

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS.

The slaughter of the innocents, and especially of little children, in London street accidents still mounts up, and the return of Scotland Yard for the quarter ending September 30th, just issued, reached the appalling number of 381 fatal accidents and 16,208 persons injured. Had these accidents taken place on railways, or as the result of riots, or earthquakes in the London area, in the same space of time, what an outcry there would have been, yet every type of vehicle—private motor cars, trade vans, motor cycles, omnibuses, trams and cabs act as juggernauts in our streets, and no voices are raised in effective protest, no effective remedies are enforced by authority, and the slaughter and maiming of old persons, young persons, the able-bodied, the blind, the lame, and the little children continues unchecked and indeed is on the increase.

Nor are our country roads safer, but for sheer horror it is difficult to imagine anything to exceed the following report in the public press concerning the death of John Grae, 13, of Middleton Street, Ferniegair, near Hamilton. "He was knocked down on the main Glasgow-Carlisle road near his home. He is the third child in this family to die as a result of road accidents, at the same place within a year. Isabella, aged four, received fatal injuries exactly a year ago, and James, aged seven, was killed in the spring."

Shall such things be? What are the public, and especially fathers and mothers, going to do about it?

October 4th being the anniversary of the death of St. Francis, the usual celebrations were held at Assisi, where a multitude much greater than in preceding years had assembled for the occasion. The prettiest and newest ceremony in honour of the Saint took place, however, says the *Times* correspondent, in Rome.

Here, in the grounds of the Villa Umberto, about 1,000 little song-birds, so dear to the Saint, who used to call them his "sisters and brothers," were liberated in the presence of a great crowd of children and others. The ceremony had been organised by the Zoophile Society of Rome, and all the birds had been confiscated from poachers who had captured them with nets out of season. A representative of the society made a speech describing the good and efficient work which is now being carried on in Italy by various agencies against the practice of snaring or shooting song-birds.

The Police President of Erfurt announces that in order to combat the bad habit of women smoking in public, all proprietors of restaurants and cafés and wine-dealers will be asked to display on their premises clearly legible notices with the words:—"Women are asked not to smoke." It is added that all Germans should assist in this campaign by "reminding any women whom they may meet smoking in the street of their duty as German women and German mothers."

We are all of us apt to wax very superior at the expense of our supposed unenlightened ancestors—especially so over the question of diseases and their cures.

That slimming was practised in the olden days is evident from the following recipe culled from a priceless volume entitled the "Good Housewives Jewell," published in 1596.

"To make a slender figure take fennel leaves and seethe them in water a very good quantitie. Then wring out the juice thereof when it is sodde, and drink it first and last and it shall swaye either man or woman." "Swaye" has a somewhat sinister ring about it, but probably the cure was as efficacious as many of those advertised to-day.

## COMING EVENTS.

*November 15th.*—The Matron-in-Chief and Members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, "At Home," Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1. (Ball Room Entrance.) 3.30 to 6 p.m.

*November 17th and 18th.*—Nurses' Missionary League. Annual Sale of Work. 135, Ebury Street, London, S.W.1.

*November 18th.*—British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.15 p.m.

*November 21st.*—His Majesty the King opens the New Session of Parliament.

*November 22nd.*—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Annual Meeting of Grand Council. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, in the Chair. 39, Portland Place, London, W. Tea, by invitation of the President, 4 p.m. Meeting 4.30 p.m.

*November 24th.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

*November 24th.*—Princess Elizabeth of York Children's Hospital, Shadwell, E. Lantern Lecture on "The Idea of Beauty in Art, Literature, and Life," by Mr. W. R. Bett, M.R.C.S., Resident Medical Officer. At the Hospital, 8.45 p.m.

*December 7th.*—Royal British Nurses' Association Birthday Party (45th Birthday Anniversary) and Sale of Work. 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. 2—6 p.m.

*December 8th.*—Princess Elizabeth of York Children's Hospital, Shadwell, E. Lecture on "The Romance of Scotland," by Percival J. Ashton, Esq., Organising Secretary of The Londoners' Circle. At the Hospital. 8.45 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.*

### UNDERSTANDING AND GRATIFYING REVIEW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Thank you so much for sending me the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for October, with "M.B.'s wonderfully understanding and gratifying review of my book on "Women in Subjection." I think it was very kind of you to find room for such a long review of a book which is not, in the narrow and technical sense, specially interesting to nurses. But I know you take no narrow view of a nurse's vocation, and that you always urge nurses to study history and to care for freedom, as well as to be strenuous and devoted in their own professional work. That is, perhaps, what makes THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING so interesting even to an outside reader. I never open it without finding something that interests me as a laywoman. This month I have cut out the very interesting article on Kaiserswerth and pasted it in as an appendix into my own copy of my Florence Nightingale book.

Will you very kindly convey to "M.B." my gratification at her review? And please accept my thanks yourself.

Yours sincerely,

I. B. O'MALLEY.

### GOOD WISHES FOR I.C.N.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much for sending me the account of your visit to "Le Pachy" and my small

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)