

## TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

The Little Chair was thoroughly satisfied with itself.

And well it might be.

Had it not been fashioned and carved by a master craftsman one hundred and fifty years ago. Did it not bear the armorials of one of the finest families in England, and had it not been handed on as an heirloom from father to son in several successive wills?

And had it not heard its present possessor describe its artistic attributes to a greasy little, beak-nosed man, who apparently wished to "ship it across the streak," whatever that might be?

"Isn't it a little gem?" she had asked. "See the exquisite carving of the wreath of acanthus leaves, and the original bloom, it has never been touched up with varnish and French polish. Just tenderly rubbed by fingers like feathers. No, Mr. Moses, money won't buy it."

What more could a Little Chair require to realise its value?

Then one fine day the electric light went "phut," and presently from the basement up clumped a pale-faced young man wearing boots like boats, with a bag slung over his shoulder, and looked around—then of Madam, who was explaining her needs, he inquired:—

"Can I stand on this 'ere cheer?"

For a moment there was a breathless silence and then, all over again the Little Chair listened to its champion, who, with indignation, rebuked the hob-nailed man for his suggested sacrilege, and read him a right good lesson on appreciation of beauty and artistic worth—veneration for fine craftsmanship, and love of the antique, to which he listened patiently—and made reply:—

"Ah, mebbe you'r right, mum, but in my place there ain't no beauty or artistic worth or fine craftsmanship—me and my old woman and three children, we lives in one room, and we're most put about how to be decent, and no offence to that there cheer." E. G. F.

## HAVE YOU READ?

"The Spanish Farm," By R. H. Mottram.

"Diffidence," By John Eyton.

"Miss Tiverton Goes Out," Anonymous.

"Paris in the Revolution," By G. Lenotre.

If not, you have a pleasure to come.

## COMING EVENTS.

June 6th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Summer Meeting, by kind invitation of Miss Kathleen Smith, R.R.C., Matron, and the Committee of Management, West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Gloucester Gate, N.W. 1. 3-6 p.m.

June 6th.—Mental Hospital Matrons' Association. Quarterly Meeting. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. 2.30 p.m.

June 18th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Annual Meeting. H.R.H. the President, the Princess Arthur of Connaught, has graciously consented to be present. 3 p.m.

June 19th.—Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. 20, Portland Place, W. 2.30 p.m.

June 23rd.—Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson "At Home," to meet the Collectors' Society. 35D, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. Tea. 4-6 p.m.

June 24th.—H.R.H. the Duchess of York unveils the Five Sisters' Window in York Minster, the Women's Memorial to Women who lost their lives in the War. 3 p.m.

June 27th.—National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting of delegates of all affiliated Societies. 43I, Oxford Street, London, W.1. 4.30 p.m.

July 4th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting. 3 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.*

## POOR LAW NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice in the daily press that the question of Poor Law Reform is to be considered, and undertaken, in the near future, and that before legislation is framed the Local Authorities are to be consulted about its form. That is well and good. May we hope that the same courtesy will be extended to the Nursing Profession? It is a very vital question affecting not only many thousands of nurses, their happiness and content, but what is more, the popularity or the reverse of the Poor Law Nursing Service, and consequently the welfare of the sick poor.

If the type of girl whom it is desired to attract to Poor Law Nursing is to be so attracted in sufficient numbers, then the conditions of service must be such as are congenial to her. The question is a very important one indeed. Its importance can, indeed, hardly be over-rated, and I hope that through all available channels it will be brought to the notice of the Minister of Health, and seriously urged upon his attention. How much the nursing personnel means to the sick poor in our infirmaries only they themselves know. In a general hospital the patients are birds of passage, with an average stay of a few weeks, but in a poor law hospital they may, and often do, remain for years, till death indeed releases them, and their only real contact with the outside world may be through the nurses who tend them. It will be realised, therefore, not only that the quality of the service rendered is of the utmost importance, but its willingness, or otherwise, makes an untold difference to these chronic patients, year in, year out.

Yours faithfully, POOR LAW.

## AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to see an appreciation of the late Dr. McGregor Robertson in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last month. I do not think we English Nurses can be sufficiently grateful for all the help he gave us in the uphill struggle to obtain our Nurses' Registration Act, money, time, strength were at our disposal, and he frequently came down from Glasgow for a meeting and travelled back by the night train. He was a doughty disputant, and woe betide any one who incurred his just displeasure. On the other hand he was a tower of strength to his friends, logical and forceful. One could hardly desire one's case to be better put, and if he drafted a "Memo" he covered the ground completely. Since the death of Sir Victor Horsley we nurses have not, I think, lost so great a friend.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A GRATEFUL REGISTERED NURSE.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

M. K. C., *Cartagena, Colombia, South America*, writes, in renewing her subscription to the B.J.N.: "If the March issue of the JOURNAL has not been sent to me will you please forward it, as I hate to miss one copy of your very valuable paper. It is absolutely the best published for International Nursing news. One looks forward more than ever to such publications when living in these unusual parts of the world. I wish THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING every possible success."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)