

teaches the eternal majesty of law ; and that is why law is *exceptionless*. If the sweetest child that ever was will disobey orders and play with fire, it will be burned ; if the finest lad that ever was will break rules and play with gun-powder or with pistols, the nature of things cannot protect him from the terrible liability to mutilation or to death. Our bodies are so finely and wonderfully made that, at the best, it is strange that the harp with its thousand strings should keep in tune so long. Your hand is cramped—naturally, because you have strained it with over-use. You are sleepless and worried—naturally, because you have taxed your brain with more than it can bear. Pain is Nature's cry of warning ; it is the fog-signal of the rushing train. Bodily pain, it has been truly said, sounds the alarm bell of disease in time for its removal ; and mental and moral pain arrest the issues of ignorant or evil courses before it is too late for them to be remedied. Pain has also another merciful purpose. It is not only a warning, it is a punishment. It is a bitter arrow in the merciful hands of God to save individuals, or if that be too late, to save the race. Pain helps forward morality by contributing to form a steadfast character in the face of moral evil ; and thus pain is made God's minister to play a small part in the education of the human race. Pain is partly preservative, partly penal ; it is also purgatorial—cleansing. To many, pain is like the crushing and burning of myrrh which alone brings out its fragranc ; or like the wounding of sandal wood which releases its odour. How many of the greatest poets who have instructed the world have been 'cradled into poesy by wrong, and learnt in suffering what they taught in song?' Pain may also teach the blessed lesson of sympathy, sympathy with the sufferings which sigh and moan all round us like the waters of a restless sea ; and when we learn sympathy, we learn the prominent lesson of Christ who had 'compassion on the multitude.'

The Registered Nurses' Society.

DEAR NURSES,—You will see that it is announced in the official column of the R.B.N.A. in this week's issue, that after Monday, the 16th inst., tea can be provided for all members in the Nurses' Club Room at 17, Old Cavendish Street, between the hours of 2 and 9 p.m., at very moderate charges.

The beautiful rooms have been recently described in the RECORD, and it is hoped that the Nurses who have not done so will take an early opportunity of admiring and using them. The rockers and other easy chairs offer delightful possibilities of chats and rest, and now that tea can be obtained, without which the Nurses' happiness cannot be complete, I feel sure the pleasure of visiting the Club will be greatly enhanced.

Dainty little writing tables are also provided, while books and periodicals give their charm to an idle hour. A lending library, consisting of professional and other books, will soon be established. All sorts of charming projects are in view to add to the comfort and interest of a Nurse's life ; and it is believed that to have the club opened in the evenings will be a most popular step. The club is too recent to be well known, but it is hoped that the Nurses will come forward and show their appreciation of what has been done in their interests. Personal interest and enthusiasm is the keystone of success. Let the Nurses do some little thing to add to the attraction of the club. A few flowers and periodicals, obtained from friends, will always be much appreciated. But, above all, let the Nurses be determined that their club shall be a power, and let them band together in a kindly welcoming spirit, to strengthen the sympathy Nurses should feel to one another.

There is sometimes a feeling that Hospitals are divided against each other, and that they form a colony by themselves. The sooner this feeling dies out the better. All Hospitals workers should be friends quite irrespective of particular training-schools and methods. The club offers a happy meeting ground for representatives of every type of school, for friendship, mutual help and enlarged sympathy, and will doubtless in the future do much to break down that exclusiveness amongst Nurses which has been fostered in the past, but which is doomed to disappear under the bright influence of womanly sympathy which is being encouraged by our President, and by those who are working with her.

"MATRONA,"



Our Scotch Letter.

A CHAT FROM GLASGOW.

Why do the healthy and philanthropic, who elect to spend large sums on Hospital buildings, not take more than one opinion as to the plans and arrangements? I visited lately a Cottage Hospital, built by a wealthy manufacturer, near his works, in a town in the east of Scotland ; such a charming site ! but one felt so sorry to note how much money had been spent on what I might call *insanitary* details. Many corners, costly moulding, ornamentation without end, which might be a joy to a finished housemaid, but much the reverse to the one trained Nurse-in-Charge. The wards were large and airy, but just too small to hold more beds, and almost too large for the number in them. A few more feet would have made the difference. Now I

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