

shame! Mrs. Ormiston is always very strong on the unmarried mother in her speeches."

Richard adored his mother, and he had a sudden furious vision of how glibly these women would have talked of her case and of how utterly incapable they would have been to conceive its tragedy.

He said with some exasperation, "I'm not talking of *the* unmarried mother. I am talking of my mother who was not married to my father." He dragged it out of himself. "She was very, very young. My father was the Squire of the Essex village that is our home." It was useless. He could not tell her of that tragedy. How black a tragedy it was. How it existing, he could be so crass as to eat and drink and be merry with love.

After the death of Ellen's mother she goes on a visit to Richard's Essex home, where lived his mother, the subject of as terrible a history as could well be imagined.

She was the mother of two sons, her adored and adoring Richard, the child of the man who had betrayed and left her, and Roger, the son of the Squire's butler, Peacey, whom, deserted and frightened, the girl in her trouble had been persuaded to marry for the shelter of his name. This same Roger was a weakling, amiable and foolish, from whom his mother continually strove to conceal her aversion. Peacey had long since left his wife, and at the time of the story she is living in affluence on the generous sum left to her by the Squire at his death.

Marion, surrounded as she was by comfort and refinement, and by Richard's devotion, was nevertheless a tormented soul, who knew neither rest nor peace.

One pauses to wonder why a writer of such undoubted genius should have concentrated on creating such unpleasing characters—fantastic and morbid, and neither forceful nor virile.

The wild, inartistic climax leaves one with a sense of disgust. One thinks regretfully of the charming promise of the earlier chapters and what the romance of delightful little Ellen and Richard might have been had not Mrs. West given herself up to destroying their happiness in such an unnecessary manner. H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

October 6th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Conference with representatives of the Association of Poor Law Unions. 12 noon. Special Meeting, 2.30 p.m.

October 7th.—Meeting of Matrons of Infectious Hospitals to discuss forming a Fever Nurses' Section of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. South-Western Fever Hospital, Stockwell, S.W. 3 p.m.

October 7th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Lecture by Major Rigg, O.B.E., on "London's Guilds, Past, Present and Future." 4.15 p.m.

October 14th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. "Not Forgotten." The Domestic Staff will entertain the Gentlemen from St. Dunstan's. 6 to 10 p.m.

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.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of some length have been held over for want of space.

A REAL GRIEVANCE.

New Pro.—"I agree with every word of 'Hard Worker.' There is no doubt *bad food*, or at least, ill-cooked, unappetising food, is a potent factor in hospital discontent. I was listening to a doctor's lecture the other day on 'the psychology of food.' Admirable. It made our mouths water. He talked about the stimulus to digestion of gazing on and then cooling the gullet with salmon-pink iced cantaloup, Yum! Yum! Compare it with the semi-cold dollop of suet pudding, the sulky appearance of which dries up all desire to swallow anything. Digestion must be tempted by suggestion, by vision, if it is to 'play up.' After nourishment one feels good, pleasant. Indigestion is the basis of most of the unhappiness on earth, as it provokes bad blood. The sooner the Matrons get together and own hospital dietary is not up to a scientific standard the better. The dietitian's section should take front rank in a State Examination."

Member College of Nursing.—"Can you tell me if it is right that nurses may not nominate Matrons for election to the new General Nursing Council? We were told so by a Matron at a meeting. As far as I can gather from the Act and Prescribed Scheme proposed by the G.N.C., any Registered Nurse may nominate any other—whatever position she holds in the profession. This surely is the only fair and liberal method."

[Our correspondent is quite right. Every Registered Nurse may nominate if she chooses eleven others to be elected by nurses on the General Part of the Register—six Matrons and five nurses. As soon as the Council has considered recommendations from the Minister of Health, and he has agreed to the Prescribed Scheme for the election, it will no doubt be widely advertised, as the Scottish Scheme is being advertised. There is no time to be lost, as the election must take place in November.—ED.]

PLEASE NOTE.

The Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will be grateful if all Registered Nurses will quote the number of their Registration Certificates, and state if they are on the General or Supplementary Register when sending in the retention fee of 2s. 6d.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

October 14th.—What are the causes, symptoms and treatment of surgical shock?

October 21st.—Describe the preparation of the patient, after treatment, and nursing of a case of Hemorrhoids.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)