

and felt him draw her out of the sunlight into the darkness of the church she felt a great distaste that was almost fear.

Mr. Orford went on to point out to his young fiancée that his former wife was lying under their feet, "so close that she, if she could stand up, could put out her hand and take hold of your dress—so near as that. She was a wicked woman," he said, "a very wicked woman."

As may well be imagined this uncanny incident was very unnerving to the poor girl, who was looking forward to her nuptials in this same church in about a week's time.

The gruesome discovery of his former wife, who was not resting quietly in St. Paul's Church, as supposed, but was incarcerated in a small room behind a panel in his study as a punishment for her unfaithfulness is an eerie piece of writing. The scoured silk petticoat that the unhappy creature had worn during her twenty years' imprisonment was the means of the bringing to light of the tragedy.

The story, "Heartsease," is located in Drury Lane, and describes the hopeless passion of a maid for a man, and how she took her own life in despair of winning his love.

"The Housekeeper" tells of a dissipated man of fashion, named Beau Sekforde, who lived in 1710 in his mansion in High Holborn. He had married a Countess in her own right, whose patent was from Charles II, and explained her career. From point of view of worthlessness there was not much to choose between them, and as the story opens, being at the end of their tether, their expensive household was at the point of dissolution, and in a state of extreme discomfort.

Beau Sekforde's first wife, Jane, though a shrew whom he had hated, was a notable housekeeper, and the point of the story is that although the house was deserted by the unpaid servants, yet nightly Beau alone found his room tidy and comfortable, his supper prepared, and his candle lighted for him on the hall table on his return home.

As Jane had met her death, unknown to all but himself, by his own hand, her ghostly ministrations naturally had a terrifying effect upon him.

He shrieks out his confession of murder, begging to be taken away, "somewhere—where she cannot tidy for me."

These stories will interest all true London lovers. Those of our readers who enjoy blood-curdling experiences will be quite satisfied with "The Crimes of Old London."

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

December 13th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Winter General Meeting, Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 2.30 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.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE. CONCERNING THE BILL.

Old Bart's Sister.—"If you are satisfied, I am."

A Member Registered Nurses' Society.—"I got the Bill and studied it; it gives us nurses much more than I had ever hoped or expected. We have the vote, and that covers all."

Hospital Matron.—"I am one of those as a member of the Matrons' Council who rejoice that my profession is to be entrusted with so large a measure of responsibility. I have always been a nurse first and an official second. The pity is that so many of my colleagues have not seen things in this light." [The members of the Matrons' Council have stood by the whole profession, and not as a class of it apart, and have in the past done yeoman service in bringing about registration and, in consequence, self-government.—ED.]

Public Service Nurse.—"We are not yet used to the new Ministry of Health, and there is no doubt that under the Government Bill the new nursing profession will have to mind its 'p's' and 'q's,' so far as the Minister of that Department is concerned. This will have a good result, as we shall feel we have a representative in the House, looking after the interests of our work, which will give it a certain prestige. Now we are nothing and nobody, and our work the sport of every quack."

A Friend of Nurses.—"Nurses are naturally disappointed that there are to be three Bills and three nursing authorities instead of one for the United Kingdom, but devolution is the order of the day and makes for efficiency and economy. There seems no reason why registration by one Nursing Council should not be made applicable throughout the United Kingdom, and thus prevent duplication of registration and dual authority."

Irish Nurse.—"We soon took the bull by the horns about our Bill. You note it was introduced last Wednesday. Real Irishwomen prefer their own Bill, so long as we have freedom of contract throughout the United Kingdom. Those of us who have had to attend meetings in London have often found it impossible to do so, and the cost has been prohibitive. English, Scottish and Irish nurses have worked in great harmony throughout the war, and will no doubt continue to do so."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

December 6th.—What do you know of Vitamines, and of their importance in relation to infant feeding?

December 13th.—What is meant by "Barrier Nursing"? What are the necessary details to be carried out in "Cubicle Nursing"?

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