

stimulates the respiratory centre, increasing the depth of respiration, and allowing freer entrance of the air by relaxing the bronchial muscles; at the same time it tends to prevent cardiac and respiratory complications. If the patient is suffering from nervous strain, from fears, or a condition such as shell-shock, morphine gr.  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  is prescribed with the atropin, as this serves to abolish the pain-reflex which contributes largely to the post-operative shock.

#### Hints on Private Nursing.

Miss Gullan points out that "the individual layman almost exclusively forms his opinion of nurses and nursing from the attitude and actions of the private nurse; and, all sentiment apart, through such we rise and fall in the estimation of the Public.

"The influence of the private nurse is incalculable and far reaching, not only over her patient but over the members of the household and the many who come into contact with them. Every act is seen and weighed, every unconsidered speech is noted—what she does not say, even more than what she says—and what she is, far more than either."

We cordially commend the book to all concerned in teaching, and learning the theory and practice of nursing.

M. B.

### OUTSIDE THE GATES.

#### "Abide with Me."

The favourite hymn of the late Queen Alexandra—"Abide with Me," written by the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte—has a very touching history—which was lately recalled in the columns of the *Morning Post* by a living descendant, in which it has been proposed that a Memorial shall be erected to the author of the immortal hymn.

"W. Maxwell Lyte" writes that he "would be happy if, in addition to a Memorial Tablet in St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey, the Memorial could take the form of assisting those who live and suffer to-day."

Mr. Maxwell Lyte adds:—"Eight years before his death the Rev. H. F. Lyte wrote a poem, 'Declining Days,' one of the most beautiful and touching poems in our language, in which he prayed that he might be allowed to write something for the glory of God which might comfort those who came after him. The following verses from this poem are of a special interest in connection with the proposed Memorial:—

I would not be the wave  
That swells and ripples up to yonder shore,  
That drives impulsive on, the wild wind's slave  
And breaks, and is no more!

I would not be the breeze  
That murmurs by me in its viewless play,  
Bends the light grass, and flutters in the trees,  
And sighs and flits away.

No! not like wave or wind  
Be my career across the earthly scene;  
To come and go, and leave no trace behind  
To say that I have been.

I want not vulgar fame—  
I seek not to survive in brass or stone;  
Hearts may not kindle when they hear my name,  
Nor tears my value own.

But might I leave behind  
Some blessing for my fellows, some fair trust  
To guide, to cheer, to elevate my kind  
When I was in the dust.

Might verse of mine inspire  
One virtuous aim, one high resolve impart;  
Light in one drooping soul a hallowed fire  
Or bind one broken heart.

Death would be sweeter then,  
More calm my slumber 'neath the silent sod;  
Might I thus live to bless my fellow-men  
Or glorify my God!

O Thou! whose touch can lend  
Life to the dead, Thy quick'ning grace supply.  
And grant me, swanlike, my last breath to spend  
In song that may not die!

"Abide with me," the poet's "swan song" and answer to this prayer was written six weeks before his death.

Mr. Maxwell Lyte pleads that "The League of Remembrance," which has supplied upwards of half a million garments and comforts to hospitals in the last seven years in memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War, is now trying to raise the sum of £50,000 for new premises and permanent endowment, would appeal to the author of "Abide with Me" if he were alive to-day, and invites lovers of the hymn to communicate with him at 37, Onslow Square, S.W., from which address a booklet containing particulars of the work of the League of Remembrance will be gladly sent.

If we do not take care some wealthy American will come swooping down and remove brick by brick Jane Austen's house at Chawton, near Alton, Hants, which is reported to be in a very neglected condition—rotting window sills and overgrown garden. Mr. W. Hooper who has just paid the house a visit, states in *The Times* that it has been divided into separated dwellings and a village club, and a large window on the ground floor has been bricked up. One of the tenants pointed out a room which, she said, was used by Jane Austen for writing, but the only remaining relic of the novelist's time is a fireplace, which will shortly be removed to make room for a modern gate. This tenant added that during the summer there were many visitors to the house especially from America, but, to her knowledge, there was no fund in existence for keeping the place in repair. Although there are none of the usual facilities for viewing a house with interesting associations, the correspondent gathered that visitors were freely admitted.

The inscription in the plate outside the house is as follows:

#### JANE AUSTEN

Lived here from 1809-1817

And hence all her works

Were sent into the World.

Her admirers in this country and  
in America have united to erect  
this tablet.

Such art as hers can never grow old.

When we realise that Jane Austen wrote many of her incomparable novels at Chawton—surely it is time we rescued her home from oblivion, and set up a shrine in memory of her spontaneous genius. Those of us who have spent many of the happiest hours of life enjoying her sprightly and critical wit would gladly contribute to such a memorial.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*February 5th.*—Professional Union of Trained Nurses' Annual Social Dance. Fancy Dress or Evening Dress optional. St. Marylebone Hall (three minutes from Baker Street). 8 to 12.

*February 12th.*—L.C.C. School Nurses' Social Union Dance. Rooms B and C, County Hall. Prizes for Fancy Dresses. Blue Lagoon Band. 7 p.m.

*February 19th.*—Meeting of General Nursing Council for England and Wales. 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

*February 23rd.*—Conference convened by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to consider the training and examination of persons engaged in the Nursing of Mental Defectives. 20, Portland Place, W.1. 11 a.m.

*February 27th.*—Annual Meeting of Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Royal British Nurses' Association Club. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7. 3 p.m.

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