

After this honeyed chapter, there follows one upon the evolution of language, another upon the struggle for life, followed by a most suggestive and instructive chapter upon "the struggle for the life of others," in which "the struggle for life assumes the august form, and this is followed by a struggle for light, and the evolution of love; of love as love, of love as life, of love as humanity, of love as the pure and undefiled fountain of all that is eternal in the world."

The evolution of Mothers, Professor Drummond tells us, is the last "elaborately wrought pinnacle of the temple of nature." He says:—

"It is a fact which no human mother can regard without awe, which no man can realize without a new reverence for women and a new belief in the higher meaning of nature, that the good of the whole plant and animal kingdoms seems to have been the creation of a family, which the very naturalist had to call Mammalia."

The evolution of a father was a less serious task for nature to accomplish, but—

"The first step was to relate him definitely and permanently to the mother."

The history that follows of the evolution of marriage and domestic life carries the story of "The Ascent of Man" a step further, and then Professor Drummond tells us that—

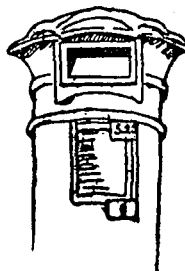
"No man can run up the natural lines of evolution without coming to Christianity at the top. . . . We land here, not from choice but from necessity. Christianity—it is not said any particular form of Christianity—but Christianity is the further evolution. . . . The divinity of Christianity, it might be added, not to be as unlike nature as possible, but to be its coronation; the fulfilment of its promise; the rallying point of its forces; the beginning, not of a new end, but of an infinite acceleration of the processes by which the end eternal from the beginning was henceforth to be realised—a religion which is love, and a nature which is love can never but be one."

I have permitted myself to give these rather lengthy quotations, because readers will, I hope, be able to judge from them of the aim, scope, and limitations of the book. Professor Drummond fills an important place in the intellectual development of the present day. He writes in an exceedingly eloquent and interesting manner about interesting problems, and he proves his deductions to his own satisfaction, and, doubtless, to the satisfaction of a vast number of more or less earnest thinkers upon these vast subjects. Professor Drummond is a most comfortable and unafrightening writer, he discusses scientific theories and writes about the most profound questions in a flowery and decorative style that has proved most attractive to countless numbers of readers.

A modern wit said of the French people that they liked Renan because he gave them *Piétérité en bonbon*. So it may also be said that English people like Professor Drummond because he gives them science in capsules, easy to swallow and digest. And, above all, Professor Drummond satisfies and soothes a certain type of mind who doubts of the truth of the religious belief in which they have been educated, and are intensely comforted and satisfied after reading the Lowell lectures on "The Ascent of Man," to find that there are no discrepancies left at all between the teachings of modern science and the Christian religion, and that "A religion that is love and a nature that is love can never but be one"; but we suspect that Professor Drummond's arguments

throughout this most readable and entertaining book will prove inadequate to some scientific minds, and that most thoughtful people will agree that there are still "more things left in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy."

A. M. G.



Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

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.

A NURSES' COUNCIL.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I feel with "A Puzzled Nurse" what an advantage it would be if we Nurses might exchange thoughts and advice concerning matters and difficulties concerning our lives and work in the columns of your most helpful paper. Concerning the difficult position in which "A Puzzled Nurse" finds herself, she must, I think, be guided by what is her duty to her patient irrespective of self-interest. The question is what is her duty to her patient? I should advise that she should report respectfully, yet fearlessly, to the medical attendant that the patient has a great repulsion to the smell of tobacco smoke, and then leave it to his own good feeling to deal with the matter. I have not the slightest doubt he would think and perhaps express his opinion that the old lady was to be pitied for her appreciation of so delightful an aroma—that he would, nevertheless, consider her objections, and resist the fragrant weed immediately before visiting her. A Nurse should always—tactfully of course—protect a nervous patient from annoyance or distress.

—Yours, &c.,
Ealing.

ELINOR DRURY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,— "A Puzzled Nurse" has made an excellent suggestion when she proposes that the Nurses, as well as our superior officers and matrons, could give and take exchange of thought which would be of great value to us, especially to those nurses working as District Nurses and Private Nurses, as we are usually so lonely. Personally, I have the same antipathy to the smell of tobacco as the patient named by "a Puzzled Nurse," and I can quite sympathise with her dislike to a medical attendant "reeking" of tobacco. Difficult as the task may be, I consider it the Nurses's duty to report the antipathy of the patient to the doctor—she would do so at once if the dislike arose from a cause with which he was not personally connected. I may state that I have known this prevalence for the fragrant (?) weed lead, on one occasion, to a change of medical attendant on the part of a family, and this would be of far greater injury to the doctor than to sacrifice his tobacco immediately before visiting a particular patient. The case to which I allude was that where the only little son, a very delicate, tenderly loved child expressed the strongest dislike to his most skilful doctor because he smelt "nasty," the inevitable cigarette being always alight to the door of the house. No member of the family had the moral courage to mention this matter to the medical attendant—who, to this day, is ignorant of the cause of offence—and a rival practitioner, a non-smoker, was called in.—Yours truly,
"PRIVATE NURSE."

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