

discovered that her thick lashes were tinged with red, while there was a tiny powdering of freckles on either side of her nose." This big, florid man seemed to Alice from the first to possess her, "shutting out the air a little, yet making it all very warm and comfortable for her, spreading his tail for her alone, indomitably masculine."

Towers was impetuous in all he did, and little Alice's people were perhaps rather relieved to get a rather difficult child off their hands, so at the age of nineteen she set sail with her big, coarse husband to his home in the tropics. The result might easily be forecasted. Towers soon tired of his young wife and almost as soon began to ill-treat her. Her first child was stillborn as a consequence. He afterwards arranges that she shall go home on a visit and so contrives that she is compromised by travelling with his friend Wyckham. Alice refuses to defend herself for the reason that Towers shall have no claim on the second child that she will bear in due course. She therefore brands the child and herself with undeserved disgrace, and not only so, but she persuades Wyckham to keep silence and bear his quite unmerited blame.

Her very unnatural family take the view that there must have been some cause for Towers's cowardly behaviour. Alice is given a beggarly allowance and she endeavours to support herself and her child by needlework in the South of London.

Dickie, a handsome little chap, proves a chip of the old block in many of his ways. Her father is serious on the occasion of Alice's return home. Neither she nor her son were allowed to forget that they were there on sufferance, nor their equivocal position. This is not a very convincing tale, though it is quite readable. The authoress seems to imagine that she has straightened the tangle by Wyckham marrying Alice, but many people would hold, ourselves among the number, that she had further complicated it, Towers being still alive, although he had divorced her. It is always a thing to regret when a high standard of morals is not maintained in works of fiction.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

November 2nd.—The Scottish Nurses' Association Annual Meeting. Mrs. Strong will preside. Masonic Hall, 100, West Regent Street, Glasgow. 3.30 p.m.

November 8th and 9th.—National Union of Trained Nurses. Autumn Council Meetings. 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.

November 23rd.—National Council of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting Grand Council, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m. tea.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Ah, Mynheer," he said, "we do not struggle for a little thing nor contend for a mean advantage, but for what will be precious in the future."

—William by the Grace of God,
by Marjorie Bowen.

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 SPIRIT OF NURSING AND THE SPIRIT OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In my opinion no more bare-faced scheme for the monopoly of the economic existence of working women has ever been put forward than that being quietly riveted by the present Nursing College Council.

There are times when patience and submission far from being virtues are negative sins. These times are when a class or body of people are trying to oppress or tyrannise over their weaker brethren, in order to acquire or maintain unlawful power over them. It seems very obvious that there are a great many people in this country to-day who are thinking backwards. It is a remarkable thing that, although the nursing profession, in this year of grace, has reached a high level of proficiency and experience, these curious people appear to think that it is still where it was when Florence Nightingale founded it! Such people are fifty years behind the times.

When one speaks to fair-minded members of the laity, they exclaim, "But why should they interfere with you, what possible reason can they have?" Yes; why? The spirit of nursing involves combat—we fight disease all the time; we combat ignorance and prejudice in our patients; and, if we have any measure of *esprit de corps* and professional enthusiasm and professional idealism, we fight for principle. The principle of justice to the rank and file of the profession—professional freedom and economic independence for all. No surrender of these elemental, human rights. Henrietta Hawkins, whose words I have borrowed for a text, also says: "It is high time we women who have some spirit rose and exposed the whole danger by every means in our power." I say, with the greatest sincerity, that we are enormously indebted to the Editor of this journal for the large share she has taken in exposing the danger. The issue of October 14th is a particularly valuable one. Out of consideration probably for those who have not time to study the dangerous Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College of Nursing Co., Ltd., she has taken the trouble to pick out the clauses which are such a serious menace to the freedom of the nursing profession, and she points out in heavier type what the special dangers mean. This is most valuable; it is a formative stimulus for the mind. It is earnestly to be hoped that we women who have some spirit (and let me add gratitude, too) will not allow these important facts to float lightly on the surface of our minds, but let them sink to the bottom like a precipitate, to be stirred

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