

flushed crimson, and a shy radiance dawned in her eyes as she glanced up at him.

"Look at her," he said, still speaking gently. "Do you see now why I say I know all about her? Catherine, I have been telling them that I love you."

He raised her hand to his lips and kissed it.

Without doubt Martin was a most diabolical person; he was fulfilling merely the double purpose of spiting Cyril and possessing himself of a type of face that might have been drawn by Clouet Poor Catherine! However, she proves to be distinctly a person of character, and contrives for a time to be fairly happy in spite of the stiff brocades and brilliant silks and velvets that she is compelled to wear in order to sustain her rôle. Martin's son does not prove all that his father desired. He was too much like his Clouet mother, and on his reaching his majority his father conceives the idea of cutting off the entail and reinstating Cyril, or, rather, his son, as his heir.

It is inconceivable that a healthy-minded young man like Nat should tamely submit to his goodly heritage being given to another, or that such a man as even Martin was could be so altogether lost to justice and decency. Poor Catherine takes a short cut out of it all by dying. The conclusion of this book is its weakest part, but the story as a whole is full of interest, and of its many characters none are dull or commonplace.

H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

May 24th.—Meeting of "Isla Stewart Memorial Fund Committee." Report from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Shuter, 43I, Oxford Street, London, W. 5 p.m.

May 28th.—Trained Maternity Nurses' Association. Lecture on "Hæmorrhage" by Dr. L. Frazer-Nash. 33, Strand. 4 p.m.

May 30th.—The Midland Matrons' Association, Birmingham. Meeting: Miss Mollett will speak on the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society in the afternoon, and to Nurses at the General Hospital, Birmingham, in the evening.

May 30th.—Penal Meeting Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, S.W. 2 p.m.

June 6th to 12th.—Nurses' Social Union, Health Conference and Exhibition, the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol. Nurses' Day, June 6th, 2 p.m.

June 7th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting. Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. 4 p.m. Tea by kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer, 2, Portland Place, W.

June 8th.—Irish Nurses' Association Meeting, Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 8 p.m.

June 13th.—Colonial Nursing Association Annual Meeting. Devonshire House, W. 3.30 p.m. Lord Ampthill, G.C.I.E., will preside.

#### 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 CUCKOO FLOWER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I suggest that the very powerful story of "Little Cuckoo Flower" shall be reprinted in pamphlet form and sold by the Vigilance Societies? I have been deeply impressed with it. It is difficult for men to realise how the horrible crime of the rape of little children outrages the maternal instincts of women. I do not wonder "the parson's wife" sympathised with Martha—I do also.

Yours sincerely,

HEALTH VISITOR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—"Little Cuckoo Flower" is a charming story, but heartrending. One is glad she died. I suppose it is a true story. And to think that by a private Member raising his hat in the House of Commons and saying "I object," the Bill for raising the Age of Consent was blocked! (Is it really possible for that to be done? I read it in the *Common Cause*.) One wonders why any man responsible for the morality of the kingdom, as all legislators are, should object.

Yours sincerely,

A SCHOOL NURSE.

[Yes, poor little Cuckoo Flower lived and died as told in the story. No doubt the cruel indifference of the authorities aroused a desperate sense of indignation in the mind of her pure-minded and devoted mother. But alas! many little children are soiled and degraded who do not die, whose misery is hushed up; and these fearsome crimes will continue so long as the law provides no adequate punishment, and what punishment is permissible is so laxly enforced by men. One Member of Parliament by present custom can obstruct any Bill by the method as described. Thus a succession of Jacks-in-the-box have been prepared to pop up for years to object to the Nurses' Registration Bill—in the interest of their exploiters and the gradual depreciation of trained nursing. Just now a London Hospital Governor occupies the unenviable rôle of blocker, and when one realises that a profit of a pound a week per head on the labour of every nurse on his private nursing staff is made, of whom there are 270, his action is not quite so unreasonable from a financial point of view as might at first appear, though in our opinion it is cruel and unjustifiable.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)