

She decides after a great struggle not to marry Dicky, as he wished.

"It's no good blubbin', mother," she said gently; "it can't be 'elped. I'm fond of 'im, and 'e's fond of me, but I'm blowed if I'm goin' to marry 'im. We shall say we're married—no one'll know."

To Dicky she tells the reason.

"I'm so common," said she.

"You! common!" he exclaimed.

"Yes—the way I speak. And look at mother—Sunday mornin' in 'er curlin'-pins."

Dicky tells her, "It isn't the way people speak that's common. Don't you worry about your aitches, you precious thing."

Before the child came Dicky insisted on the marriage.

On the morning after its birth success came to him for the first time.

But in the moment he pours his joy in her ears she leaves him suddenly desolate. She had sat up to hear his news, despite all her mother's efforts to dissuade her. In her eyes were all the questions of her life crying out to him, frightened, for answer.

"Constance!" he cried.

"'Ave I——?" said she. Her head fell suddenly as suddenly the other world had taken her.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

February 26th.—Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London. Meeting Executive Committee. Mansion House. 3 p.m.

February 26th.—Eastern Hospital, Homerton. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on "State Registration of Nurses." 8 p.m.

February 26th.—Nurses' Choral and Social League. Annual Concert, Kensington Town Hall. 8 p.m.

February 26th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Lecture on Florentine Painting: "The Age of Accomplishment," Medical and Surgical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 6 p.m.

February 26th.—Central Midwives Board. Penal cases. 2 p.m.

February 28th.—National Union of Trained Nurses, London Branch. Lecture "Venereal Diseases," by Dr. Hilda Clark. Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W. 3.15 p.m.

February 28th.—The Cleveland Street Branch of the Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League. "At Home" at the St. Giles' and Bloomsbury Infirmary, Cleveland Street, W.

March 4th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture: "The Nursing of Tropical Diseases," by Major Marshall. Large Theatre on Surgical Side. 4.30 p.m. Trained nurses cordially invited.

March 6th.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual Meeting, 16, Draycott Place, S.W. The Duchess of Montrose in the Chair. 3.30 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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITRESS,—Please accept my best thanks for prize of 5s. for article in last week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It is a pleasure writing these papers and reading the clever answers that appear from time to time.

Yours truly,

E. DOUGLAS.

Belfast Union Maternity Hospital.

PROFESSIONAL UNITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Your correspondent "R. B. N. A." asks for an explanation of the aims of the various societies for nurses. May I be allowed to offer one in a judicial frame of mind?

Foremost I will put the National Council of Trained Nurses, because it is the society which affiliates other societies and which in its turn is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, the membership of which exceeds 40,000. Its main object is to "Promote the usefulness and honour, the economic and other interests of the nursing profession." It has done a splendid work in drawing the nursing profession together all over the world, and in supporting measures for reform in England.

It must be clearly understood that individual nurses cannot belong, except as members of an affiliated society. The societies affiliated to it are the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Irish Nurses' Association, the Society for State Registration of Nurses, and various Leagues of special branches or sections of the profession. The National Council of Trained Nurses is therefore on a different plane to the other societies. It does not enter into competition with them. It is a body to which they can affiliate if they fulfil the necessary conditions, and so become part of a large international organisation for promoting the interests of the nursing profession.

The conception is a fine one, and there is no doubt in my mind that the system of organisation adopted by the National Council is right.

The Royal British Nurses' Association was founded to "unite nurses for their mutual benefit," and it stood up for a training qualification at a time when few other bodies did so. It is a centralised society without local branches, and has not a democratic form of government.

The Nurses' Union is a denominational society, started as a branch of the Young Women's

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