

from beginning to end the story of his relations to Cardinal Newman, and read with an unbiassed mind the strange correspondence that took place between them. It is God's will that even very good and great men should be human and fallible while they live upon earth, and I think it cannot do anyone harm, but rather good, to read how one great man was good in spite of faults, unworthy ambitions, and even petty and unworthy jealousies.

If I had a fault to find with this remarkable (and in many people's eyes over-candid) biography, it would be that Mr. Purcell does not show in his choice of letters and subjects, and in his somewhat drastic judgments thereon, a due sense of proportion. There are some matters that the moment they are written about, dragged into the light of day, and commented upon, assume at once undue prominence. Of such a nature was the jealousy that Manning records that he felt for the successful ministration of his curate at Lavington; the mere fact of recording these passing feelings focusses them wrongly and forces them into unfair prominence.

The second volume is far more interesting to the general reader than the first. All his life the Cardinal was thrown with eminent personages, by whom he was evidently greatly loved and appreciated; but in the second half of his life he was himself not only a remarkable and deeply interesting personage, but circumstances forced him over and over again into taking part in prominent political movements. He was a power at the Vatican, and of course as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster his influence must have been very far reaching indeed. Moreover, in his later years, he was much mixed up with social reforming measures among the poor, such as his sympathy (though possibly injudicious) with the dockers in the great strike, with the poor children of the lowest classes in London, and with many good and wholesale schemes for promoting temperance and thrift among the masses.

Towards the end of the second volume, Mr. Purcell sums up in a paragraph the reason for the failures of Cardinal Manning's life. This paragraph is so full of insight and, sums up so well the general tone of the whole biography, that I will quote it here:—

"Manning never understood, early or late, the wisdom of co-operation—never valued the virtue of competition. His idea was concentration of authority—one mind to conceive, one hand to execute. This narrowness of mind was his chief intellectual defect. It led by degrees to the isolation of his life."

Taken as a whole, this brave biography may perhaps be unsatisfactory to the Roman Catholics, who would fain have had their famous Cardinal appear as a Saint among men, though many serious-minded among them have spoken of it in my hearing with considerable admiration and approval. But setting aside the question of creed and dogma, this biography is, at any rate, a grand human document, and judged as such will be found to be full of instruction and edification to other fallible yet aspiring human beings. I think the truest comment on Cardinal Manning's life is contained in the famous lines:—

"The light of every soul burns upwards. Let us make allowances for atmospheric disturbances."

Possibly this saying is too optimistic for the generality of mankind, but if we substitute the word "his" for "every," we shall find that it was pre-eminently true of Cardinal Manning, for, in spite of many mental disturbances, his soul did burn ever steadily heavenwards.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"Democracy and Liberty," by W. E. H. Lecky, M.P. (Longmans.)

"The Heart of a Continent;" a Narrative of Travels in Manchuria, across the Gobi Desert, through the Himalayas, the Pamirs, and Chitral, 1884-1894, by Captain Frank E. Younghusband, C.I.E., Indian Staff Corps. (John Murray.)

"American Discourses," by Matthew Arnold.

"Voices, and other Verses," by C. Allen Clarke. (London: Clarion Office, Fleet Street; Manchester: The Labour Press Society, Tibb Street.)

"Poems and Lyrics," by W. J. Dawson. (London: Macmillan.)

"Modern Women," by Laura Marholm Hannson. Translated by Hermione Ramsden.

"The Trespasses of Two," by Frederic Breton. (Hutchinson & Co.)

"A Village Drama," by V. Schallenberger. (London: Bliss, Sands, and Foster.)

"A Few Memories," by Mary Anderson (Mme. de Navarre).

"IA," by "Q," Author of "Dead Man's Rock," "Wandering Heath," &c.

Miss Olive Schreiner will contribute a series of articles on South Africa and the Boers to the *Fortnightly Review*. The first will appear in the April number.

## Coming Events.

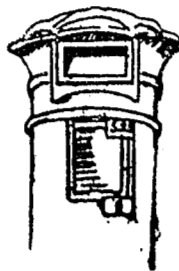
*March 31st.*—A Lecture illustrative of Roentgen's Rays, in aid of St. Thomas's Hospital Appeal Fund will be given in the Governor's Hall, St. Thomas's Hospital, at 9 o'clock p.m., by A. Campbell Swinton, Esq., with limelight illustrations and practical demonstrations. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, can be obtained by application to the Treasurer, The Counting House, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.

*April 14th.*—The Lord Chief Justice of England will preside at the King's College Hospital Annual Festival Dinner.

*April 16th.*—Ball, under the patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, in aid of the funds of the Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, at the Town Hall.

## 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.*

### NURSES' HOME OF REST, BRIGHTON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As one of my Nurses has lately enjoyed a stay of over six weeks at the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton, we both feel that we should like to express to you our gratitude for the very kind interest you have taken in Nurses, and especially in being the

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