

sight, Jane remembers a convenient period of training in some institution, and a uniform stored away belonging to the same period, and as Nurse Rosemary she goes to undertake the post of what is described as a "nurse companion person" to her lover.

This period is quite too silly and impossible, and even though she wears a bandage over her eyes to enable her better to sympathise with her patient, for forty-eight hours, it fails to evoke much response from us.

Still there is much in the book that will commend it to the average reader.

H. H.

### Verses.

#### LIFE.

Much toil, a little leisure,  
Fond memories we treasure,  
Some moments of sweet pleasure,  
Commingled with tears—  
In effort weak, hope strong,  
Love's rapture tunes the song,  
And fateful glide along  
The years.

Through fire that purifies  
With faith that glorifies,  
Love's sweetest sacrifice  
Our living endears—  
So summer comes and goes  
With fragrant heath and rose  
Enhancing to the close  
Our years.

LEWIS DAYTON BURDICK,  
*Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.*

#### COMING EVENTS.

September 24th.—Meeting of the Inspectors of Midwives' Association. Midwives' Institute. 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

September 29th and 30th.—British Hospitals' Association Conference, University Buildings, Glasgow.

October 1st.—International Conference on Cancer Research at Paris (four days).

October 5th to 8th.—International Anti-Tuberculosis Conference, Brussels.

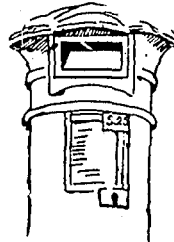
October 10th.—Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London. Reception at the Mansion House by invitation of the Lady Mayoress and the Members of the Executive Committee. 8—10.30 p.m. Entertainment and music.

October 10th.—Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. Course of Lectures—Training for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Avoid all introspection: Physically don't look at your tongue (I haven't seen mine for years); for it has been well said that whereas in childhood tongues should be seen and not heard, with adults they should be heard and not seen."—Dr. A. T. SCHORFIELD.

### 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 HULL SANATORIUM FROM THE INSIDE.  
*To the Editor of "The British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Now that the Hull City Council are at last going to acquaint themselves with the condition of the Sanatorium it may be hoped a new system will be inaugurated. It might meanwhile interest the public to know a few of the impressions of one who has worked there in the past.

I think one may truthfully say that there is no skilled nursing for the patients in the Hull Sanatorium; that the place is very dirty; that the tone amongst the nurses is deplorable; that little discipline has been maintained, and no systematic training given. That is, at least, my experience.

(1) No skilled nursing. A ward containing twenty patients, some of them operations, may be left in charge of a quite new and inexperienced probationer; for instance, a bad case of tracheotomy needing a special nurse, another child with tracheotomy impending at any moment, and others needing skilled care and attention; the Sister and nurse out. Imagine the responsibility and anxiety of an ignorant probationer! The system of sterilisation was most primitive; for instance, the trachy tube when cleansed was removed by unsterilised fingers and not forceps, boiled in a common saucepan in which eggs and other things were cooked, and replaced in the throat by unsterilised fingers. No disinfectant was ever used personally by the nurses; hands were merely washed with warm water and soap. The nurses wore no overalls, and, as from every part of the hospital—the scarlet, enteric, diphtheria wards—the nurses took their meals together, cross infection was apparently invited. Blanket baths were largely given, and one pair of blankets was used for all patients—boys, girls, women—in rotation; it did not matter if the patients were tubercular, or suffering from skin diseases; for the latter diseases no patient was tested or treated specially. There was no effective cleansing of heads from pediculi; the hair was just combed with a very weak solution of carbolic, and the heads remained infected for weeks. The wards were dusty and dirty, polished floors never washed, and dust swept up with dry brushes, and thus easily breathed in by the patients and nurses. These are just a few of the unscientific methods of nursing apparently satisfactory to the authorities.

(2) As to the tone in the Nurses' Home, it was deplorable. One of the first questions I was asked as a perfect stranger was "Have you a sweet-heart?" and I was told many of the nurses had "best boys" with whom they went out. The "boys" I saw were of the working class. This intercourse may have been harmless, but it was the subject of vulgar joking.

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