

them the sights and antiquities in Rome; how this intrusion ended, and what was the fate of the intruder and all the members of the Rev. W. Parker's excursion party, we advise our readers to discover for themselves from the book.

The last tale in the collection, "The Spectre of the Real," was written in collaboration with Mr. Thomas Hardy, the well-known novelist. It is a powerful, but a disagreeable story, though it undoubtedly captivates the attention by reason of the art with which it is told more than for any intrinsic interest of the story itself, which relates how an exceedingly badly-behaved young woman married a somewhat disagreeable-natured young man upon impulse, but secretly; how she repented at leisure, and when she had not heard of the faithless Jim for over seven years she tries to form a matrimonial alliance with an eligible and attractive peer, but No. 1. turns up, and, though she is wedded to the nobleman husband for a few hours, in the end she is left widowed of them both. It is a gruesome tale but it is full of effective touches, and here and there on its pages are to be found one of those short but graphic descriptions of out-door life that reveal the greatest masters of pen landscape painting that ever lived and wrote and delighted readers.

I think it is to be regretted that so many authors and authoresses of merit and distinction are now devoting so much of their valuable time and attention to writing short stories. These are all very well when they appear in a magazine or weekly paper, but when they are collected in book form they are apt to weary the attention, and a succession of snap-shot episodes and sketches, however admirably and artistically they may be modelled, are apt to blur the pictures in the memory of the present quick reading, quick forgetting generation of men and women. But Mrs. Henniker's dainty writing is far too good in quality to be forgotten, and therefore I trust that her next literary effort will be a longer story. Her former novel, "Sir George," was finely conceived, and, though the tale was melancholy, it was related with a well-balanced alternation of both pathos and humour. The Hon. Mrs. Henniker, we would remind our readers, inherits much of her literary ability, for she is the daughter of the late Lord Houghton, better known to fame as the poet Monckton Mills, and she is the sister of the present Earl of Crewe.

A. M. G.

Bookland.

The Hub, the new illustrated cycling paper of George Newnes, Limited, should prove of interest to Nurses who cycle. We are promised that it will be full of bright, up-to-date, chatty articles on cycling in all its phases. Every week there will be a chat with some man of note in the cycling world, and an interview now and then with a well-known lady cyclist, who will tell all about her cycling experiences. *The Hub* will also give illustrated short tours indicating routes, with a full description of the roads within riding distance of the large cities. Personal paragraphs about prominent cyclists will be published every week, and everything that can possibly interest cyclists will find a place in the pages of this new cycling paper. The paper is published every Tuesday at one penny.

Miss Marie Corelli's new book "The Murder of Delicia," will be published on the 24th inst.

Mr. Stanley Weyman's new novel has been secured by the *Idler*; Mr. Rudyard Kipling's by *Pearson's Magazine*.

A most fascinating article appears in the *Pall Mall Magazine* for the current month on Marat, by Professor Morse Stephens, in which he endeavours to rehabilitate in public esteem the much vilified *Ami du peuple*. Professor Stephens goes into the antecedents of Marat, tracing his ancestry and describing his early life with conscientious minuteness. He certainly does prove, and proves conclusively, that Marat, far from being a mere "horse-leech," as Carlyle has it, was a skilled physician who won repute and a large income from the practice of his profession. In pre-Revolution days he had lived in England. For twelve years—1765-77—he followed his profession in London, residing in Soho. Two tracts on medical subjects, copies of which are still in existence, show that Marat was no mere quack, but a scientific physician; and the circumstances of their publication prove that he held a recognised position among the London doctors of his time.

Professor Stephens proposes to deal with Marat's career during the French Revolution in a subsequent essay. It will be awaited with much eagerness by those who have read the current article.

Mr. Fisher Unwin has in preparation a new book by Major Martin A. Sharp Hume, whose last work on "The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth" is now in its fourth edition. "The Year after the Armada," as it will be entitled, consists of a series of historical studies gathered principally from hitherto unpublished contemporary diaries. Numerous interesting portraits will illustrate the text.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. have in the press a new volume by Mrs. Mannington Caffyn, the author of the "Yellow Aster." This new story is to be called "A Quaker Grandmother," and will be published about the middle of the month.

WHAT TO READ.

"The Poets Laureate of England: From the Earliest Times to the Present," by J. C. Young. (London: Jarrold and Sons.)

"Life and Times of Girolamo Savonarola," by Professor P. Villari. Portraits and Illustrations.

"Modern Political Orations," edited by Leopold Wagner. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)

"Official Report on the Jameson Raid into the Territory of South African Republic." Printed by order of the Cape Parliament.

"Helen," by Maria Edgeworth. Illustrated by Chris. Hammond. With an Introduction by Anne Thackeray Ritchie.

"The World and a Man," by Z. Z., Author of "A Drama in Dutch."

"Here and There Memories," by H. R. N.

"Black Diamonds." A novel. By Maurus Jokai. First edition. Translated by Frances Gerard. (London: Jarrold and Sons.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)