangerously ill. So Marguerite went to the care of a maiden aunt, Henri to the Cistercian College in Avallon, and René to an uncle in England. When René returned home at the age of 18, it was to find his sister a confirmed invalid, physically crippled and mentally starved, docile outwardly, raging inwardly, in the care of the kind, well-meaning aunt. Owing to his influence she is brought home, and a strong and beautiful friendship is established between the two.

It is to meet the expense of treatment for Marguerite that René went out to South America with an exploring expedition. The story of the expedition is well written, and we are deep in it before we discover in it an episode in the life of "The Gadfly." Duprez, the commander, and Dr. Marchand—gruff, taciturn, and drowning his private grief in occasional outbursts of drinking—are both well drawn characters, but it is Felix Rivarez, interpreter, and many other things besides, who chiefly holds one's attention. His friendship with René—abruptly broken because Felix not understanding how much intuition can teach a loving woman believes his secret to have been betrayed by his friend—was a beautiful thing. If life had not dealt so unkindly with Felix, he would scarcely have believed the worst, or dealt so hardly with the man who had always been true and loyal to him, without seeking an explanation.

René's summing up of the situation is to be found in a bit of advice to one of his own boys. "If you should ever come across any one who seems to you . . . different from yourself and all the rest of us—one of the rare spirits that go through the world like stars, radiating light—try to remember that it is a great privilege to know such persons, but a dangerous thing to love them too much. The little personal joys and sorrows and affections, that are everything to us ordinary mortals, are not big enough to fill the lives of such folk, and if we set our hearts on their friendship, and think we possess it, the chances are that we are only boring them all the time. . . . They put up with us out of compassion, or because they are grateful for any service we may have been lucky enough to do them. Then, when we wear their patience right out, and it breaks down suddenly—that's bound to happen at last, because, after all, they're only human—then it's a bit late for us to start life again." P. G. Y.

#### COMING EVENTS.

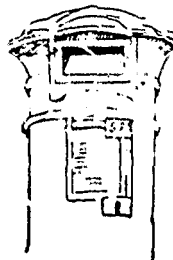
*April 9th.*—The Infirmary, Cleveland Street, London, W. A meeting will be held at the Infirmary, by invitation of the Matron, Miss Charlotte Leigh, to inaugurate the Cleveland Street Branch of the Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League. 4.30 p.m.

*April 12th.*—Guy's Hospital, S.E., Post-Graduate Lectures. "Recent Changes in Treatment in Medical Wards." By E. C. Cameron, Esq., M.D. Nurses' Home, 8 p.m.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"True friends visit us in prosperity only when invited, but in adversity they come without invitation."

## 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.*

#### OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Very many thanks for the prize cheque of £1 ls. for my paper on "Old Sisters." I was much surprised, as well as pleased, when I found I was the successful competitor. With best wishes for the continued success of the B.J.N.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. M. DICKSON.

De Warren House, Northfleet, Kent.

#### NURSING SHOULD BE TAUGHT BY NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad that Miss Burr has written about the question of nurses giving the lectures on Nursing to the women of the Voluntary Aid Detachments. I have been endeavouring to rouse people to a sense of the incongruity that forbids the lectures to be given by the expert! I laid the case before the Secretary of the Red Cross Society about ten days ago, telling him I could get nursing authorities to support my opinion. I have not yet received his answer. But if your influential paper will take the matter up I cannot help hoping that the rule may be rescinded.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN.

The Grange, Kingston, Taunton.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In this week's issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, page 258, there is a question of trained nurses giving both First Aid and Nursing Lectures for Women. In the first place I fear it would never answer, for nurses could not leave their patients for so long a time as a doctor can, and these lectures are, in very many cases, only given in the evening when patients are needing the nurse most, and most doctors have done their duties. I should think the lady in question who was taking the lectures was not interested in the subject. I have been an active member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for over 18 years, and during that time have assisted many doctors with the classes, both First Aid and Nursing, and have never met such a lecturer as the one named. The St. John Ambulance Brigade is far from antiquated or narrow-minded, the Brigade is making very rapid strides, they are a body of men and women who are voluntary workers, and have done noble service to the public; also many hundreds of the St. John Ambulance men did noble

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