

having a speaking part, Pam should lead the Bird Chorus as Robin Red Breast, in place of Maisie, who had displeased her, it was war to the knife, war which, in spite of the loyal comradeship and care of Billy, involved both children in serious trouble.

Billy loved Christmas time, not only because the passers-by were wont to be more generous to the street musician, but because he "liked to press his nose against the gaily decorated windows, wreathed with holly, glistening with frost, and illuminated with myriad lights of varied colours. . . . He loved the Christmas glare, and to watch the busy crowds thronging the great thoroughfares. And his fairy! She sang to him so sweetly at Christmas time—of peace and joy and goodwill."

But alas! before Christmas Day came the violin lay cracked and broken on the pavement—an empty shell, no longer the hiding place of his fairy, for she had flown out into the night, away from her spoiled, mutilated home, and Billy was desolate indeed.

Pam, too, had her troubles, but "all's well that ends well," and the story for both our hero and heroine ends most happily, as a Christmas story should, with peace and goodwill, and "prosperity, long life, and happiness to the child violinist."

P. G. Y.

COMING EVENTS.

December 16th.—Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation. At-Home and the People's Bargain Sale. Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster. Speeches and music, 3.30 p.m.

December 17th.—Second Annual Meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association, Masonic Halls, 100, West Regent Street, Glasgow. Sir William Mac-ewen, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., will preside. 3 p.m.

December 25th.—Christmas Day Hospital Festivities.

January 11th, 1911.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on "Food and Feeding," by Dr. Chalmers Watson. All trained nurses cordially invited. Extra Mural Medical Theatre. 4.30 p.m.

February 18th, 1911.—A Reunion in support of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, under the authority of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, will take place in the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., 8.30 p.m. to 12. Reception, 8.30 p.m.

A Nursing Masque of the Evolution of Trained Nursing will be presented at 9 p.m.

Music and Refreshments.

Tickets:—Reserved seats (limited), 10s. 6d. and 7s. 6d.; unreserved, 5s.; Nurses, 3s. 6d.; Performers, 2s. 6d.

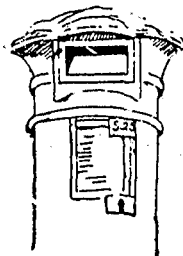
Tickets, on and after January 1st, on sale at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.; at the office BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING (first floor), 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.; and from Matrons who offer to have them on sale or return.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly, and they will show themselves great.

R. W. Emerson.

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.

LIVE ANIMALS IN BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Although we are in the midst of a General Election, I shall be grateful if you will find space before the preparations for Christmas feasting begin for a word of protest against the vulgar, insanitary, and brutalising display of live animals in butchers' shops. It is doubtless assumed by the perpetrators that the overfed victims are indifferent to their surroundings, though that is claiming to know much more of animal psychology than it is at all possible to justify, but if not for the sake of the unfortunate creatures who are penned up among the corpses of their kin, it would be well, Madam, if, in the interests of ethical culture and human progress, you would use your powerful influence against such degrading exhibitions.

If *mater familias* would decline to patronise the establishments where such callous vulgarity is in evidence, our streets would cease to be thus disfigured.

I am, yours faithfully,
Animals Friend Society. EDITH WARD.

A SWEEPING ASSERTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have seen it stated in a paper that "Private work is the lowest form of nursing." I don't know how the writer convinces himself of this when it is from the private nurses the whole world takes the standard of nursing and nurses. Could you ask for arguments for and against this statement in your paper? Surely this injurious and sweeping assertion could be refuted?

SISTER IN INDIA.

[In our opinion nursing in private families is the most responsible branch of nursing, because the nurse has to rely upon her own initiative and judgment very often in most difficult circumstances. Many of the ablest and most devoted nurses we know are in private work, and we hope the time will come when private practice will rank as it should do, and as it does in the States, as the branch *par excellence*, which requires the best all-round women to succeed in it. In this connection only last week a St. Thomas' trained nurse, in applying for private work, remarked: "We are discouraged from becoming private nurses—it is preferred that we should take up any other branch of nursing!" We inquired, "Why?" She couldn't tell, "but it was so."—Ed.]

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

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