

and despair, Rose flies to the Convent with which she was familiar in her childhood.

"She tried to speak, but no words came. Yet the nuns must know before they took her in. Oh! She let the cloak fall away from her, and held out the disgraced unringed left hand. The Mother Superior tried to catch at it, but Rose pushed her back, and held it closer under her eyes.

"Gone," she managed to say, "It is gone. May I—still—come in?"

Then the Mother committed a grave breach of discipline. Her heart drove her feet across the threshold, she gathered the suppliant close in her arms, and almost carried her back into the safe flowery garden of the old Convent. When the portal closed behind her, Rose knew she was where man could never come.

H. H.

#### READ.

"A History of England." By C. R. L. Fletcher and Rudyard Kipling.

"How Men Fly." By Gertrude Bacon.

"The Long Roll." By Mary Johnston.

"Love Letters of a Japanese." By G. N. Mortlake.

#### VERSE.

You have no enemies, you say?  
Alas, my friend, the boast is poor;  
He who has mingled in the fray  
Of duty that the brave endure  
Must have made foes if you have none.  
Small is the work that you have done,  
You've hit no traitor on the hip,  
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,  
You've never turned the wrong to right,  
You've been a coward in the fight.

CHARLES MACKAY.

#### COMING EVENTS.

July 19th to 21st.—National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and Other Forms of Tuberculosis. Annual Conference, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

July 21st.—British Medical Association. Meeting in Birmingham.

July 21st.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. Special Meeting. Dr. Winford H. Smith, Superintendent, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A., will give an Address on "Nursing in America, and State Registration." Miss M. S. Rundle, Isla Stewart Scholar, will preside. Nurses and their friends cordially invited. Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., 8 p.m.

July 22nd.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting of Executive Committee, 3.30 p.m. Meeting of Grand Council, 4 p.m. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Tea.

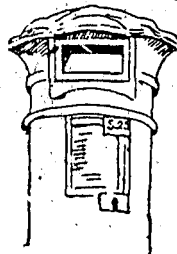
July 24th—29th.—The Royal Sanitary Institute. Patron, His Majesty the King. Twenty-sixth Congress, 1911. Belfast.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Education is the whole difference between barbarism and civilisation.

Cecil John Rhodes.

## 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 PRIZE COMPETITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Very many thanks for postal order, value 5s., for competition prize.

Yours sincerely,

EMILY MARSHALL.

123, New Bond Street, W.

#### NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I attended the Nurses' Meeting last week to consider the National Insurance Bill, and the Women's Meeting at the Caxton Hall on the 13th. How is it that the pitfalls of the Bill have not been pointed out to us before? It seems most heartless, considering how inimical the Bill is to the interests of nurses, that neither hospital committees, doctors, nor Matrons appear to have lifted a finger to help the rank and file, who work so hard and have so little time to look into things for themselves.

Surely the managers of the Pension Fund, instead of setting about to control the money we are to be compelled to subscribe by forming an approved society, should have at once warned the annuitants of the serious provisions of the Bill, and given the hundreds of members a chance of opposing it in time, but not one word of encouragement to agitate was spoken by anyone in authority. Now there seems no time to do anything. The helpless position of trained nurses treated like children as we are, is made very apparent over recent legislation. How different to the doctors, who have political power. Nurses in this country have no status, no protection. We are the sport of every person who wants to make money out of our profession.

If this Bill is going to make us pay for insurance, and then deny us the money due to us when sick if we are given board and lodging by hospitals or employers it is most unjust, and we shall soon all be in the workhouse. It is a monstrous bit of legislation for all living-in women, and if it passes into law in its present form, we ought to go to prison sooner than pay a penny.

May I express my personal gratitude to yourself and the ladies who called the meetings, and who have thus done what our committees and Matrons ought to have done, brought the disabilities of all trained nurses, as suggested in the Bill, to the notice of the public and Members of Parliament?

I am, yours truly,

A LONDON HOSPITAL SISTER.

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