

"O, Lenny, don't do it. Be true to me. It's too wicked—too monstrously wicked."

He terminates his engagement to Mrs. Fletcher, which took place shortly afterwards, in the same self-absorbed manner, and his roving affection, so-called, returns to Alma, who by this time has married Gerald Dryden.

His colossal selfishness leads him to try and regain ascendancy over her, and after a most painful scene of violence and passion, she seeks the protection of her husband against him.

Certainly he has done nothing to earn the reader's respect or admiration, but one can still feel pity for the man whose pleasant, easy-going disposition was so undisciplined and untrained. The concluding chapters of the book will satisfy those who desire that punishment should fall on the wrongdoer, for Lenny's brain gives way and we leave him in a private lunatic asylum. We only hope that the establishment described exists only in the author's imagination.

This is undoubtedly a powerful book, but we have read many pleasanter. However, it is a novel with a purpose, and as such proves its point.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

April 13th.—Nurses' Hostel House Committee 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 6 p.m. Meeting of shareholders, 7 p.m. Irish Matrons' Association Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

April 15th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture: "Babies," by Dr. Hastings Tweedy, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 7.30 p.m.

April 17th.—Meeting Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London. 3 p.m. Tea.

April 17th.—Meeting Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society Provisional Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

April 23rd.—Nurses' Missionary League. Tenth Annual Conference and Meeting, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.

April 23rd. to 26th.—Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition, Horticultural Hall, Westminster, S.W. 12 to 10 p.m.

April 25th.—Annual Meeting, Association of Inspectors of Midwives, Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, S.W. 11 a.m.

April 26th.—Guy's Hospital Nurses' League. Tenth Annual Meeting and Fourth Annual Dinner. Annual Exhibition Nurses' Photographic Society.

April 29th.—League of St. John's House Nurses' Meeting and Social Gathering, 12, Queen Square, W.C., 3 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Sow love, and taste its fruitage pure;
Sow peace, and reap its harvest bright;
Sow sunbeams, on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest home of light.

BONAR.

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.

A PRIVILEGE TO SIGN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—It is a privilege to have the opportunity of signing the Petition on behalf of Miss Ellen Pitfield.

To add suffering or even discomfort to one who is called upon to bear such pains as we know the nature of her disease entails surely cannot be allowed in our Christian country. It is too inconsistent. Therefore, I quite believe she will soon be released, and let us hope tenderly nursed for the rest of her numbered days.

My heart ached for her when I read of her trial, and I longed that something could be done. Believing your efforts will be successful, and thanking you for giving us the opportunity of helping a suffering fellow-creature.

I am, sincerely yours,

RHODA METHERELL
(Member R.N.S.).

PIECRUST PROMISES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I hope all thinking women, and nurses especially, will take warning by the recent action of Members of Parliament *re* the Conciliation Bill, which last session was passed by a majority of 110, and has now been *rejected* by a majority of 14. Of course, the reason given is the recent action of one section of the militant Suffragists. Whether that action was wise or not is not my point, but certainly if militancy increases I hope those rattling members will realise *their* responsibility. My object, however, is to show how thoroughly unreliable a man's promise to a woman is. Many of those men (probably all of them) had given their word that they would vote for the Conciliation Bill, and because a small number of women do something of which they disapprove they consider that quite sufficient justification to break their promise; a promise probably given to women who had nothing whatever to do with the militants, and by this action helping to withhold what they profess to believe is right and just from thousands of women because, forsooth, a small number do something they don't like.

Now, we registrationists have been asking nicely for registration for many years past; our Bill even passed the House of Lords without a division, but do these same men say, "Here's a quiet, law-abiding, useful body of women who are going to work in a proper orthodox manner,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)