

Maud was perhaps right when she told her husband that living at Cambridge with clever people had made him care more about people's minds than themselves; and "Howard was certainly right when he warns her against becoming a "slipper-warmer."

Maud sums up the situation between them, when she says that the old ideas about mutual consolation and advice and support ought to be *there*; but the moment you speak about them they become "stuffy and disgusting."

Their first child dies at its birth; and Maud, in her extreme prostration which followed, afterwards described how her spirit pursued that of the infant she had never seen, and heard its little voice and caressed it. Mr. Benson is very much at home in mysticism; and, perhaps, this is the most natural part of his story.

"Maud laid a single flower on the little mound. "No, my darling, I am not making any mistake; I don't think of you as sleeping here, though I love the place where your little limbs are laid. You are awake, alive, about your business, I don't doubt. I don't claim you, sweet; I don't even ask you to remember and understand." H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 23rd.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4 p.m.

January 23rd.—Catholic Nurses' Association (Irish Branch): Lecture on the "Nursing of Abdominal Cases," by Dr. Kennedy, F.R.C.S.I., Lourdes House, Mountjoy Square, Dublin. 8 p.m.

January 27th.—Central Midwives Board. Penal Cases. 2 p.m.

January 27th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses: Lectures on Florentine Painting. Lecture I. "Conditions in Italy in the thirteenth century and in Greece in the Classic Age compared. Painting in Rome, Siena, and Florence," by Mr. Beckwith A. Spencer, M.A., F.S.A. Medical and Surgical Theatre. 8.15 p.m.

January 28th.—Irish Nurses' Association: Lecture, "Midwives under the Insurance Act," by Mrs. Dickie. 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 4 p.m.

January 28th.—Women's Freedom League. Lecture on "The Life and Work of Florence Nightingale" by Surgeon-General G. J. H. Evatt, C.B. Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. 13.30 p.m.

January 28th.—Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, E.C.: New Year's Entertainment, 8 p.m.

January 29th.—The Nurses' Choral and Social League. A Social Evening. Dancing. 5, Addison Road, Kensington, W. 8 to 12 o'clock.

January 30th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 3.30 p.m.

February 4th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture: "Surgical Tuberculosis," by Mr. C. W. Cathcart, F.R.C.S. Large Theatre on Surgical side. 4.30 p.m. Trained nurses cordially invited.

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.

HOME VERSUS COLLEGE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I agree with a good bit in the letter from "A Modern Nurse" in a recent issue—especially should I have enjoyed as a probationer being permitted to rest and study in private—if we could only have bed-sitting rooms instead of not being permitted to use our bedrooms in the day time it would be a blessed change. In this hospital, there are two public rooms, one for rest and recreation, and one for study—but we have to be tidy in both for fear of visitors. A little hole of one's own where one could relax entirely is the great need in the majority of Nurses' Homes. Also I do not think nurses should be dictated to as to what they shall or shall not discuss when off duty. Nothing is so safe if you don't want an explosion as to let off steam. My father who is an M.P. says free speaking in Hyde Park has saved England from revolution. I quite agree that nurses' discontent in hospitals does not arise from hard work or small pay, but from being treated as children. I was put off going to train at one hospital because I heard the Matron calling the nurses "dear." If only hospital managers realised that probationers are grown up women it would be such a relief.

Miss Dock's article on "The Status of the Nurse in the Working World," should be widely read.

Yours truly,

S. B.

OUR EFFECTIVE LEVER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I heard Miss Dock say at Cologne that, "She feared English nurses would not get State Registration until women had the Vote," and that we nurses should work for that lever for all we were worth. Some of us do our little best, and I read the report of legislation effected in California in last week's "Woman" column in this connection with interest. There I found that of the sixteen Acts passed since women had the vote in California, two of them applied to our profession—First of all the Act limiting the hours of labour for women, though passed, was met with a determined opposition over applying the eight hour law to student nurses; and second, an Act for the State Registration of Nurses has become law—a reform which nurses in California have worked determinedly for, for many years. Anyway, Miss Dock was right to judge by California.

Yours cordially,

AN AMERICAN NURSE IN LONDON.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)