

"I can't stop, Fondie. Don't say 'Indeed, Miss,' like you always do. Say something else. Say it's sickening."

Fondie offers to take her away and marry her. If he had only told her before. "Oftens and oftens I wanted to be fond of you," but now it was too late.

The girl refused to face her trouble, and her young life was laid down by her own act.

It was Fondie who found her erstwhile vigorous young body in the village pond. Fondie who carried her tenderly and reverently home. Fondie who put all his skill and love into her last narrow bed, and lined her grave with flowers.

And years after she still came to him in spirit; the same old Blanche, the same but changed, exhorting him to struggle on. "Don't be a silly fool, Fondie! I know it's sickening; but never mind. Don't care. Be a man."

H. H.

THE DEWDROP.

This brilliant sphere—
A fairy looking-glass
Large as a tear—
Mirrors the things that pass,
Or far or near.

Small though it be,
It holds the sun and moon;
Infinity
Of skies with stars o'erstrewn—
A mimic sea—

And, infinite
Itself, this magic orb
Is inly lit
With secrets that absorb
Man's utmost wit.

Souls thus might shine
Ere vanishing like dew;
O would that mine
Such transient glory drew
From depths divine!

*From "Polyclitus and other Poems"
by Rowland Thirlmere.*

COMING EVENTS.

October 7th.—Irish Nurses' Association Executive Committee. Consideration of Nurses' Registration Bill, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 8 p.m.

October 12th.—Society State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 43I, Oxford Street, London, W., 4.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"The sense of somebody's need, is, I believe, the most powerful motive in the world; one that appeals to the largest number of people of every age, race and kind."—*Cabot.*

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.

MERE MERCHANDISE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am thankful to see that the Society for the State Registration of Nurses moved about the right of the nurses as a whole to be represented on the "Supply of Nurses Committee." As one of the rank and file, it seems to me nothing short of an outrage that such a Committee should have been formed to "supply" us as if we were mere merchandise without consulting us in any way—especially a committee with a majority of officials from the London Hospital, which trades so lucratively in our work. Since the war began I have been working hard in a military hospital, and intend to continue to serve my country in this capacity as long as I am required, if health permits; but that does not alter my sense of indignation at the high-handed methods with which trained nurses have been treated by those who are responsible for the nursing of sick and wounded soldiers during this war. I have no hope that the Medical Department at the War Office will recognise the trained nurse's right to recognition on the Supply Committee, but feel our Society did the right thing in not taking the insult lying down.

Yours truly,
ONE WHO HAS NO RIGHT TO
COMMUNICATE WITH THE PRESS. |

DEAR MADAM,—I am amazed, in common I expect with most nurses, to see that no member of the nursing profession is included on the "Supply of Nurses Committee." The only woman on that Committee is a V.A.D., who can in no sense be said to represent the professional interests. This is an insult that strikes at the dignity and honour of our profession, and I trust that the protest of nurses will be instant, strong and adequate.

Imagine a Committee *vs* the supply of medical men without a medical man on it.

The failure to include a nursing representative on the Committee is a most outrageous act of injustice to a hard-working and indispensable body of women.

Yours truly,

M. MOLLETT.

[We regret we received Miss Mollett's letter too late for insertion last week, and although, as we have reported, the War Office has in part rectified its error by placing Matrons on the "Supply of Nurses Committee," we feel sure many old friends for whom she worked for so many years will welcome Miss Mollett's expression of opinion. We all agree with it.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)