

Alan from the project had she not been convinced of the immense benefit that it would be to his health.

Pierpont's object was to secure Fay's society, and Fay's intuition told her this quite plainly.

Alan who, on the journey becomes aware of the secret understanding between his wife and Pierpont, allows the latter to be bitten by a poisonous adder when he could easily have prevented it, but he cannot bring himself to withhold the antidote it was in his power to administer. Alan acknowledges that Pierpont, with all his faults, was a sportsman, and we will go further and say that Alan and his wife came under that category, too. They did the only thing possible after the discovery of the unhappy love between Fay and Pierpont. Alan and his wife bravely face the situation, and together they retrace their steps over the desert, and leave Pierpont to pursue his lonely way.

The second story, "The Lost Faith," is quite a different type of story. Olivia Traill, "the most remarkable woman in New York," had been persuaded, induced, *got* by Lord Sandring to cross the ocean and to join him in his Bureau of Psychic Healing, which he had established at his own expense in a quiet street not far from Piccadilly. He was going to make Harley Street "sit up." The doctors laughed at his pretensions, but wait till Olivia arrived."

Olivia had built herself a reputation in America by her treatment of some neurasthenic cases, and was perfectly honest in her belief in herself. In time she obtains entry into the house of a military man of high position, whose sister had for years been a victim to most acute nervous pain in her head. In gratitude to Olivia for the relief she was able to afford her, the General promises that if he should become ill at any time he will ask for Olivia's ministrations.

Shortly afterwards he is mysteriously smitten with enteric fever, and Olivia is torn between her love for him and her reputation as a healer, for she has gradually become aware that her powers are chiefly mesmeric.

Love, however, prevails, and she admits her inability to deal with his condition, and calls in her old enemy, Sir Mervyn Butler.

"The Two Fears" is a pathetic little sketch of a war mother, whose alternate fears were, first, that her only son would not enlist, and next that he would. Like many another mother she not only gave her son, but she had to sacrifice her home as well.

Alan fell at the Dardanelles. But she was glad that her first fear was not realised.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

July 19th.—Celebration of Peace Day.

July 24th.—Central Midwives Board, Penal and Monthly Meetings, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W. 10.30 a.m.

July 25th.—Nurses' Registration Bill Resumed Debate. House of Commons.

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.

A WARNING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me a little space in order to warn nurses not to be too sanguine in regard to the proposed Government Bill to give "State Registration" to nurses?

The methods adopted by the Government in the Women's Emancipation Bill, are ample proof of their deliberate policy of controlling the activities of WORKING women. (They don't control the activities of Lady Cowdray.)

If nurses will only realise that we are all workers—whether with hand or brain matters not a jot—they will see that their own welfare and the welfare of the community depends entirely on their combined strength. How can they expect their real interests to be considered by the people who are interested in keeping them under control?

Suavity is still considered sufficient to pacify women, and laudation sufficient to move nurses to further self-sacrifice.

The race would be the poorer if woman lost her capacity for putting self in the background; but in the workaday world, men and women ought to meet on an equal footing. Our present Government is evidently not of that opinion. There is every prospect of a general election in the not distant future; let nurses see to it that their influence is used towards sending to Parliament men or women who are living and working for the welfare of the community, and the necessity for the State Registration of Nurses will soon be recognized as a necessary adjunct to the physical well-being of mankind.

The work of the Central Committee is by no means finished, and a strenuous time is in store ere the "essentials" are included in a Registration Bill, introduced by a Government composed of individuals who have not learned that "equality," when attained either by mental or physical labour, must in justice be acknowledged, regardless of sex.

July 8th, 1919.

M. D.

[Nurses must work ceaselessly for professional reform. So far only the minority have done so.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

BITTERNESS COMETH BY INJUSTICE.

Life-long Registrationist: "To judge from the string of letters attached to the names of the 'wrecking' Council, our liberties have not been trifled with for nothing. We are feeling very bitter in this hospital about the conduct of those Miss Cowlin calls 'our leaders.' How about the Gadarene swine? Seems to us 'College' nurses are heading that way."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)