

## SIDELIGHTS.

The outpatients' department affords illuminating opportunities for humour and pathos and other essentials for the development of human understanding. There is something so delightfully spontaneous in the London child, in its unconscious acceptance of the unfair share of joy, as more fortunate children understand it.

The small people in the vicinity of a Hospital in Central London wander in "on their own," with small ailments and casualties, and with immense trustfulness—generally accompanied by a string of contemporaries which are severally introduced as "me sister and me cousins." Mother seldom appears; she is either ill or at work or "elsewhere," as the charwoman in "Rookery Nook" says so comprehensively.

Enter, a typical company, one of which has a small abrasion on a very dirty little toe, caused by "me Wellingtons."

Wellingtons didn't seem likely, but let that pass.

"You must ask Mother to wash your feet, duckie."

"'Er Muvver don't live with 'er, Sister, she lives with 'er Aunt."

"What have you done to your face? it's very red."

"A boy smacked it as we come along."

"What for?"

"They always does it in our street."

"Oh! do they?"

"If we don't go 'oppin' this year, I'm goin' to a Convalescent."

"Me cousin" chimes in: "I've bin to a Convalescent, I 'ave."

"Did you like it?"

"No: they 'its yer."

"Who hits you?"

"Why the Nurses 'its yer. There was only one Nurse what liked me and she give me a gold ring, but I lost it comin' 'ome in the train. I went to another 'ome, but it was a *rude* 'ome."

"What do you mean?"

"They takes off all yer clothes, don't leave even yer *knickers* on, and there was boys there. Muvver won't let me go no more."

The casualty having been treated with a spot of iodine, and the smart soothed with a penny, the little company depart, probably to return a few days later in search of more iodine, *and* pennies.

H. H.

## WHAT TO READ.

"The Great Victorians," edited by H. J. Massingham and Hugh Massingham, in which there is a Chapter on Florence Nightingale, by Laurence Houseman.

"The Life of Mary Kingsley," Stephen Gwynn.

"Luxury Liner," Gina Kaus.

"The Pascarella Family," Franz Werfel.

"With Northcliffe in Fleet Street," Sir John A. Hamerton.

"Desert Sand," Margaret Pedler.

"The Intelligent Man's Guide Thro' World Chaos," G. D. H. Cole.

"South America," Kasimir Edschmid.

"Greenbanks," Dorothy Whipple.

## A VISIT TO PAPWORTH VILLAGE SETTLEMENT.

As we go to press the Administration Class of the B.C.N. is paying a visit to Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Colony, Papworth Hall, Cambridge, by kind permission of Sir Pendrill Varrier-Jones, the Medical Director, and Miss K. L. Borne, the matron. This Settlement was established during the war for the treatment of tuberculosis, and has proved a wonderful success. The visit will be reported in our next issue.

## COMING EVENTS.

October 19th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting Executive Committee, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 4.15. Tea 4 p.m.

October 21st.—Meeting Executive Committee Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 5 p.m.

October 22nd.—British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council, 2.15 p.m. Opening of Winter Session. Tea. 4.45 p.m. Address on "Royal Nurses: Queen Margaret of Scotland," by Miss Isabel Macdonald, F.B.C.N., Councillor. 5.30 p.m.

October 22nd.—Urgency Cases Hospital, Bar-le-Duc, Rubigny. The Fourteenth Annual Dinner, Canuto's Restaurant, 88, Baker Street, W.1. 6.45 for 7 p.m.

October 26th.—British College of Nurses. Class on Administration. Visit to Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monk's Orchard, Beckenham. 2.30 p.m.

October 28th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Council Meeting, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 5 p.m.

October 28th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

October 28th.—East London Children's Hospital, Shadwell, E. Sir Buckston Browne, F.R.C.S., F.S.A., Talk on Charles Darwin and his family. Visitors cordially invited. 8.45 p.m.

November 10th.—Administration Class. Visit to the Nursing Departments, and Preliminary Training School, London Hospital, London, E.1.

November 18th.—The British Hospitals Association. Public Health Congress. Report of *The Lancet* Commission on Nursing. Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. 2.30 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.*

## HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a nurse who has lived in a tropical country infested by the malarial mosquito, I cannot refrain from expressing my deep admiration for the wonderful work of Sir Ronald Ross, resulting in making habitable many parts of the world formerly uninhabitable (notably the Panama Isthmus) and in saving millions of lives.

When I went out to the tropics some forty years ago I was fortunate in travelling with a lady who had spent many years there, and had studied the customs and beliefs of the natives. She gave me the advice, which I found to be good, not to undervalue these because they could not be proved scientifically because they were usually the result of practical experience. Amongst these were their custom of sleeping under mosquito nets, as affording protection from malaria. They could not say why, but apparently thought that the night mists were unhealthy, and nets afforded some protection from these. We know now that they were right in their conclusions though wrong in their premises. Again I was told by a doctor (it was in 1893) with a half smile that it was thought there might be some connection between the mosquito and malaria because the zones of both were identical. Right again, though unproved.

It was a year or two later that I studied with the deepest interest the beautiful model of the life-cycle of the Anopheles

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)