

She does not appear to be troubled with shyness on this occasion: "and in a few minutes we were quarrelling—actually quarrelling—about the Suffragettes. 'Of course I am one myself.' The Emperor grew very impatient as men do when they are having the worst of an argument and brought out all sorts of stale old platitudes about woman remaining in her proper sphere and looking after her home and—he didn't say so, but I know the German attitude of mind—her husband's comforts.

"His Majesty seemed to enjoy being entertained by two young 'blooming maidens' as he called us and said he was dying for tea and hoped the 'Suffragette didn't intend to starve him.'"

The account of the "sun baths" and "air baths" at Schloss Freidorf strikes us as being at least unusual. Hans and Heinz, the two younger boys, suddenly appeared in the garden in a state of nature except for bathing drawers. The boys began gravely to recite their lessons to Herr Pastor, who appeared quite unmoved by the unconventionality of his pupils' appearance. Tante Klara takes her sun bath in a sunny corner of the garden in a sort of tent without a top.

H. H.

SERVICE.

To serve another's will
That's not for me;
My heart is not athrill
For slavery.

To serve another's need
Right heartily,
In thought, and word, and deed—
That's Liberty.

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

COMING EVENTS.

June 21st.—Meeting at 46, Cadogan Square, S.W., by invitation of Lady Helen Munro Ferguson to discuss State Registration of Nurses.

June 24th to 27th.—The Biennial Health Conference and Exhibition 1912, Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, and L.C.C. Technical Institute. Opened at 12 o'clock noon by the Mayor of the City of Westminster.

June 27th.—Irish Nurses' Association, Howth (Lawlor's Cottage, Bailey). Cyclists' meet:—The Crescent, Clontarf, 4 p.m.

June 28th.—The King and Queen open the King Edward Memorial, Royal Infirmary, Bristol.

June 29th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, Clinical Lecture Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 2.30 p.m. Social gathering 4 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

If thou thy Star do follow
Thou canst not fail thee of a glorious port. —
Dante.

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.

NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

We have been asked to publish the following correspondence which has passed between the secretary of the Scottish Nurses' Association and the secretary of the Scottish Insurance Commission:—

5, Kelvin Drive, Glasgow, W.,

May 1, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter *re* "Resolution," I have now to state the points on which it was based.

The resolution was:—That this meeting would respectfully submit to the Commissioners that hospitals be not permitted to contract out of paying their regular proportion as employers in view of the disabilities which it would impose upon nurses on leaving such hospitals to take up either private work or any other of the many branches of nursing."

Under Schedule I., Part II., Sub-section C (Exceptions), it is stated:—"Employment under the Crown or any local or other public authority, where the Insurance Commissioners certify that the terms of the employment are such as to secure provision in respect of sickness and disablement on the whole not less favourable than the corresponding benefits conferred by Part I. of this Act."

We take it that hospitals kept up by the rates and even some of those kept up by voluntary subscriptions, where full wages are paid during sickness and temporary disablement with free medical attendance and nursing, might be exempted, especially those, such as some of the mental hospitals, where a superannuation scheme is in force.

If a nurse on the staff of an exempted hospital left after three or four years—as most hospital nurses do—to join the staff of a hospital insuring its members or to go in for private nursing, it would appear that she would be in the position of a person not previously insured who becomes an employed contributor. She would then come under Section IX. 4 and

(1) be considered in arrear for all the years she had been previously exempt and have to pay up all such arrears,

or

(2) would receive no benefit for six months (Sect. VIII. 8b) and reduced benefits afterwards unless she paid a capital sum sufficient to secure benefits at the full rate or paid premiums at the voluntary rate for one of her age.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)