

man-servant were wont to steal out at night and gain entrance to the muniment room, where eventually, they found the papers he sought. But the final effort caused the old man's death, and he was found dead in the room where he had discovered his claim to be valid. He had left the bulk of his money to Bassett, and Lord Audley found himself in the position of having lost his title and of being engaged to Mary, who, although she was now a peeress was practically as impecunious as himself, and was relieved to be free of him. Mary, realising the worthlessness of Lord Audley's character, and caring not a jot for her new honours, burns the precious papers that had cost the old man's life, and comes to kind, reliable Peter Bassett with no title and no lands, having with her own hand flung away her inheritance.

Mrs. Tofte, when she came in with the tray, came near to dropping it in her surprise. As she said afterwards: "The sight of them two as close as chives in a barrel—I declare you might have knocked me down with a straw! God bless 'em!"

A large portion of the book deals with the elections and riots in connection with the repeal of the Corn Laws, which will make it more interesting or tedious, according to the varied tastes of our readers.

H. H.

### OUTSIDE THE GATES.

*The Woman's Leader* and *The Common Cause*, now one and indivisible, is issued weekly at 2d. from Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

The numbers already issued are full of the right spirit, and we hope there is some woman on the staff who will take the trouble to study the Nursing Question, and do justice to a fine body of workers too long trampled under foot, and now passing through the degrading experience of being classed as paupers. Corroding charity patronage has apparently warped the self-respect of the controllers of the College of Nursing, Ltd. We hope the *Woman's Leader* will help us to drag the nurses out of this demoralising position. It has begun well by publishing the conjoint letter of protest against the *Daily Telegraph* Doles for Nurses Fund—a letter boycotted by every daily newspaper in London excepting the *Morning Post*.

*The Woman's Leader* will no doubt help to break this method of misleading the public.

### FRIENDSHIP.

What is friendship?

Just the giving up of heart to heart—

A kindness which shuns no pain,

A thing apart from any other sentiment,

Something which enriches—makes new again

The strength that's weaken'd, and restores

The tired soul to pride of self, and love of good.

And gives to thirsty one

The sound of summer rain

Pattering thro' thick-leaved trees in an English wood,

A wondrous thing, Heaven-sent—is Friendship.

M. D.

The above charming lines are written by a trained nurse.

### 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.*

#### THE SERBIAN RELIEF FUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM, With reference to the paragraph in your issue of the 14th inst., about the work of the American Red Cross in Serbia, we feel it right to state that though the American Serbian Relief Committee are opening an orphanage for Serbian children at Chacak, this does not, fortunately, represent the whole of the work which is being done in Central Serbia for children. The Serbian Relief Fund has an orphanage of fifty beds at Nish, and a home for young boys near Belgrade, where trades are taught; it has also a hospital of 200 beds at Nish, another at Prokuplje of over fifty beds, and a sanatorium for some fifty tubercular patients in a good locality. In all these institutions children are treated as in and out patients; moreover, the Serbian Relief Fund has village dispensaries working in eight or ten different centres in country districts. Each dispensary is in charge of a trained nurse, assisted by a relief worker, and here hundreds of children are being treated. These dispensaries have been working in Serbia ever since the re-occupation in 1918. During the time of great distress soup kitchens were attached to the dispensaries, and thousands of garments were distributed. Our Director, Major Hardwicke, states that though at one time we were feeding between 7,000 and 10,000 children a month, food conditions are now better, but the need for work among children will continue for some years. The Serbian Relief Fund has a staff of over 100 workers now in Serbia, many of whom have been working for the Serbians since 1914. It includes nine medical men and women, some forty trained nurses, besides sanitary inspectors and workers experienced in child welfare. There are also three orphanages financed privately, which are in charge of English ladies and a joint committee in Belgrade, consisting of members of all Societies now working in Serbia, is trying to co-ordinate child welfare work all over the country, by supplying funds and workers in places which have not yet had special help for children. This joint committee and the Serbian Relief Fund would welcome funds wherever to extend the work which is terribly needed throughout all the country.

I remain, Yours faithfully,

ELLINOR F. B. GROGAN,

Chairman of the Staffs Sub-Committee.

5, Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

[We welcome Lady Grogan's report of the excellent work being done by the Serbian Relief Fund in Serbia, and hope there may be a constant increase of funds, so that it may be extended and

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