

her up the heights to the plateau, which runs southwards and culminates in the Kop. The view from this great head of land is said to be one of the finest in the world.

"There was only a small company of persons present, but antelopes and coney, baboons and partridges, and a vast white bird with silver wings were in attendance at these obsequies.

"At the simple ceremony it was recalled that in 1875 Olive Schreiner was governess to the Fouches at Kleine Ganna Hoek, the adjoining farm to the south. It was there that in a mud-floored little room she wrote a portion of the story of an African Farm. It was in the house of Mr. Richard Cawood at Ganna Hoek that she met her future husband.

"There, where wild goats and zebras run, there above the multitude, among the great African stars, lies Olive Schreiner."

### COMING EVENTS.

*September 30th.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Meeting Ministry of Health. Whitehall, S.W. 2.30 p.m.

*October 1st.*—Royal British Nurses' Association. Re-union of Members. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Tea rs. 3 to 6 p.m.

*October 4th.*—Nurses' Missionary League. Valedictory Meetings, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.1. 10.30 a.m.

*October 8th.*—The Scottish Nurses' Club Extension Sale of Work, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow, 2 p.m.

*October 12th.*—The Matron-in-Chief and members Q.A.I.M.N.S. "At-Home," Wharncliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel, Marylebone. 4 to 7 p.m.

*October 12th.*—Queen Mary's Maternity Home, Upper Heath, Hampstead. Laying of Foundation Stone by Her Majesty the Queen. 3 p.m. Tea for invited guests Cedar Lawn. 4 p.m.

*October 18th.*—Opening of Parliament.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

THE MID-VICTORIAN PHILOSOPHY OF A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMER'S WIFE.

*To a person of self-importance.*

"There ain't nobody as k'nt be done wi'out."

*To a young lady who flouted rich suitors.*

"Don't forget as the Golden Ball won't allus role."

*To a lady suspicious of her daughter's morals.*

"The old woman as 'as been in the oven knows where to find her daughter."

*To a greedy little boy.*

"Its only a pig as puts its trotters i' the trough."

*On the tragic death of an illegitimate child.*

"Them as is conceived i' the ditch bottom 'as a mighty task to climb up the bank."

*After a scolding from "Master."*

"There ain't nobody as can play the agreeables better nor Mester, but nobody ken be nestier."

### 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.*

#### SUMMER DIARRHŒA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I welcome Miss Paterson's sound criticism of my paper on summer diarrhoea. It is good that every nurse should learn to hitch her wagon to a star though it may be too heavily laden ever to rise above earth. In this terribly imperfect world, except for the wealthy, not only all medical and nursing treatment but life conditions generally are necessarily a compromise falling far short of the ideal. Miss Paterson's letter appears to me rather a counsel of perfection than a practical suggestion. She assumes that those aware of the scientific management of breast feeding have but to impart the knowledge to mothers to ensure its practice. To educate mothers, of all classes, in the care of their offspring is a slow process. With the majority prejudice, wilful ignorance and complacency, sloth and sheer obstinacy are insurmountable barriers. How many mothers of the higher social grades are other than hopelessly indifferent to the need for studying food-values, cooking, or idiosyncrasy regarding their children's diet—physical, mental or moral?

In my paper, I endeavoured, within its limits, to set forth a simple method of dealing with enteritis in its most frequent haunts, the poorest homes, and in the inexorable conditions of those homes which usually lack all essentials to scientific nursing. Even the boiling of milk, dangerously contaminated on delivery, is usually achieved with difficulty and cannot be kept pure. When death is near; many patients needing attention and only ignorant help available, there is no time to calculate calories and apply them to ascertained and ever-varying weight, age and condition, plus idiosyncrasy, except in an infant clinic or a well-staffed hospital. In cottages I have in mind north and east winds of the past few weeks would blow dangerously on a sick child unprotected by a screen. Only those living in labourers' cottages comprehend the unavoidable, terrific draughts they produce. On a stifling August day I trust there would be sufficient commonsense around to remove a screen which our variable climate probably made urgent the day before. As one considered a fresh-air fiend, and living with all "the four airts" blowing on me, had I my way, all young children, sick or well, should live in a three-sided revolving shelter.

In my opinion the speediest method of reducing infant mortality is to educate girls *before* they are ten in the management of infants, otherwise they

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