

and followed the other two, until the ungainly beasts were swallowed up in the darkness."

These tales, though they cannot be said to be pleasing, are in an intense degree realistic, and create an atmosphere that must appeal to the imaginative.

H. H.

#### GREATNESS.

Hearts to their clapping  
For him who shall tower  
Above Mind,  
Above Power;  
Or mishapping  
To find  
Great greatness is just to be true and kind!  
*Frederick Fanning Ayer.*

#### READ.

"The Life Everlasting," by Marie Corelli.  
"The Little Green Gate," by Stella Callaghan.  
"My Own Story," by Louisa of Tuscany,  
Ex-Crown Princess of Saxony.

#### COMING EVENTS.

October 4th.—Nurses' Union Meeting. 6, Grosvenor Square, W. (by invitation of Lady Blanche Smith). Cards of invitation, admitting nurse and one friend, may be obtained from Miss Dashwood, Nurses' Union, 5, Cambridge Gate, N.W.

October 4th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Farewell Meetings. University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C. 9.45 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 6.45 p.m.

October 5th.—Meeting, Central Midwives' Board. Caxton House, S.W. 2.45 p.m.

October 10th.—Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League. Meeting, Room 18, Caxton Hall, S.W. 4 p.m.

October 9th to 13th.—National Union of Women Workers' Conference at Glasgow.

October 10th to 13th.—Gresham Lectures. By Dr. F. M. Sandwith, on "Flies as Carriers of Disease." City of London School, Victoria Embankment, E.C. 6 p.m.

October 11th.—Matrons' Council Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, W. 3.30 p.m. Discussion on National Insurance Bill. Tea.

October 19th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Executive Committee. 4 p.m. Tea.

October 23rd.—Central Midwives' Board, Examination. London and Provinces.

October 27th.—The Mansion House, E.C. The Lady Mayoress's "At Home" to the Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London.

#### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Health is the soul that animates all enjoyments of life, which fade and are tasteless, if not dead without it.—*Sir William Temple.*

## 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.*

#### "LITTLE PAPERS FROM JAPAN."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING there has appeared under the title of "Little Papers from Japan" delightful letters in which the writer, once a "baby" missionary, brings us in touch with much that is interesting in Japanese life. The fascination of her letters lie in the fact that she writes from personal experience, and the incidents connected with her illness are particularly interesting.

The story of her journey with its many discomforts, and the description of the grand scenery, the beautiful flowers, and secluded valleys, gives one a longing to have been with the writer.

Being desirous of going to the Mission Field myself, had it been possible, and having the privilege of having many friends now in active service there, some of whom are working in Japan, the letter is of great interest to me, and I desire to express my thanks to the writer for all that she has told us in such a charming manner.

The little Empire of Japan, now the foremost nation in Asia, has, one might almost say, her physical needs supplied, but she craves for enlightenment and to what shall she go? Surely not to Buddhism or the formal observances of Shinto as now—with that she is restless, and she knows not where to find true rest. It urgently behoves us to go forth and take to her the message of the Gospel.

Yours faithfully,

RHODA METHERELL, R.N.S.

#### "INNOCENTS ABROAD."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The graphic report given under the above heading which appeared last week, gives very good reason for thought. Nothing but pity can fill the heart of a true woman for the victims, disfigured or otherwise, of venereal disease. In my own experience I have known of heart-breaking cases, in which the punishment seemed to far outweigh the crime.

Take, for instance, that of a high-spirited young curate, known to me in youth, who, curiously enough, I have only met in public places thrice in thirty years. Removed from his curacy for flighty conduct, I met him ten years later in a theatre. *The mark of the beast was there*, just a clean chip out of his nose. The Church had of course been given up, and he was then an instructor

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