

Ward writes of highly strung and more or less noble natures; Robert Elsmere, David Grieve and Marcella were lovers of humanity and aspirers after true righteousness, but Bessie Costrell was pathetically incapable of goodness under the circumstances under which she lived, and among the temptations by which she was surrounded. She wanted the help of a strong man or woman, and beyond all she needed sympathy and a guiding hand from her husband, but none of these things were vouchsafed to her. Mrs. Ward shows in her studies of village character in this little volume great comprehension of the limitations of small and uneducated natures, and she describes the pathetic poverty of their aspirations and pleasures with that keen intuition which perhaps only genius combined with a rare sympathy for humanity is capable of.

"Bessie Costrell" was left in charge of her uncle's savings contained in a box; the temptation was too much for her, she spent the money on drink and frivolities, and when her miser uncle returned, and the inevitable hour of retribution arrived, she could not face the punishment of prison and the contempt of her husband and friends, and so she elected to escape from this life's justice and cast herself upon a Diviner compassion than that of her fellow-men. The last page of this story deserves to be read with alert attention, for it is most eloquent, and full of deep and tender insight into the tragedy of human fate. It is too long for quotation here, and moreover, should be read after and not before the story of Bessie Costrell's narrow life, sordid temptation, and miserable end.

"Princess Aline" is a great contrast to Mrs. Ward's sad story. It is a right merry little book, full of laughter and smiles from beginning to end, and may be very heartily recommended for summer holiday reading. Mr. Richard Harding Davis has been called the Kipling of America, I suppose by reason of his crisp style and the manner in which his tale skips and bounds along without any undue delay, and yet in the most natural and convincing manner in the world. Mr. Carlton, an American artist, falls in love with a picture in an illustrated newspaper of H.R.H. the Princess Aline of Hohenwald, and he pursues her to London, Paris, Constantinople and Athens. Occasionally he gets a glimpse of his divinity, but only a distant glimpse, and once he very nearly dined in her company, and only escaped that blissful honour because her august brother was bidden to dine with the Sultan, but it was all very romantic and engaging, and the pursuit of his Princess amused the volatile young painter hugely. But all the time a charming young American girl, who with her mother was traveling over the same route as Mr. Carlton, was silently captivating his affections, and he discovered all in a funny moment that his love for the Princess Aline was mirage, but that he adored Miss Morris ardently and deeply, and moreover was madly jealous of every other man who came near her; and then Miss Morris laughed softly, and the sweet little story ends with happy marriage bells.

One grumble must be made—why, oh why did Messrs. Macmillan clothe this dainty tale in such a hideous red and yellow binding that it reminds one forcibly of the detested Gregory's mixture of nursery days? The illustrations also are exceedingly poor, and are not in the least worthy of the charming people that they are intended to represent.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"Out of the East," Reveries and Studies in New Japan, by Lafcadio Hearn. (London: Osgood, McIlvaine & Co. 5s.)

"Advance Japan: A Nation Thoroughly in Earnest," by J. Morris. Illustrations by R. Isayama, Military Artist of the Buzen Clan, Southern Japan. (London: W. H. Allen & Co., Limited. 12s. 6d.)

"Some Celebrated Irish Beauties of the Last Century," by Frances Gerard, author of "Angelica Kauffmann." With numerous portraits and illustrations, 1 vol. 21s.

"Conventional Lies of our Civilisation," by Max Nordau, author of "Degeneration." The authorised English Translation. 17s. net.

"Studies of Contemporary Superstition," by W. H. Mallock, author of "The New Republic," &c. 1 vol. 6s.

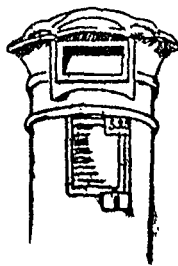
"My Lady Nobody," by Maarten Maartens, author of "God's Fool," "The Sin of Joost Avelingh," &c. In 1 vol. 6s.

"Studies of Men," by G. W. Smalley. (Including Mr. A. J. Balfour, Lord Rosebery, Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Parnell, The German Emperor, Lord Randolph Churchill, Prince Bismarck, Lord Tennyson, Sir Edward Burne-Jones, and others.)

"The Climates and Baths of Great Britain," being the Report of a Committee of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, Wm. Ord, M.D., Chairman; A. E. Garrod, M.D., Hon. Sec. Vol. I.

"The Practice of Massage: its Physiological Effects and Therapeutic Uses," by A. Symons Eccles, M.B., Aberdeen, M.R.C.S.E., &c.

Booksellers' catalogues are not usually particularly humorous productions, but Messrs. Hatchards have at least hit upon an original idea. They advertise part of their stock as "Neglected Books." "Election Speeches by the Right. Hon. the Marquis of Hartington" is on the list. As men of letters we regret the presence of Walter Bagehot's "Literary Studies." But the fate that has overtaken most of the derelicts is deserved.



## 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.*

### LEPROSY AND VACCINATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was much interested in reading in the NURSING RECORD AND HOSPITAL WORLD of July 20th, an account of the noble work of the Mission to Lepers in India and the East, and with your permission should like to state the results of investigation into the remarkable recrudescence of leprosy in recent years. Evidence on this point was brought before the Royal Commission on Vaccination, and has since been accumulating from various countries to the effect that the Jennerian operation is responsible for much of this repulsive and incurable plague.

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