

more like a flower than ever to my mind—a white rose, perhaps—yes; that is the flower she resembles—a pure white rose. The woman had put a veil on her head for the wedding ceremony and a wreath of orange blossom, but Keturah had removed the veil before dancing commenced. She kept the little wreath on, however, and it suits her wonderfully. Oh! how fair she is, how very fair. I love Keturah. There, I have written the words down! Yes; I love her, but she must never know it. No one must even vaguely suspect that I care for my brother's wife. . . . I know I shall never care for another woman as I have cared for Keturah, who can be nothing to me now but a dream; so marriage is not for me. I shall be a surly old bachelor to the end of my days—crusty Christian Krant."

Christian left the farm, ostensibly to see the world, soon after the marriage; and Paul and his young wife settled down in blissful content together, until the advent of the young Boer widow, Sara.

She had set her undisciplined affections upon Paul, and with deliberate malice, she contrives a terrible accident to Keturah just before her ardently desired infant should have been born.

The child is born dead and Keturah's delicate beauty is marred.

Paul, with characteristic selfishness, thought only of his own disappointment. He bent his head on the wooden rail and wept. He was like a big, grown-up child, mourning over a broken toy. . . .

The sudden glare of the dawn caused Keturah to open her tired eyes. She gazed wearily at the bedposts which stood at the foot of the bed. Why were her arms empty? After all her pains and torment, why was there no soft, downy head on her breast—the head of her first-born? She closed her eyes again. The world faded slowly away from her, but Death had spared Keturah; he had left her lying upon her big white bed—Death had merely taken a little unripe blossom from the farm.

Keturah lost both husband and child—for Paul had no use for a fragile invalid in place of the lovely girl who was his wife; and he chose to openly acknowledge himself Sara's lover.

But Christian was faithful to his love, and in time reaped his reward.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 18th.—Meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. Council Chamber, British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

January 24th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Lecture: "The Preservation of Child-Life," by Lady Barrett, M.D. Chair: H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught. 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 2.45 p.m.

January 25th.—Meeting of the Matrons' Council. 431, Oxford Street, W. 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.

VENEREAL INFECTION AND PREVENTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was somewhat surprised to find in the B.J.N. last week the statement] "that there is nothing immoral in such precautions (the use of preventives to stamp out venereal disease) as some silly people seem to surmise." I strongly differ with this opinion and believe that the only way to stamp out venereal disease is to avoid the physical contamination. Surely demoralisation would result from teaching the use of preventives and thus make sin safe. I agree with you that every nurse should do her utmost to help to stamp out venereal disease.

Yours truly,

WARD SISTER.

[There are, as pointed out recently by "M.D." in the *Times*, two main schools of thought on this question—(1) Those who hold that the physical consequences of venereal diseases are so disastrous to the health of the individual, and collectively of the nation, that infection should be prevented, if this is by any means possible. Infection can be prevented, therefore it should be prevented. (2) Those who hold that however great the physical gain to the individual and the nation might be from systematic prevention, it would be outweighed by the demoralisation caused by teaching the nation how to avoid the physical consequences of sin, and so removing one powerful deterrent from irregular intercourse. The views of these two parties are, of course, merely outlined by this description, but the outline is sufficient, perhaps, to explain the essence of their respective points of view. Between the two there is a great gulf fixed—a great gulf filled with misunderstanding, ignorance, acrimony, intolerance, and a certain amount of genuine doubt; this is not easy to bridge." We belong to the first school of thought, and our correspondent to the second. We both want the highest good of humanity, but differ as to methods.—ED.]

WHO ARE THE NATION'S NURSES?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell me if the "College of Nursing, Ltd.," is established? if not, then it is still "proposed" only.

It is very bewildering. Its promoters began by telling us there were no nurses' organisations, and that we did not know what we wanted.

Then they made promises.

1. That we should have a Bill very quickly, and all those who had paid their guineas would

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