

Selina Chote, aged fifteen, was on the platform with her father, waiting for the arrival of a guest who bore the same name as our curate. The train being behind time, Sir George leaves her to meet his guest, for she reports the station master to have said,

" 'Tis a 'ard matter to rightly hunderstand, Miss Selina, seeink as 'ow no instructions nor nothink have been sent to me, Miss Selina. But in my judgment, Miss Selina, which I won't say as is the gospel truth, somethink must 'ave took place, Miss Selina, tell your 'onoured pa its quite himpossible to say 'ow much longer the old train'll be. I'll be pleased to let you know, Miss Selina, the very minute——"

The younger Miss Chote permitted this apparently endless monologue to draw comfortably from her lips after the placid custom of Mr. James Gregory. She might have proceeded indefinitely had not her father interrupted her with considerable emphasis.

" O, hang it all," he said, " keep your mouth shut."

It was this sort of young person who conceived the idea of substituting the Mr. Thompson who did arrive for the Mr. Thompson who didn't. He, poor man, understood her to be the vicar's daughter, and a bewildering conversation ensued.

" I suppose your father doesn't keep a curate," he suggested.

" No," said Selina. " I sometimes wish he did."

" That's Longstone," said she, nodding her head.

" And who lives next the Church ?"

" The Vicar," said Selina, briefly.

Mr. Thompson stared at her.

" But aren't you—isn't your father the vicar ?"

Selina lifted her eyebrows ever such a little.

" Oh, no," she said, " only the squire."

" It's very good of your father," he said at last, " to take such an interest in me."

" O, not at all," said Selina. " Father's a very affectionate man."

The way in which Mr. Thompson's eyes were opened to his own shortcomings is not very convincing.

Berenice's first essay in religion under his guidance begins the process, but we are glad to think that at any rate it ends in complete satisfaction for poor Mummy.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

July 30th.—Deputation received by the Home Secretary in support of State Registration of Nurses. Home Office. 12 noon.

August 5th.—Central Midwives' Board: Next Written Examination in London. The oral examination follows a few days later.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

" Training has given us our definite place in the community, and carried us beyond the confines of creed and country, beyond the bounds of luxury and poverty, into close communion with the brotherhood of man."

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.

PERSUASIVE COERCION.

DEAR MADAM,—It may interest many of your readers to know that great pressure is being used, through the secretarial department of many hospitals to influence the nursing and medical staffs to sign Lord Knutsford's Protest against the Nurses' Registration Bill, and all sorts of arguments are being used to influence the nurses. For instance, in this hospital many of us do not wish to sign against; we know very little of the Bill, and some of us refused. The Matron then told us even if we are in favour of registration, it is a bad Bill, therefore we had better sign. That is the way nurses' names are secured. I refused to sign that I considered it a bad Bill *before I had read it*. I now have the Bill, and fear it gives far too much representation to the nursing profession ever to pass without opposition from those who grudge us independence and liberty. The Bill is good enough for me.

Yours truly,

A STAFF NURSE.

[Yes, the policy of those who oppose registration is, first sign against the principle, and if a nurse supports the principle, as every intelligent nurse does, then sign against the Bill. " It is a bad Bill. Wait and see, something better will come along." Hundreds of nurses have signed the anti protest who have never read through, or had the Bill explained to them. The Bill is democratic; it provides the one portal to the Register, and direct representation for the registered nurses as a whole—that is, they have votes and can elect which matrons and nurses they please on to the Governing Body. That is, of course, a " bad " provision for autocratic bodies and officers, who have for years opposed any degree of self-government for the nursing profession. But it is a first-class principle upon which to build up a profession of thinking, well-disciplined women.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

August 8th.—Why are Flies dangerous to health? Describe how to prevent their multiplication, and how best to exterminate them?

August 15th.—Name three different channels of elimination by the body, and the functions of the organs connected with each.

August 22nd.—Describe the Hydro-Therapeutic treatment of high temperature in pneumonia.

August 29th.—State what you know about Pemphigus, and the midwife's duty in connection with it.

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