

a wise choice, though Nick was not a lover to despise.

There are other courtships in this delightful story, all of which are most attractive. We should strongly advise our readers not to miss this sturdy vigorous Kentish romance. The most interesting description of the hopping in its various processes is alone worth procuring the book for: One little passage relating to it: "Opposite their shady resting place a male hop grew. Up to the sun it towered, and its pendant blooms sparkled almost golden against the green; while lovingly, shyly, on every hand along the ropes came arms of the fruit-bearing hop vines, stretching out to their lord." There is much that is fascinating in this story and it is impossible even to touch on more than one aspect of it.

H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

November 14th.—Institute of Hygiene, 33-34, Devonshire Street, W., Preventive Medicine Series of Lectures. "Venereal Disease: Its Racial Effects," by Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S.

November 17th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, Autumn meeting, Fulham Military Hospital. Inspection of wards, 3 to 3.45 p.m.; Meeting in Board Room, 4 p.m.; tea, 5 p.m.; concert in Y.M.C.A. Soldiers' Hut.

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

#### 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 TRAINED NURSES' PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We have to thank Major Chapple for getting a direct reply from the Prime Minister in the House of Commons to his question "Would he bring in a Nurses' Registration Bill?" The answer was in the negative, as it usually is where working women's interests are concerned. Staunch registrationist as I am, I felt it my duty last week, as Chairman of the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee, to place our objections to the Nursing College Bill before the Prime Minister, each member of the Cabinet, and every member of the House of Commons, and thereby, in adding to the controversy, making it clear that the independent members of the nursing profession sought their protection, from any form of legislation which incorporated in an Act of Parliament, the dangerous powers over the nursing profession assumed by the College of Nursing Limited through its incorporation by the Board of Trade. To this appeal we have received many sympathetic replies and offers of help from

Members of Parliament, of which we intend to avail ourselves should the necessity arise.

Thanking you for making it possible to place the truth before the nursing profession and the public, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

ELLEN B. KINGSFORD.

North Finchley.

#### DIRECT REPRESENTATION IMPERATIVE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In connection with the question of the two Bills drafted for the State Registration of Nurses, I venture to draw the attention of trained nurses to a point which is very generally ignored. It is this: The principle of State Registration is a matter of vital importance to the nurse members of the Central Committee for State Registration and the bodies they represent.

But there is a principle which is of greater importance still, and that is the principle of direct representation—namely, that the workers have a right to appoint through their organised societies representatives on the first Governing Body of their profession, appointed under a Nurses' Act, which representatives shall be responsible to the societies that appoint them. This principle was accepted by the College of Nursing and incorporated in one draft of its Bill, but the clause has now been eliminated.

I venture to say that if we had to choose between sacrificing State Registration and sacrificing the establishment of the principle of Direct Representation (which I trust we shall not have to do) we should choose to sacrifice the former—because we feel that there can be no sound system of State Registration without the latter. The College has given no valid reason for its departure from the usual custom adhered to in the appointment of the most recently-formed Council of the kind—that for the Teaching profession.

The refusal of the College to accede to this basic principle of good government has laid a heavy burden of responsibility on its shoulders.

Thus the refusal of the Prime Minister last week to introduce a Nurses' Registration Bill as a Government Measure, because Registration of Nurses is a "highly controversial proposal," must be recognised as the result of the College of Nursing policy, in ignoring the democratic principle of "direct representation" of the workers in the first General Nursing Council—their Governing Body—a principle which the Central Registration Committee has repeatedly invited them to accept, and without the acceptance of which there cannot be an "agreed" Bill.

I am, yours faithfully,

London,

E. L. C. EDEN.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss G. Tatham.—Your letter will appear next week.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 18th.—What is Asthma? State symptoms and how alleviated.

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