

abodes of every kind of vice and irregularity ; and it is from the child's standpoint that the sordid moves in this horrible game are narrated at great length, and with abundant detail.

It is very clever. The one thing a child least understands is an *arrière pensée*, or a *double entendre*; and Maisie lives in an atmosphere of both. Her pathetic efforts to piece together what the opposing parties say to her, her brave determination to believe in those she loves, are heartrending. Her mother marries again ; her father also marries again ; the man whom her mother marries forms a *liaison* with the woman her father marries ; and, from sharing first her father's and then her mother's so-called protection, she comes to be with the third couple, the entirely vile Mrs. Beale Farange number two, and the weak Sir Claude, who seems to be genuinely fond of the child.

It is a most confusing story. It consists almost entirely of dialogue, in which, as everybody always speaks with the idea of deceiving somebody else, and with most involved motives, the reader has to weigh every sentence, and consider every suggestion, with a closeness which is liable to produce headache. In the end the heroic old Mrs. Wix achieves a kind of rescue of Maisie, and the pair depart leaving things in the state of absolute uncertainty which is so dear to the heart of this fascinating, provoking writer. The workmanship of the tale is so ingenious, that to skip a sentence is fatal to a due appreciation of the whole. It is not nearly so clever as "The Spoils of Poynton," in which Mr. James showed plainly that he has no need to be afraid of a climax, and that he is a true master of the art of portraying deep feeling ; but for all that "What Maisie Knew" is a very remarkable piece of work, and by an author who never wrote anything that was not worth reading. G. M. R.

(I am much interested in the correspondence on "Ghosts," which the notice of "Lady Mary's Experiences" has called forth. The story of the ghostly photograph is especially interesting. It is the second of the kind that I have heard. The other was related to me on excellent authority, and, though not at first hand, names and date were given. A young lady was staying at a country house in Scotland. During her visit, the master of the house—a very old man—died. While all the family were absent at the funeral, she employed herself in taking photographs of various rooms in the house, to present to her hostess, as a memento of her visit. Among other rooms, she photographed the old gentleman's writing table, in his study, where he habitually sat. When the plate was developed, he was seen seated there, in his accustomed habit, in his accustomed place.

It is, I believe, a recognized fact that the eye of the camera can detect objects invisible to the eye of man, as in the well-known case when a photograph was taken of a ship, which had been lately repainted. When the photo was printed, the hull was covered with lettering. This lettering had really been there, but had been painted out before the photo was taken, and could not be seen at all. Will this help in any way towards a scientific explanation of the phenomena we call ghosts?)

## Professional Review.

WE have received from Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, 11, Paternoster Buildings, E.C., a copy of "Mother, Baby, and Nursery: a Manual for Mothers," by Genevieve Tucker, M.D. The book is prettily got up, the print large and clear, and illustrated in an original fashion with charming little pictures of the babies whose acquaintance Dr. Tucker has made in the course of her professional career. The published price is 3s. 6d., and we heartily commend the book to mothers.

The first chapters upon heredity, and the prenatal period, are full of wisdom, and may be carefully studied with advantage by both parents. After reading them, we think that many parents will realize their responsibilities, both to one another, and to their unborn children, in a way which they have never done before. These chapters deserve a wide circulation, and can be only productive of good. Dr. Tucker is a strong believer in the law of heredity. "Like genders like ; potatoes 'tater's breed," is her motto. If we may venture upon a criticism it is that we do not think Dr. Tucker sufficiently emphasizes the fact, which we believe she holds, that the law of heredity may be, and undoubtedly is, strong ; but grace is stronger, and the child born of depraved parents, need not necessarily become debased. To hold so terrible a doctrine, would be sad indeed ; but that the offspring of vicious parents do start the race of life heavily handicapped, and with strong tendencies to the same vices as their parents, there can be no doubt. Dr. Tucker presses home this fact with an urgent insistence, as also the fact of the influence of the mother during the prenatal period upon the mental condition of the child. She goes so far as to say : "If the mother put forth persistent and determined effort in any direction, with a whole-soul desire, she may determine with almost a certainty the mental bent and career of her unborn child. *Capacity* for mental efforts is given by parents' attainments, but the particular mental direction may be largely directed in the prenatal months by the mother."

Dr. Tucker illustrates this theory by a definite example. Of five children in a family, the two eldest are dull, and very slow to learn ; the third, a child of twelve years, is remarkably bright, sensitive, talented, apt and quick at her lessons, with a keen appreciation of the beauties of nature. The younger children, while not her equal, are superior to the eldest in mental and physical states. The history of the mother is this—reared in the east, with fair advantages, she became the wife of a farmer, and moved to the west, and was deprived of all social and literary privileges, and much overworked in the bread-and-butter struggle of life. In the early months of the prenatal period of the favoured child the mother's attention was attracted to a volume of Walter Scott's poems at the house of a neighbour. She became possessed with a desire to have a volume of her own. After much trouble and sacrifice she got one. Her own words are as follows :—"I had a glorious time reading it. For hours I forgot my fatigue and cares." She read and re-read the book, and came to know it by heart, and to repeat it by rote, when at her work. There is no doubt, that this was the cause of the superior and poetic tendencies of the child.

Then follow other chapters, which contain much useful information to mothers, upon points demanding their attention with regard to the care of the child. We are ourselves in favour of the ordinary soap and

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