

you've grubbed and worked and made things do, and I know from Aunt Sanna you're a long way ahead of your own people."

"I don't know whether it's 'ahead' or not," said Julia, with a worried laugh. "I suppose only God knows the real value of finger bowls and tooth brushes and silk stockings. I suppose it's 'ahead.'"

Before her marriage Julia confides certain ugly episodes of her extreme youth to Jim.

It came as a terrible shock to him, but his love for her overcame it, and when she asks with the tears running down her face "Are you quite *sure*, Jim?" he answers: "Quite sure, sweetheart. Wouldn't you forgive me anything I might have done when I was only an ignorant little boy."

Nevertheless, afterwards the ghost of her confession arose again and again in their married life, till it completely wrecked their happiness.

One of the best written passages in the book is the description of old Dr. Toland's deathbed.

The old man stirred, and whispered "Janey."

His daughter Janey, kneeling beside him, "never dreamed that the little-girl aunt, dead fifty years ago, with apple cheeks under her slatted sun-bonnet and more apples in her lunch bag, had come in a vision of old orchard and sun-bathed river to put her warm little hand in her brother's again and lead him home. And before the clock struck again Robert Toland, with not even a twitch on his kind old face, went smiling away from earth in a dream of childhood."

We can recommend this book as one in which the interest is sustained throughout. Julia is an uncommon and interesting personality, and calls for our admiration for the resolute manner in which she rose above her disabilities. Jim Studdiford's treatment of her was selfish and contemptible in the extreme, and he did not in the least deserve his reinstatement in her love and home.

H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*January 31st.*—National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality. Lecture on "Expectant Motherhood," by Mrs. Florence Willey, M.D., 1, Wimpole Street, W.

*February 10th.*—National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. General Meeting of Members to consider the proposal made by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee, in a Circular Letter to Committees of Hospitals, to set up a Nominated Council of Management for the Nursing Profession, and to take such action as may seem advisable.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Blow out you bugles over the rich dead:  
There's none of these so lonely and so poor  
or old

But, dying has made us rarer gifts than  
gold.

#### 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 CONFERENCE WITHOUT PREJUDICE THE FIRST ESSENTIAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for publishing the Circular Letter addressed to hospital committees by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, inviting them to consider a scheme for the management of trained nurses, through incorporation by the Board of Trade. As a certificated St. Bartholomew's Hospital nurse, and past hospital Matron, I addressed a letter to Mr. Stanley asking for further information, as I for one had not been consulted by him or his advisers concerning my own affairs, as I am of opinion I should have been, before any scheme was drafted by a committee for the organisation of my work and status. I have received the following letter from Miss S. A. Swift, from the office of the Joint War Committee, which I think amply demonstrates the attitude of mind of those who without our consent propose to govern the nursing profession. We "Barts" women have always been encouraged to think and act for ourselves, and to be told by a former Matron of Guy's that it is useless to waste my energies like a child, crying for what I cannot have, because I am convinced, after serious consideration, that by State Registration alone can trained nursing be effectively organised—just as medicine and midwifery are—is somewhat astounding, to say the least of it. The dangerous scheme propounded in the Circular Letter may meet "all the requirements" of the promoters; I am inclined to think it will; but it will not meet the requirements of those trained nurses like myself who do not intend to submit to a nominated oligarchy of persons who have for years opposed every effort upon the part of trained nurses to organize themselves in this country, as they are permitted to do in our Colonies and the United States, and even in the land of the Hun! Miss Swift's reply to my letter, which I shall be pleased if you will publish, proves that we nurses must be up and doing if we are to save the situation. "The question of consulting the individual nurse in the general scheme would of course come later"! Let the individual nurse take care it does not come too late!

Yours faithfully,

CLARA LEE

(Member League St. Bartholomew's  
Hospital Nurses).

#### REPLY FROM MISS SWIFT.

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

*Chairman*: The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.V.O., M.P.  
*Vice-Chairman*: Col. Sir Herbert Charles Perrott,  
Bt., C.B.

DEAR MADAM,—Mr. Stanley has handed to me your letter, which I have been much interested

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