

The "New Woman."

(From the *White Ribbon*, New Zealand.)

SHE does not "languish in her bower,"
Or squander all the golden day
In fashioning a gaudy flower
Upon a worsted spray ;
Nor is she quite content to wait
Behind her "rose-wreathed lattice pane,
Until beside her father's gate
The gallant prince draws rein."
The brave "New Woman" scorns to sigh,
And count it "such a grievous thing"
That year on year should hurry by
And no gay suitor bring ;
In labour's ranks she takes her place,
With skilful hands and cultured mind ;
Not always foremost in the race,
But never far behind.
And not less lightly fall her feet
Because they tread the busy way ;
She is no whit less fair and sweet
Than maids of olden days,
Who, gowned in samite and brocade,
Looked charming in their dainty guise,
But dwelt like violets in the shade,
With shy, half-opened eyes.
Of life she takes a clearer view,
And through the press serenely moves,
Unfettered, free ; with judgment true
Avoiding narrow grooves.
She reasons and she understands ;
And sometimes 'tis her joy and crown
To lift with strong yet tender hands
The burdens men lay down.

E. MATHESON.

Bookland.

The "New Letters of Napoleon I." will be published here early in November by Mr. Heinemann.

Mrs. Hodgson Burnett's novel, "His Grace of Osmond," will be published by Messrs. Warne next week.

The stories in Mrs. Flora Annie Steel's volume, "In the Permanent Way," issued this week, all deal with life in India ; in fact, Mrs. Steel is now recognized as our great Indian novelist.

A new weekly journal, *Literature*, edited by Mr. H. D. Traill, has started on a career, which we hope may be very successful, this week. The first issue contains a new poem, "White Horses," by Mr. Rudyard Kipling, as well as a "Colloquy on Criticism," by Mr. Birrell.

WHAT TO READ.

"The Coming of Love, and Other Poems." By Theodore Watts-Dunton.

"Private Papers of William Wilberforce." Collected and edited, with a preface, by A. M. Wilberforce, with Portraits.

"Life of Edward Bouverie Pusey." By Henry Parry Liddon, D.D.

"In the Permanent Way." By Mrs. F. A. Steel.

"Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker." By S. Weir Mitchell.

"A Prince of Mischance." By Tom Gallon.



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.

THE PUBLIC INQUIRY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me, as Honorary Secretary of the Members' Rights Defence Committee, to point out to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the reason for the circular which has recently been issued to them by my Committee. It is felt that matters in the Royal British Nurses' Association have now reached a crisis, and that the present conditions cannot be allowed to continue. The demand for a public inquiry into its management therefore, which is now being widely advocated by the press, must, on account of its reasonableness, commend itself to all, whether they approve of the present policy or no. The position which should be adopted by those who support the honorary officers is surely, that statements have been made at public meetings, and in the public press, which can be disproved, that it is only right that these officers should have the opportunity afforded by a public inquiry given to them to prove that the grave charges brought against them are utterly without foundation, and to confound those who have made them. For, if these statements are untrue, no condemnation can be too strong for those who have publicly circulated them. For these reasons, therefore, those who uphold the honorary officers, should support the demand for a public inquiry, as in no other way, but by an independent inquiry, can their rectitude and good faith be fully established.

On the other hand, it is obvious that if the charges brought against the honorary officers are *true*, that there is ample justification for the demand for a public inquiry. Those who support the officials, and those who oppose them on principle may, therefore, and surely should, unite in urging upon Members of Parliament the necessity for a public inquiry, at which they may hope to see right vindicated and truth established. That we are rapidly approaching such an inquiry is, I think, obvious. I quote one or two remarks of the press which I could multiply by some dozens did space permit. The *Daily Chronicle* says—"Of course the officials of the Association see no need for inquiry—no official ever does; for is he not more than content with the dark corners, and the ill-lit corridors of life? The bright light of open day hurts his weak eyes. It induces sleeplessness at night; besides the common public is so rude, and will stare and ask dangerous questions; acts in fact as a dangerous irritant on the sensitive official mind. But, we are of the public—seekers after light—and we hope the inquiry will be held."

The *Newcastle Leader* says—"The statements made

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