

pleasant to Clare. She stooped bright-eyed, laughing.

"And what were you thinking of for two long hours, Louise?"

"You," said Louise simply.

A touch of colour stole into Clare's thin cheeks. She took the small face into her hands and kissed it.

"Silly child," said Miss Hartill.

Yet the cold, calculated cruelty of this woman drove the sensitive imaginative child to a terrible death. Clare was apparently a woman of no religious beliefs and she had played with the child's simple faith.

Louise stared at her appalled.

"If you don't believe in God" . . . She began slowly, and then stopped.

The circumstances of little Louise's death are told with dramatic incident, and the working of the child's disordered mind after her failure to pass her examination and Miss Hartill's consequent displeasure—her wonderful rendering of Prince Arthur in the school play, and Miss Hartill's cold, cutting criticism of it are wonderful pieces of work. For the ultimate fate of Alwynne we must refer our readers to the book itself, as they should by no means be satisfied till they have read it as a whole.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

June 29th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 5 p.m.

June 30th.—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' General Meeting, Clinical Theatre, 2.30; Social Gathering, Great Hall, 4 p.m.

July 6th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Summer Meeting, Prince of Wales Hospital, Jamnagar House, Staines, 4 p.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.

A CONCESSION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you so much for arranging to let nurses federated in the National Council of Trained Nurses have our JOURNAL at the old subscription of 6s. 6d. per annum. It is, indeed, a very great concession, which I, for one, sincerely value, as I have read every word of the *B.J.N.* since the old *Nursing Record* days.

Yours, very gratefully,

MARY C. MATTHEWS.

GOLD STRIPES FOR WOUNDED NURSES AND V.A.D.s.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note that an Army Order has been extended to provide that wounded nurses and V.A.D.s shall have a right to wear Gold

Stripes as soldiers do. This is very gratifying, but make very sure that V.A.D. influence has brought it about. I heard the question discussed by a titled Commandant months ago. I think such an honour should be restricted to genuine members of the Military Nursing Services, as it is in the fighting forces to officers and soldiers. Why have the military nurses to share every reward with these amateurs? Our overseas Sisters are amazed at untrained V.A.D.s being given First Class Red Crosses and trained Matrons of Military Hospitals Second Class Honours.

Yours truly,
R.R.C.

[Trained Matrons of military hospitals should refuse the R.R.C. Second Class, so long as the First Class is awarded as "an inkpot honour" to V.A.D.s with social influence. But if they have not the spirit to protest, they have no right to grumble.—ED.]

HELP REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—May I appeal to the generosity of your readers on behalf of a poor woman in my district?

Her husband, a poor boatman, was accidentally drowned in our bay a few days ago; she is left with four small children, eldest seven years and youngest four months old. They are left absolutely destitute. The woman is thoroughly good, industrious, and most worthy of kindly consideration.

At the best of times our poor are very badly off.

Yours faithfully,

C. BRADY

(Dudley Nurse, Q.V.J.N.I.).

Nurse's Cottage, Glengariff, Co. Cork.

[No doubt clothes for the children would be a help.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

June 30th.—What are the chief necessities of life for a baby up to six months old? What steps would you take to secure them (1) for a baby in Mayfair, (2) for a baby in the slums?

July 7th.—What do you consider the best means for increasing the supply of practising midwives?

A CONCESSION.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Upon the request of a large number of old subscribers, whose expenses have gone up during the war, it has been decided that members of societies affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, of which it is the official organ, shall have the privilege of having THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, if obtained direct from the office, for 6s. 6d. for a year, post free, provided this sum is sent in advance to the Manager, 431 Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)