

Nice, honest, straight Tom sustains a fatal accident at polo about six months after their marriage. We are much pleased with the sketch of the trained nurse who attends him in his last hours. It is neither overdrawn nor does it represent the common sort of individual that we are familiar with in the modern novel.

"Do you mean he's in actual danger?" stormed Lord Erriff, still in a whisper, and even as his brother whispered his sorrowful answer, the nurse came out on to the landing above and down to the first turn of the stairs in a kind of soft rush.

"Come," she said breathlessly, and beckoned and was gone instantly.

"When they entered, Tom's dark head was already supported by her kind, strong arm. . . . As she laid him back on the pillows and closed the dark eyes the expression of grave relief grew and settled upon his face, and the anxiety faded for ever.

It was well he died before the full realisation of his wife came upon him.

H. H.

#### THE DOOR OF LIFE STANDS WIDE.

The long years slide,  
The Door of Life stands wide,  
Ghosts creep inside,  
With their dead fingers hide  
Present from Past.  
Dear God, be kind!  
Grant that I keep enshrined  
Within my mind  
The love of human-kind  
Until the last.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*January 6th to 16th.*—Post Graduate Course of Lectures on the Feeding and Care of Infants, with special attention to the Milk Problem. Fee, £1 1s. Apply to Hon. Secretary, Dr. Janet E. Lane-Clayton, 18, Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London, W.

*January 15th, 22nd and 29th.*—Trained Women Nurses Friendly Society, Meeting of Committee of Management, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 5 p.m.

*January 15th.*—Nurses' Social Union. Lecture on "The Germ Theory in Practice," by Mr. Stephen Paget, F.R.C.S., Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire Street, W. 3.15 p.m.

*January 23rd.*—Nurses' Missionary League. Miss Richardson "At-home," 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.

*February 5th and 20th, and March 6th.*—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses Course of Lectures. "Eugenics, what is it?" by Bishop Harman, Esq., F.R.C.S. "The Industrial Position of women," by Miss Constance Smith. "Some Aspects of Juvenile Labour," by Miss O. I. Dunlop, D.Sc., Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. Tickets from the Hon. Secretary. 5.30 p.m.

#### 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.*

#### FREE SPEECH PROHIBITED AT BART'S.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I cannot express with what sorrow and indignation I read your article on "Anti-Registration at Bart's" in this week's JOURNAL.

Being an old Bartholomew's nurse, and one who fully valued and appreciated the privileges we enjoyed in the Hospital, it seems incredible to imagine that anyone in these enlightened days could think that by not allowing free speech and free discussion any great progressive movement for the betterment of women, such as State Registration for Nurses, for which St. Bartholomew's Hospital nurses have been working for years, could be retarded.

Being Hon. Sec. of the Defence of Nursing Standards Committee, which was formed by old Bartholomew's nurses to make a public protest against placing a lady without a three years' term of training in the Hospital before certification as Matron, how justified was our protest, if, after a little over two years, the right of considering their own professional affairs and free speech has been prohibited to the sisters and nurses of St. Bartholomew's!

Yours sincerely,

ELLEN SHUTER.

Cleveland House, Chiswick Lane, W.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a nurse certified in the school attached to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, I beg to thank you for calling public attention to the tyrannous act of the Matron, Miss Annie McIntosh, in denying free speech to the sisters and nurses in the hospital.

Those of us who publicly protested against the degradation of our three years' standard of training when the present matron was appointed in 1910 realised that sooner or later our professional rights and privileges would be attacked, and that a matron's assistant from the London Hospital had been selected for that purpose.

In my opinion it is an outrage that the three hundred sisters and nurses on the staff, many of whom have given years of devoted service to the institution, and are educated professional women with ripe experience, are to be treated like serfs by this autocratic official.

The question of State registration of nurses is the question of a guarantee of efficient nursing for the public, whom the nurses serve; it also means just educational and economic conditions

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