

refused Alex's request that the beloved Queenie might be asked to her home. She was not in Lady Isabel's set.

"My dear child, you're old enough to know that these things are not done; besides, I have already said 'No.'"

Alex watched her as she went downstairs, trailing her evening dress. Then she broke into sobs and ran away upstairs.

"Mother had not understood in the very least. She never understood, never would understand. No one understood."

Alex felt, as so often, that she would barter everything she possessed for the finding of someone who would understand.

In her first season she met Queenie at a ball, and had the satisfaction of hearing Sir Francis pronounce her "beautiful."

"A pity," he said, deliberately, "that she is not altogether—" and raised his grizzled eyebrows.

Alex's engagement to Noel Cardew was yet another failure in her career. The girl, hungering as she was for affection, had been gratified with the attentions of this good-looking, desirable boy. His worldly prospects were all that could be wished. But Noel "barred sentimentality," and once more Alex was cheated of the outlet she craved. When she broke off her engagement she took the bravest decision of her life.

Following her hungry instinct for sympathy, the girl became enamoured of a nun, and finally entered the religious life. For some years she was content to live under the same roof as her idol, but Mother Gertrude's removal to another branch of the Order once more made havoc of Alex's life. Her despair was so intense that she obtained, with much difficulty and after many dramatic interviews, release from the conventual life and once more returned to the world.

But her restless nature could not be satisfied. She found no niche in the world she had left, and she eventually took her own life.

"She felt proud because she knew that for this once she was not going to fail."

Her sad self-communings before the fatal act give a glimpse of the working of her mind.

"Perhaps there'll be real forgiveness and understanding, and then my having done this won't matter."

Though this story cannot be said to be a cheerful one, it is a very interesting and clever study.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

July 26th-August 2nd.—Royal Sanitary Institute. Thirtieth Congress, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Sunday, July 27th.—Special Service in St. Nicholas Church, 10.50 a.m. Monday, July 28th.—Reception by the Lord Mayor. Inaugural Address by His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.

LETTER 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.

£900 FOR SCHOLARSHIP FOR V.A.D.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice in your issue of July 19th that a V.A.D nurse has been awarded a £900 scholarship to enable her to graduate as a doctor. Is it not usual in such announcements to state the conditions under which the scholarship was won, and the source of the bequest or grant which provides for the scholarships? I should be interested to hear these particulars. We are well aware of the "preference for V.A.D.'s," but it is just possible that there may be preference for individual V.A.D.'s which would call for particular attention and criticism.

Yours faithfully,

OUT OF THE RUNNING.

[With our officers and their families in want, this grant of Red Cross money is outrageous.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Another Staff Nurse: "I do hope my timorous colleague who has taken 'Best say nothing' for her motto, will reconsider her attitude. I feel sure those with such a mean policy say plenty—but the wrong thing at the wrong time; it is usually the people who dare not speak the truth, who grumble the most."

A Sister writing of Peace Day, says:—"The only thing I want to see is the bonfire at night. The last one I remember was on the accession of King Edward to the Throne, and we all stood round it and sang solemnly 'God Save Our Gracious Queen'!"

Public Health Nurse:—"I notice in the press that 15 more scholarships have been given under the Red Cross scheme to V.A.D.s to train as Welfare Supervisors. Surely all 'supervision' should be under the direction of thoroughly trained nurses. Is it proposed that certificated nurses working at Welfare Centres should be under the supervision of V.A.D.s? [It will be their own fault if they accept such service.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

August 2nd.—What are the signs and symptoms of gall stones? What instrument would you have ready for the operation? How would you nurse a case after operation?

August 9th.—What are the principal emetics, and in what cases are they used?

August 16th.—What is meant by "descent of the cord" and what complications and difficulties does this create?

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