

of the ship. As may be supposed, Miss West proved the better seaman of the two.

Absolute callousness on the part of officers and crew provide anything but pleasant episodes, and the story thrills and pulsates with undisciplined passion and relentless hate.

The love story of Mr. Pathurst and Margaret West, which runs like a thread through the story, culminates with the expected happy ending, but it is enacted in a lurid setting.

We cannot recommend this story as a sedative the last thing at night, but of its power and grasp of its subject there is no doubt.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 29th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m. Tea after the business meeting. Discussion, opened by Miss Mollett, on "Women and their work during the War." 5 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 GOOD EXAMPLE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As an old Charing Cross Hospital Sister I read with the deepest interest of the new departure there. I think we may take it that nothing really more useful in hospital management has been started of late years than the General Purposes Committee, composed of Sisters, with the Matron as chair, through which they can compare expenditure, regulate expenses, and no doubt consult together about nurse training and other things. Looking back over my Sister days, I cannot think of any departure of a more helpful nature than to be able to get a bird's eye view of the ward management and expenditure, either for Matron or Sisters. It seems Charing Cross Hospital is to be much congratulated upon its new chairman. I am glad to think all those empty beds are now in use and hope wards there will never be closed again.

Yours truly,

A BACK NUMBER.

PROFESSIONAL PREJUDICES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Just to prove the conditions which exist in many Red Cross Hospitals, do let me tell you the following incident. I have been a Matron—now on the shelf, but still, of course, immensely interested in hospital work. My sister-in-law, a doctor's wife, is Commandant, and is running a Red Cross Hospital near London. I proposed a visit offering help; this is her reply: "Dear E.,—Please keep away. We are getting on so comfortably and don't want to be disturbed by your professional prejudices.—Yours," &c.

This note seems good enough for *Punch*, but as that old boy apparently fails to see any, even grim, humour in the present nursing situation, it is too good to lose, so hope you can find space for it. In past times, whenever my nieces or nephews had the slightest ailment, all my spare time must be at their disposal, night or day—you know how one's family absorb the family nurse—but the care of our sick and wounded soldiers is quite another story. I permitted myself the pleasure of replying to that note without reserve.

Yours truly,

T. M. K.

A MATTER OF BUSINESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been working abroad for some months for St. John of Jerusalem, the salary arranged to be £1 a week. I was paid £4 in advance—a month's salary. At the end of three months' work I have been paid at the rate of ten shillings a week, the £4 debited for eight weeks' salary, the rest to be paid upon my return to England. Is this fair? It does not seem so to me. Why should this enormously wealthy Association retain half of my salary for months? I am not avaricious, or even hard up, as I brought out £10 for emergencies, but in my opinion the £1 a week salary should be paid monthly, and paid in full. As some of the nurses I know are very hard up, we should be grateful for advice.

Yours truly,

WOMAN OF BUSINESS.

[Our advice is to write direct to the Matron-in-Chief, St. John of Jerusalem in England, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, E.C., and place the case before her, asking that your letter may be submitted to the responsible official.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss M. H., Yorkshire.—We suggest "Practical Nursing," by the late Miss Isla Stewart and Dr. Herbert Cuff, published by William Blackwood & Sons, London and Edinburgh; "A Medical Dictionary for Nurses," by Miss Amy E. Pope, and "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Miss L. L. Dock, both published by G. P. Putnam's, 24, Bedford Street, Strand; and "A Manual of Nursing," by Dr. Laurence Humphry, published by C. Griffin & Co., Ltd., Exeter Street Strand, London, W.C.

L.—We should advise you to write to Mrs. Day, 16, Brunswick Road, Hove, Brighton, who receives paying guests, and is quite willing to take those who need some care, as she has been Matron of a large hospital. We shall be pleased to send other addresses if necessary.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

February 6th.—What precautions would you take in the care of an enteric patient to protect yourself and others from infection?

February 13th.—Give symptoms and treatment of opium poisoning.

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