

But love, as the writer of this book full well knows, exists everywhere, in the gutter as often as in the palace; and through the cheap coarseness, the hideous nakedness of Liza's surroundings, there winds like a silver streak, the stream of Tom's faithfulness and devotion. He loves her. He can love, and so can she, poor soiled blossom, smeared with London smuttiness; and Liza's refusal to marry Tom in the extremity of her degradation, speaks of the tiny germ of the divine self-forgetfulness, to be found even in that pitiful soil.

Every touch in the book throughout, strikes one as entirely true to nature. The bank-holiday excursion to Chingford, and the street fight between Liza and the injured Mrs. Blakeston, are quite masterpieces of narration. Mr. Maugham never flinches, but he is also never unnecessarily disgusting. His strange book is a human document in every sense.

Liza's mother is a portrait in which every single touch tells. It is, in its way, inimitable. For anyone who really wishes to know "how the other half lives," this book will be a revelation; the life of the London coster, with its limitations and its greatneses, is here before us.

G. M. R.

Professional Review.

WE have received for review a copy of "Early Education," by Mrs. Ada S. Ballin, editor of *Baby: the Mothers' Magazine*, and published at the office of this journal, 5, Agar Street, Strand, W.C. This booklet is intended to be regarded as introductory to a larger work written by the same author in conjunction with Miss Eleanor A. Weldon, head mistress of the Kindergarten Training College at Cheltenham, which, it is claimed, will enable any mother to educate her children according to the kindergarten system.

Consistently with the theory expressed in its pages, that a child should not be more than about a week old when its education begins, the first chapter is devoted to "Early Education." The next treats of the kindergarten system, and the various ways in which children can be educated while at their play. "Play," we are told, is used by Froebel as the means of directing activity into the proper channel. By his first "gift," a coloured ball attached to a string, the attention is drawn to form, colour, texture, elasticity, and other properties, and in kindergarten schools various movements are performed, at the word of command, by all the children together. The principle of combined action is one of the most important, as repressive of selfishness. The second "gift" consists of a sphere, a cube, and a cylinder, and so the difference in forms is taught. The third, a cube composed of eight smaller cubes. So lessons in geometry and fractions are learned, and education generally, proceeds along the same lines. In Mrs. Ballin's opinion, children should not be taught to read until they are seven or eight years old. On the other hand, we are told that quite young children should be taught to be useful, and helpful, to themselves and others. Excellent toys to encourage children in the performance of household duties are sold by Messrs. Hamley, of 64, Regent Street,—complete little sets of household utensils, with little practical stoves, washing sets, with ironing boards, irons and wringer, and so on. Further chapters treat of rewards and punishments, school life, education and nervous disease, and education and eyesight. The

increase of diseases of the eye amongst children in consequence of close application to books, is a remarkable feature of the present age, and any rules for the guidance of those concerned in educating the young, which will lead them to guard against over-strain in this respect, will be found most helpful. The final chapter deals with "The Child's Future." The book, though small, appears to us to contain much valuable information, and those whose duty it is to educate or instruct young children will do well to procure it, and master its contents.

Bookland.

Those who know and love the works of the late Lord Tennyson—and they are many—will welcome the Memoir of the late Poet Laureate, "Alfred, Lord Tennyson," which is written by his son, the present Lord Tennyson. It is in two volumes, and contains many letters written by the poet, as well as letters written to him from many distinguished persons. We note with satisfaction that many hitherto unpublished poems appear in its pages. The work is dedicated by permission to Her Majesty the Queen.

WHAT TO READ.

"St. Ives: being the Adventures of a French Prisoner in England." By Robert-Louis Stevenson.

"The Water of the Wondrous Isles." By William Morris.

"A Servant of 'John Company': being the Recollections of an Indian Official." By H. G. Keene, C.I.E.

"The Tenth Island: being Some Account of Newfoundland." By Beckles Willson.

"Jerome." By Mary E. Wilkins.

"Marietta's Marriage." By W. E. Norris.

"In Spite of Fate." By Silas K. Hocking.

Coming Events.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

It has been arranged that a public meeting shall take place in St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross Road, on Wednesday, October 13th, at 4 p.m., under the auspices of the Members' Rights Defence Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, when the reasons for the public inquiry, which is now being demanded, into the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will be explained, and important resolutions will be proposed. Those interested in the question are cordially invited to attend.

THE SANITARY INSTITUTE.

October 14th.—Objects and Methods of Inspection, Nuisances, etc. J. F. J. Sykes, D.Sc., M.D., Lecturer on Public Health, Guy's Hospital, Med. Off. of Health, St. Pancras, at 8 p.m.

October 18th.—Factories, Workshops, and Offensive Trades. Prof. A. Bostock Hill, M.D., D.P.H. Camb., F.I.C., Queen's Professor of Hygiene and Public Health, Mason's College, Birmingham, Med. Off. of Health, Sutton-Coldfield, etc., at 8 p.m.

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