

curled up on a sofa, absorbed in a novel by Mrs. Henry Wood. And one day found drowned in the lock!

She had paid a visit to Major Meredyth in the afternoon and had consumed giant strawberries. "I remember her holding a great half-eaten strawberry by its stalk, and asking me whether sometimes I didn't find life rather rotten. I had known her, like many of her kind, to proclaim the rottenness of the universe, when she was off her stroke at golf, or when a favourite young man had not appeared at a dance. I attributed no importance to it. Next day I remembered."

Betty Fairfax was the Major's prime favourite. "She was so tall and straight, with a certain Rosalind boyishness about her that made for charm."

The story is written at the time of the present war, and Betty became Betty Connor, and her gallant young husband was killed. He was not Betty's first love. She had been betrothed to Leonard Boyce, and for some unknown reason the engagement was broken off.

Of course, Leonard too had got his commission, and there were stories of his gallant daring, and whisperings among a very few of cowardice, that only just escaped disgrace. Very cleverly escaped it, and in a very discreditable way. Was he a hero or a coward?

One undoubted virtue he possessed—his devotion to his mother. His Dresden-china, silly old mother, who could rise to the heights of saying, "If Leonard should be killed in the war—I think of it night and day—what I should like to do would be to drive to the Market Square and wave a Union Jack round and round and fall down dead."

Leonard was "out for a V.C.," and won it.

War stories have much in common, otherwise they would not be true to life, but beyond the facts that all the men eventually found themselves in khaki and that all the girls became war probationers, Mr. Locke's book is as far from other war stories as the poles. That would, of course, be a foregone conclusion.

It is too good a story to spoil by revealing its secrets.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

November 9th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Visit to Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, 54A, Wigmore Street, W. 2.30 p.m. Quarterly Meeting, 43I, Oxford Street, W. 4 p.m.

November 16th and 17th.—National Union of Trained Nurses: Conference, 3, Vere Street, London, W. Friday, 2 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Concert, 6.30 p.m.

November 17th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Sale of Work, Sloane Gardens House, 52, Lower Sloane Street, London, S.W. 1. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

November 22nd.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting of Executive Committee. Important Report from President. 43I, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. 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.

WHO MAY BE REGISTERED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It has been brought to my notice that the following paragraph in my leaflet on State Registration is liable to misinterpretation:—

"All we have asked is:

- (1) The right of the rank and file to have a voice in the organisation through their societies;
- (2) The guaranteeing of hospital training and of one Central examination."

This has been taken to mean that the Central Committee intend to exclude the Poor Law Infirmary nurse from recognition.

Will you allow me to say that I had no idea that the word "hospital," used in this way, would not be understood to include "infirmary," which is merely another form of hospital. The point I was making in the paragraph was that whereas hospital (or infirmary) training is guaranteed in the Central Committee's bill, that of the College could be interpreted to admit nurses trained at one of the District Training Schools, at which they get no hospital (or infirmary) training at all.

I can emphatically state that there is no idea whatever on the part of the Central Committee of excluding the trained Poor Law nurse.

The following extract from the Central Committee's Bill will corroborate my statement and leave no doubt in anyone's mind:—

EXTRACT FROM THE BILL FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES PROMOTED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

"At the expiration of the said term of three years any person who claims to be registered under this Act shall be entitled to be so registered, provided that such person is at least 21 years of age and is of good character, and has had not less than three years' training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a hospital or of hospitals approved of by the Council, or in an institution or institutions which the Local Government Board recommend and certify to be wholly or partly maintained out of rates, or has been trained as a nurse under regulations authorized by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the sick berth staff of the Royal Navy or as a nurse under regulations authorised by the Army Council for soldiers of the Royal Army Medical Corps for such term as may be fixed by the Council and that such person has passed such examination as the Council may prescribe."

Yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN, *Hon. Secretary.*
National Union of Trained Nurses,
46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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