

Clara, so irritatingly maternal, is another character that is outlined with masterly strokes.

"Had Albert and Clara ever felt a moment of mutual passion? They were nothing but parents, eternally preoccupied with 'oughts,' and 'ought not,' and forbiddances and horrid reluctant permissions. Hilda was hard enough on George sometimes, but in that moment she would have preferred George to be a thoroughly rude, bad boy, and herself to be a woman abandoned to every licence rather than he and she should resemble Clara and her offspring.

"Clara smiled down at the boy sleeping in her lap. She was happy. Hilda wished once more that George was only two and a-half years again. She was envious, and yet a minute ago she had been execrating the family life of the Benbows. The complexity of the tissues of existence was puzzling."

No novel is complete without a conception of the trained nurse. Here is Mr. Arnold Bennett's:

"He wanted to chastise the nurse. He imagined an endless succession of sufferers under her appalling inimical nonchalance. Who had allowed her to be a nurse? Had she become a nurse in order to take some needed revenge against mankind? And then he thought of Hilda's passionate succouring tenderness when he himself was unwell."

Such a conception of our profession from such a student of human nature as Mr. Arnold Bennett gives us pause.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

February 5th.—Irish Nurses' Association: Meeting Executive Committee. 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 8 p.m.

February 7th.—Advanced lectures on Infant Care: "The Physical Development of the Child." Dr. David Forsyth, F.R.C.P. 1, Wimpole Street. 5.30 p.m.

February 9th.—Lecture on "Venereal Disease in Relation to Still Birth." Dr. Eardley Holland. City of London Lying-in Hospital, City Road, E.C. 5 p.m.

February 12th.—The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. General Meeting of Members to consider a Circular Letter, addressed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee to Committees of Hospitals, proposing a voluntary scheme for the organisation of Nursing Education and the Control of the Nursing Profession. Large Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 4 p.m. Trained Nurses who are not members of affiliated societies can obtain tickets from Hon. Sec., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

February 17th.—Central Midwives' Board: Penal Board, 11 a.m.; Monthly Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Caxton House, S.W.

February 18th.—Central Midwives' Board: Penal Board. 11 a.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.

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF TRAINED NURSES SUPPORTS STATE REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been instructed to communicate to you that this Society views with disapproval the scheme proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley and certain statements made by him, in a circular letter which has been addressed to Hospitals and Nurses.

To enumerate the disadvantages of such a scheme is quite unnecessary, but may be briefly stated. Firstly, a voluntary system of education and a voluntary Register have been tried and found ineffective.

Secondly, the scheme proposed by Mr. Stanley has been promoted without reference to the organizations of the Medical Profession or Trained Nurses.

In regard to Mr. Stanley's statements, it may be said at once that while some are misleading, others are incorrect. He states that there is no desire on the part of those responsible for the training of nurses, or nurses themselves, for "any system of State Registration." As a Member of Parliament, Mr. Stanley must be well aware that a Bill is now before Parliament which has the support of the Medical Profession, and every organization of trained nurses which may be termed national, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

His reference to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons organizing teaching and examination (through the Conjoint Board), is calculated to mislead, because he omits to add that an unregistered M.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S. has no legal status in public or private practice.

Finally, an unlimited scheme such as Mr. Stanley's, which aims at herding together along with trained nurses, "all other women," is dangerous. At the last meeting of members of this Society, the following resolution was adopted *nem. con.*: "That this meeting of Members of the Scottish Society of Trained Nurses supports the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses now before Parliament, and further resolves that the passing of an Act is of importance, not only in the interests of Trained Nurses, but for the protection of the Public against inefficiency and imposition."

I have the authority of the Council of this Society to respectfully urge upon the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses the extreme need for the passing of an Act at the present time and before the end of the War, when, if an Act is not in force, confusion amounting to

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