

"Why can't you love her, Francis?"

He shrugged his shoulders. "Heaven knows! These things aren't a matter of choice. Letty's adorable, and I know it. I'd do anything else in the world for her. And—she can't laugh—and I can't be serious for two minutes together."

An engagement brought about in spite of these sentiments was hardly likely to be a success, and Francis would have been much better left to be lonely in his own way.

Harland resents Letty's addressing the constituents when he was contesting a seat in Parliament.

"She was a little upright figure in the soft red she had worn throughout the election, because it was Harland's colour. Letty, with absolute sincerity, was enunciating interminable platitudes and mis-statements. Yet she spoke well and forcibly and the crowd applauded her. Harland longed to hide her and take her away. Afterwards he said to her, 'Letty, don't do that again; I can't stand it.'" He appeared vexed. In reality, his pity was so great as to almost overwhelm him. He could have cried over Letty and her ridiculous solemnities which meant so much to her.

Celia very sensibly takes Harland to task.

"She's young enough and fond enough of you, Francis, to grow up into anything you choose. But it's hard on you to spoil her for what she's meant to be, just to keep her at the age that amuses you. For a professed Liberal, Francis, you're about the most Conservative man I know where your womenkind come in."

Celia possesses the faculty so common in the present-day novel of loving two men at the same time, and we leave the readers to find out the final adjustment for themselves. H. H.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

### QUESTIONS.

*August 25th.*—How does puerperal septicæmia arise? Describe the course and management of the disease.

*September 1st.*—Describe the onset of tetanus and the nursing care of a patient suffering from this disease.

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## 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.*

### POISE AND KNOWLEDGE REQUISITE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR MADAM,—I note in the JOURNAL of August 11th, page 85, an item to the effect that the American Red Cross is accepting the French women who have had little or no training on the same basis as the Registered Nurses. There is some misunderstanding, for while we expect to co-operate cordially with our Allies, we plan to give due recognition to the woman with the thorough education for nursing, both in responsibility and in salary. We believe the demands of war call for the poise and knowledge gained through regular instruction and practice and intend to hold our standards. Yours truly,

MARTHA M. RUSSELL,

Chief Nurse with American Red Cross in France.

American Red Cross, Paris.

### WHY THE TRUTH SHOULD BE TOLD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The case for telling the truth to the innocent victim suffering from one of the contagious diseases, has been put forcibly and rightly by your correspondent, "M. H." Another aspect of the question is stated by Miss Lavinia L. Dock in "Hygiene and Morality," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Miss Dock writes:—"At present the victim (usually the wife) is kept in ignorance of the real cause of her illness. Certainly, if there is any inalienable right of the individual, it is to know what is the matter with one when one is ill. But at present two barriers are interposed: one is the general ignorance of the laity in matters of health preservation; the other is medical reticence. Only when women have sufficient general knowledge of health and disease and courage to insist on the truth, and to accept it when offered, can the second barrier be broken down. Already many physicians are chafing against the shackles of the 'medical secret,' and they are sometimes severely blamed for their share in the general blindfolding of the public in regard to venereal diseases. Yet to speak the truth in individual cases exposes them to suits at law and other most trying experiences. It can however hardly be doubted that the certainty of truth being known would in time have a salutary preventive effect upon married men. It would at least be simple justice to their victims."

It seems as if it is necessary to give medical practitioners who reveal the truth to the sufferer, the protection of the law. It is only right from all points of view that this should be done.

Yours faithfully,

VERITAS.

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