

making it thus particularly adapted for the application of ointment and the dressing of minor wounds. This preparation deserves to be better known to the Nursing world, and especially amongst private Nurses, who are well aware of the bitterness with which patients complain of the manner in which their clothes are ruined by ointments applied on ordinary lint. The splint-padding also of this firm—a combination of absorbent cotton and carbolised tow, made up as a thick, soft pad between sheets of gauze, is well worthy of being better known; the padding being not only prepared for use on the splint at a moment's notice, but being specially absorbent and antiseptic. A number of woollen goods—under-vests, body-belts, and chest protectors made of the finest lambswool, were exhibited by this firm, and attracted well-deserved commendation, as did also a "First field dressing," a compact and convenient package containing all the materials necessary for first aid in accidents.

CADBURY BROS., of Birmingham, filled a large space with specimens of Cocoa in various stages of manufacture, which aroused much interest; and they proved that the cocoa-essence, for which this firm possesses a world-wide reputation, is made from absolutely pure cocoa. The multitudinous preparations of Chocolate produced by the firm were not only exhibited, but were, during the meeting of the Association, continually tasted by large numbers of visitors, to their own delectation we have no doubt, and certainly to the well-deserved praise of the firm of Messrs. Cadbury Bros.

(To be continued.)

## A Book of the Week.

### "THE COURTSHIPS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH."\*

MR. HUME has carefully arranged in this volume a great mass of diplomatic documents of the time of Queen Elizabeth, in which are reflected the continually shifting aspects of political affairs. Mr. Hume, in a brief preface, points out that "a strong modern England was rendered possible mainly by the boldness, astuteness, and activity of Elizabeth at the critical turning-point of European history is generally admitted; but how masterly her policy was, and how entirely personal to herself, is even yet, perhaps, not fully understood" (and he states that his endeavour has been to exhibit), "the general process by which England, under the guidance of the great Tudor Queen, was able to emerge regenerated and triumphant from

\* "The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth," a history of the various negotiations for her marriage, by Martin S. Hume. (Fisher Unwin, 1896.)

the struggle which was to settle the fate of the world for centuries to come."

So far so good, but these courtships of the astute Queen Bess are most comical and delectable reading, and the chapters in which they are recorded are not mere dry historical documents, but are most humorous and amusing gossip as well, and therefore may be safely recommended for holiday reading, while if any one perusing should gain from their pages some historical facts, so much the better for him or her.

One gathers from Mr. Hume's record of the great Queen's courtship that she was the most conceited and vacillating coquette that ever glanced at a lover from the shelter of a fan in any age, clime, or estate. A week after Queen Mary's death, the keen contest of wits began around the matrimonial possibilities of Elizabeth, which, according to our present historian, ended in the making of modern England.

The vacillating policy of Elizabeth drove all the foreign ambassadors (who came a-wooing for their royal masters) frantic. "First she would and then she wouldn't, then she thought perhaps she couldn't." In fact, she never said "Yes" and she never said "No," and no one knew from day to day what she would do, or, equally important, what she would not do. Elizabeth was evidently very partial to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. As a woman she fancied him exceedingly, but as a queen she did not care for a subject as a consort; besides which she evidently enjoyed being wooed by crowned heads and other eminent personages. Maximilian, Emperor of Austria, had a project of allying his brother to this English Queen, who told his ambassador that she had promised the Earl of Leicester no answer—in fact, he never had the presumption to ask her to marry him; but the Council had done so, and it was for them to ask for a reply, and not Leicester; but she remarked, "the Earl had good parts and great merits, and if she had to marry a subject she had a great liking for him." Small wonder that, with such Janus-like speeches, she puzzled and bewildered all the foreign envoys and home councillors. Space fails me to quote more of this entertaining history of how a woman kept all Europe dangling at her feet in expectation of her marriage with some potentate, and finally "diddled" them all by remaining unwed to the end of her prosperous reign.

When I was travelling in Russia some years ago, I spent some time in Moscow, and there I was shown, as a great favour, some autograph letters of Queen Elizabeth's, written to Ivan the Terrible, with whom she also coquetted for a period. These letters were most entertaining and amusing reading. It is to be hoped that, in a later edition of this book, Mr. Hume will include some account of Elizabeth's "carryings on" with that terrible Russian Emperor.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

"English Minstrelsie:" A National Monument of English Song, Collected and Edited, with Notes and Historical Introductions, by S. Baring Gould, M.A.

"The Life and Works of Robert Burns." Edited by Robert Chambers. Revised by William Wallace With Illustrations.

"Beautiful Sewing, and How to Do It," by Josepha Crane. Wells, Gardner, Darton, and Co. Price 3d.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)