

anything she was asked if someone would only take care of her and ensure the continuance of the life to which she was accustomed.

Lord Coombe accepted the bargain, partly from pity that so lovely and fragile a creature should be caught on the wheels of life, and partly he admitted to himself she possessed assets which would have modified most things to most men.

So it came to pass that he made himself responsible for Feather and Robin, and for the slice of a house in the fashionable street.

As the child Robin grew older, she took an unaccountable aversion to Lord Coombe, partly owing to the whispers and insinuations of the servants, though, of course, their import was of no significance to her. Her mother was only known to her as the "Lady Downstairs." She was too young to understand that her brighter surroundings were due to Lord Coombe, who had on one memorable occasion invaded the uninviting nursery and dismissed at a moment's notice the terrifying Andrews.

Of the many pathetic incidents in the child's life, none is more appealing than the withdrawal by his mother of her first playmate. The friendship, begun in Kensington Gardens, had progressed quite happily until Donald's mother realised that Robin was the daughter of Feather. So there came a day when Robin waited in vain for Donald—he who had kissed her, the first kiss she had ever had—had gone away without a word, and the iron of bitterness entered into the lonely child's soul.

Later on, when she is grown into a lovely girl, there is a powerful and dramatic scene where she is entrapped by the White Slave gang, and is discovered and liberated by Lord Coombe.

It is a very complicated history, and we cannot attempt to unravel it for our readers in a short space, but we heartily recommend them to attempt it for themselves. The fact that it is written by so gifted an author as Mrs. Hodgson Burnett places it in the front rank of novels.

H. H.

THE MALARIA MOSQUITO.

Major-General P. Hehir, I.M.S., Westward Ho! North Devon, sends to the *Lancet* the following anonymous trifle found among his old papers:—

He lurks among the reeds, beside the marsh,
Red oleanders twisted in his hair,
His eyes are haggard and his lips are harsh,
Upon his breast the bones show gaunt and bare.

The green and stagnant waters lick his feet
And from their filmy iridescent scum,
Clouds of mosquitoes, gauzy in the heat,
Rise with his gifts: Death and Delirium.

His messengers: they bear the deadly taint
On spangled wings aloft and far away,
Making thin music, strident and yet faint,
From golden eve to silver break of day.

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.

"ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE NURSING OF THE SICK" REQUIRED UNDER THE ACT.

We have received a long letter too late for insertion from "M. C. H.," explaining to our readers clauses in the Nurses' Registration Act in reference to the registration of untrained *bona fide* nurses with which they are quite familiar. Our readers who form the group which initiated, agitated, and paid for State registration have been kept fully informed of the provisions of the Act, and the manner in which the General Nursing Council have administered it.

The Act instructs the Council to consider the applications of "Existing Nurses"—under certain provisions—who produce evidence to the satisfaction of the Council of good character, the prescribed age, and have been for at least three years before November 1st, 1919, "in practice as nurses on the sick under conditions which appear to the Council to be satisfactory for the purposes of this provision and have adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick."

Absolutely untrained ignorant nurses have not, therefore, as "M. C. H." claims, a right to be placed on the Statutory Register; and in requiring a minimum of one year's training under the Rules, the Council saved the Register from becoming a dead letter. To prevent injustice in exceptional cases, the Council will, with the consent of the Minister, consider "in detail" such cases on their merits, without tampering with the provision for a minimum standard, and breaking faith with those nurses who have registered under existing provisions.

"M. C. H.'s" interpretation of the Act would flood the Register with "V.A.D.s," "Nurse Midwives," and other persons, who do not appear to the Council to have adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick."

NOTICE.

In supplying notice of appointments the Editor will be obliged if correspondents will notify if they are "Registered Nurses," as this legal professional title should now be notified.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

August 5th.—What are the principal causes and consequences of dental diseases? What preventive measures may be employed?

August 12th.—What is meant by decubitus? Give some characteristic examples.

August 19th.—Describe some common diseases of the skin, their characteristic appearance, and their nursing care.

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