

comes under the spell of Savonarola, and she is tossed about with doubts and fears. She lays aside her gorgeous dresses, and leaves off the golden dye on her hair. Always unhappy, she essays to get direction from the monk; but his harsh, unsympathetic words discourage her. Twice she leaves her husband to join Pietro; but, in both cases, she returns before it is too late.

The trial of Savonarola, and his failure to prove in the eyes of the world his divine mission by submission to fiery ordeal, ends in his ignominious death. To Aprilis it interpreted failure on every side. In the end, she finds peace with her husband and child.

"My God and my lover failed," she cried, brokenly, "what is there left for me?"

Her husband answers: "I need thee Aprilis; come thou the middle way with me, the way of life and love, neither believing or doubting in anything."

This seems to us a poor way. Aprilis died young. On her tomb was inscribed only this, "*Hic jacet Aprilis.*" H. H.

We congratulate Miss L. L. Dock and the nurses who have worked so hard in the cause of Women's Suffrage in New York State that the State Senate has passed a Bill, authorising the submission to the people in the November State Election of the Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment Bill, which has already passed the Lower House of the Legislature. We hope this will result in the addition of New York to the Suffrage States.

There was a rumour that Domremy, the home of Joan of Arc, the one time Deliverer of France, was in ruins. Happily this is not true. Maurice Barrés suggests a national day for La Pucelle. No doubt after the War such a festival will find a place in commemoration of the greatest heroine of all time.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Humble we must be
If to Heaven we go;
High is the roof there,
But the gate is low.

—Herrick.

COMING EVENTS.

February 15th.—Ulster Branch Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture by Mr. A. Fullerton on "Some of the Newer Methods of Examination of the Bladder, including the Ceptoscope" Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. 8 p.m.

February 16th.—Irish Nurses' Association, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Lecture on "Anaesthetics." Dr. Meldon. 7.30 p.m.

February 27th.—National Council of Trained Nurses' Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 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.

A QUESTION FOR THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I feel it is most advisable for the National Council of Trained Nurses to send to every hospital in Great Britain a copy of the Resolution and Statement sent to the Secretary of State for War prepared by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, which is published in the issue of your paper of January 30th.

It is a most brilliant and truthful analysis of how the nursing of our gallant wounded is being carried on in inexperienced hands, and her exposure of this system cannot be too widely circulated if we are to prevent a national disgrace.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. GODFREY.

Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

[Mr. T. P. Godfrey placed some very important evidence in support of our Statement before the War Office in an Appendix, for which we are most grateful.—ED.]

SOLDIERS' SOUVENIRS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I be permitted to emphasise the importance of the matter brought before the Matrons' Council at its last meeting, by an absent member, who wrote to draw its attention to the habit of sisters and nurses accepting souvenirs from the battlefield from their soldier patients. In my opinion, it seems most selfish and unwomanly of a nurse to deprive a patient of a treasure that should be kept by him for his nearest and dearest, and be treated by him as an heirloom for his family.

Matrons of hospitals, we all know, are being much over-worked at the present time, but even the busiest amongst them may find time, when their attention is drawn to this existing evil, to speak a few words of warning to their nurses, and point out to them how inadvisable it is for a nurse to ask from a helpless patient a favour that he cannot well refuse her. If this question is well ventilated in the columns of our widely circulated journal, I feel sure the nursing profession will realise that there is but one solution to it, and that is that these souvenirs should never be accepted, much less solicited. May I also suggest that where, from lack of thought, a nurse finds herself in possession of a souvenir from a wounded soldier, that, instead of boasting of her trophy, she should, without delay, gracefully return it to the donor, doubtless with a sense of remorse, at having for a time deprived a man she respects of tangible evidence of his honourable fight for

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