

class (alas! that such adjectives can be used of any class of women in Christian England)—I mean the poor barmaids—has just written a pamphlet on this subject, which she thoroughly understands. The booklet is called by the clever title, "Ought our Girls to be called to the Bar?" Whether or no lady lawyers shall flourish in our midst is a problem of the future; but other maidens are, alas! allowed to be called to another bar, and are permitted to serve drinks behind the counter. Miss Gough would see this particular employment closed by law to women, and all interested in woman's true welfare must sympathise with her wish, and wonder that public opinion can permit girls to be thus employed; but public opinion's favourite line of poetry is Pope's cynical—

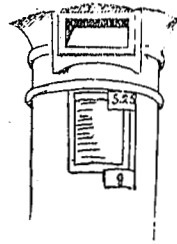
"Whatever is is right."

And so wrong is done to-day simply because it was done yesterday.

A NEW and essentially practical idea in philanthropy has, according to the "D'ye Know?" columns of *Woman*, been lately started in New York. It affects pet dogs. "Ladies are to deny themselves the luxury of a pet dog as long as there is a child in New York or Brooklyn who has no shoes to its feet and insufficient food to nourish its body." Farewell, canine favourites, your day is over in the new city named after the oldest of our cathedral towns, for who will live to see the day when every little New Yorkite is well shod and well fed? The society is to be called the "Child Redeeming Company." Would not a better name have been "Suppression of Pet Dogs"? What with societies in the higher classes and unions in the lower, the world of men will become one congealed mass, or, rather, several congealed masses, for societies have not always the same end in view, instead of being, as heretofore, made up of those separate, if insignificant, atoms of humanity called individuals. VEVA KARSLAND.

BACK NUMBERS.—The publishers will give double the price—fourpence per copy—for Nos. 52 and 59 of the *Nursing Record*.

WHATEVER hurts a man in body, mind, or heart hurts others also. If his health or powers are injured, his ability to assist others is lessened; if his character deteriorates, so must his influence. If he throws away advantages, he cannot communicate them; if he does not develop himself, he cannot develop others. There are indeed few more effective means of hurting others than by injuring our own character or lowering our own moral tone.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries &c.)

*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.*

*We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.*

*Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.*

### HUMANITARIANISM VERSUS THE WORLD OF CANT.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—You are to be congratulated on being able to introduce so valiant a band of correspondents as those you have from time to time brought upon the tapis. And it is to be hoped that, now they have taken the matter up, they will courageously fight on—stop never and nowhere—till the entire species of white slavery whereby professional Nurses have for so long a time been crippled and hundred in their arduous and noble work is put out of existence for ever. "Handsome is that handsome does."

In replying to your correspondent, "Paterfamilias," let me quote the following: "Dr. Wilson gave voice to some very revolutionary sentiments at the Sanitary Congress. He said he doubted whether public opinion was sufficiently advanced to enforce certificates of health on the part of persons about to marry, but he thought the time was at hand to put some check on the appalling waste of infant life which disgraced our civilisation, by prohibiting any man to marry unless he could produce reasonable proof that he was in a position to maintain a wife. So long as the family Medical Practitioner continued to be paid to attend only on people when they were ill, and not to conserve the health of the household, there would be a constant drag on public health progress." "Mr. Melville discussed his opinions freely with Mr. Lorraine, and carefully considered the causes which had produced England's social anomalies. Whilst he did so the determination grew stronger within him every day to commence a crusade against the institutionalised iniquities of society."

"Success to all who follow him in the heroic crusade against cant, and to all that join him and his companions on their grand march!" For the time has come when we must ask the Nursing profession to answer the burning question which has for some years past been uppermost and incomprehensible to many minds, but hitherto reserved—that is, "Why is it that women must belong to this or that particular clique, to this or that particular creed, ere they can be allowed to pass muster as professional Nurses?" This, Sir, is a question which cannot be much longer blinked; for pageants are waning, loyalty is dying, puny-minded holy fathers, titled shadows, and kings and queens are fading away. And all this, if you please, because the people are tired of being 'ungry.

The last decade of the nineteenth century has led us into an age of *organisation*, not *transition*; and your recent annotation on the narrow-mindedness of the Chaplain at Winchester Union has vividly recalled to my mind an incident which came under my notice about three years ago. A District Nurse, residing scarcely two hundred miles from London, was one day unceremoniously interrupted in the midst of her duties by one of the holy fathers and some in-

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