

lawless loves, its thrilling adventure, all find a place in this notable book.

We are sure that our readers will not rest till they find out for themselves what place the unhappy Jacques eventually found in the world that had treated him so ill.

H. H.

LEAVE THE THREADS WITH GOD.

Spin cheerfully,
Not tearfully,
Though wearily you plod.
Spin carefully,
Spin prayerfully,
But leave the threads with God.

ANON.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH.

CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF DISEASES OF THE TEETH.

Not only will the subjects at the Manchester Conference on the Prevention of Diseases of the Teeth on May 13th, 14th and 15th, be popularly treated, but several will have lantern-illustrations. Another feature will be an exhibition. This will illustrate the development of the teeth and jaws from the earliest years up to adult age, with notes regarding the appropriate food at different ages, specimens of perfect mouths, models of teeth in health and disease, suitable for teaching, others showing the result of exercise in promoting growth of bone, examples of sound but worn dentures, showing the effect of hard use upon teeth, illustrated by an Egyptian skull; and last, but not least, in painful interest for so many, specimens illustrating the ravages of pyorrhoea.

Programme, with full particulars, may be had by sending a halfpenny stamp to the Food Education Society, 265, Strand, W.C. 2.

COMING EVENTS.

May 7th.—St. Paul's Hospital, 13A, Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C.: First of a Course of free Lectures to Nurses and members of the Allied Professions, on "Venereal Diseases," by Mr. Leonard Myer, F.R.C.S. 5 p.m.

May 8th.—Fever Nurses' Association. Annual Meeting, Croydon Town Hall. Dr. R. Veitch Clark, President elect, will deliver an address. 2.30 p.m. Tea by kindness of Mayor and Corporation, Croydon Fever Hospital.

May 8th.—Presentation of Address to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick by Deputation of Matrons and Nurses, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 4.30 p.m.

May 10th.—General Nursing Council (Scotland) Meeting. Scottish Board of Health, Edinburgh. 11.45 a.m.

May 12th.—Centenary of the Birth of Florence Nightingale. 1820-1920.

May 13th, 14th and 15th.—Food Education Society. United Kingdom Conference on "The Prevention of Diseases of the Teeth." Albert Hall, Manchester.

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.

FOR AND AGAINST THE USE OF PROPHYLACTIC PACKETS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The subject of prophylaxis will be argued from a false premise if the statement be accepted that legislation is for the man who has refused sex-training.

In a wide experience amongst all classes—and I have no reason to consider it exceptional—I have found the proportion of parents who give their children scientific sex teaching exceedingly small. Many parents consider they have performed their duty in this matter. I happen to have heard later the comments thereon of both boys and girls. So vague was the teaching that the child could not imagine what the parent was driving at.

The real difficulty is that few parents themselves regard the sex question aright; until they do, any attempt at instructing others must prove a failure. Over sixty years ago Kingsley expounded the only reverent view of sex relations. We are now emerging from the Age of the Animal-man into the Age of the Human-man, and this progress will necessitate ruthless revision of many social questions.

Miss Evans is not hopeful as to the results of sex teaching half a century hence.

Is the sin of indulging the sexual appetite more calamitous in its effects than the indulgence of any other appetite? Look at the physical havoc wrought—unto the fourth generation—by the drunkard and the excessive smoker. Who can number the homes wrecked through gluttony alone? Yet when these victims of their own selfish desires throng to our hospitals for alleviation we are deliberately blind to all but their distress and their dire need.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MENA M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I quite agree with Miss E. C. Evans' views as expressed in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of May 1st. "Prevention" is the keynote of the age, and any preventative to disease must be seriously considered, but must be equally negatived if at the same time it would tend to increase moral laxity, as I freely believe the free distribution of prophylactic packets would.

We women have the vote, and there are certain things we ought to and can do:—

1. Insist on early and full instruction of the young at home and in schools.

2. Train public opinion to regard chastity in man as essential and possible as chastity in woman.

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