

which in so *ominous* a manner characterises the present generation, will find at length political expression. It is not without significance that France re-enforces the ultramontane tendencies of her lower population, by the promotion of pilgrimages, the perpetration of miracles, the exhibition of celestial apparitions. Constrained to do this by her destiny, she does it with a blush. It is not without significance that Germany resolves to rid herself of the incubus of a dual government, by the exclusion of the Italian element, and to carry to its completion that Reformation which three centuries ago she left unfinished. The time approaches when men must take their choice between quiescent, immobile faith and ever-advancing Science—faith, with its mediæval consolations, Science, which is incessantly scattering its material blessings in the pathway of life, elevating the lot of man in this world, and unifying the human race. Its triumphs are solid and enduring. But the glory which Catholicism might gain from a conflict with material ideas is, at best, only like that of other celestial meteors when they touch the atmosphere of the earth—transitory and useless."

Our religion is groaning its last, dying of sheer respectability; it is too respectable to live. And a merry wind to it, for a Christianity which fails to attract the masses should retire as a crass failure. Says Carlyle, in one of those noteworthy harangues of his: "The bishops and clergy of all denominations, are combined to keep the world in pupilage, and themselves in port wine and roast beef." The *Christian World* says: "The great body of Englishmen are immutably convinced that a miracle-working clergy, working its miracles through the touch of hands and administration of sacraments—is not a fact; and if not a fact, it must be either an hallucination or a fraud." Then

"Be no longer led like cattle,
Custom-bound to feudal laws;
Glorious is the mental battle
Waged in freedom's sacred cause;
Cast the glamour from your senses;
Dare to look for purer light;
Credal fears are priestly fences,
Barring up the road to light."

What a bundle of contradictions and hallucinations! And what a striking anomaly are those good people, so-called. Fancy those Christians who are converting and subjugating the earth one rubs elbows against daily, holding forth in this way, "I don't care a split pea who sinks or who swims, so long as I swim." I sometimes wonder if such people are sane; for such words fall strangely odd from the lips of the professed followers of Him who had not where to lay His head.—Faithfully yours, GEORGE HALEY.

POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—Please accept my best thanks to you for honouring me with the prize. I should like to have "Noriss's Notes on Nursing," "Bishop's Lectures to Nurses on Antiseptics in Surgery," and Alcott's "Silver Pitchers."—I remain, yours faithfully, S. KREVVILL.
[These have been duly forwarded.—ED.]

THE books safely received. Am pleased with them. Thank you very much.—SISTER COLLINS.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Colman.—Rome was not built in a day. All reformers go through the persecution stage. There is nothing at all new in the process. You are sure to succeed with patience and pluck. Don't be intimidated. Write freely to us, and we will publish your letter anonymously, and back it up. Nurse sweating is doomed.

The "Nursing Record" POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 22.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings will be awarded to the best answer to the following question, addressed, "Nursing Record Post-Card Competition," St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C. All answers to this question to reach us not later than the morning of Saturday, June 20th, 1891:—

"What do you understand by Phlegmasia Dolens?"

(a) The answer must be written (neatness and distinctness count to credit) in ink, on a *thick* post-card, with the full name and address of the candidate at the top. The successful candidate's answer will be printed in *fac-simile*.

(b) All associated with nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a "tie" a subscriber will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the bottom of the post-card, "I am a subscriber," or "I obtain the NURSING RECORD from—"

(c) The decision of the Examiners to be final.

* Give name and address of newsagent where obtained.

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RULES.

1.—Contributions to be sent to the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

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