

students in their employment. Sir Edward Sieveking, in returning thanks to the hon. secretary, heartily endorsed the medical opinion which he gave in the early days of the college, six years ago, that gardening was a most healthy and admirable employment for women. A conversation took place, and funds were asked for in order that a new road might be constructed close to the college—which it was stated would be an immense advantage to the students—and for the balance of the cost of a rose garden, which is to be made under the direction of Dean Hole.

A lady has invented a motor cradle, which can be worked by electricity or petroleum.

Miss Clara Brett Martin, who has just been admitted to the Ontario Bar, has been made a junior partner in the legal firm of Shillon, Walbridge, and Martin, Toronto. She intends to specialize on the laws relating to woman—her citizenship, her estates, her children, and her individual responsibilities. Her first case was concerned, not with her sex, but with commercial law. She argued it very capably before Judge Marson, and won it. She is described as an earnest and attractive young woman, her most striking characteristic being her indomitable perseverance.

### A Book of the Week.

#### "A FIERY ORDEAL."\*

THE author of "Uncle Piper of Piper's Hill," has given us another sketch of Australian life and manners.

The story opens at Tarooma, a lonely farm in the wilds, owned by Mr. James Fenton, a young man who has betted, gambled, and speculated away his fortune, and has been set up on the farm through the generosity of one David Brewer, a Scotch-Australian millionaire, a hard, just man, who knew and respected his father. But James Fenton is a confirmed gambler, a man who under no circumstances does a stroke of honest work. He has married an extremely beautiful girl of eighteen, whom, even at his worst, he loves after his fashion. When the story opens, the three years of grace allotted by David Brewer are at an end, and Fenton has not one farthing with which to meet his liabilities. He accordingly sends his wife to plead with the millionaire. On the way in the train, she makes the acquaintance of his son Donald, who extracts from her the leading features of her wretched life, and takes upon himself the hopeless task of attempting Jim Fenton's reform.

The character of Jim is the best thing in the book. His entire belief in his own high deserts and bad luck—his occasional outbursts of penitence, when for a moment he sees himself as he is, as in the incident in which he knocks Ruth's head against the wall—his efforts to corrupt her moral nature, his horror of her when she seems to be profiting by his lessons—all these are telling strokes, well executed.

Maria, the maid of all work, though the slightest of sketches, is well touched in; so is sullen Michael, and the thrifty Scotchman, David Brewer.

The account of the bush fire, and the stampede of

the cattle, is quite thrilling, as is the clever device of the "jackaroo," for the escape of the party. A jackaroo, it should be explained, is a young Englishman who has come out to Australia to learn Colonial ways. He may be a Duke's son or a chimney sweep, but he is always a new hand, and called upon to perform odd jobs. The one in the present story is named Percy, and possesses such unusual intelligence that we are sorry not to see more of him. As things stand, he seems too obviously dragged into the story to provide a partner for Bertha Kinnaird.

The story is a slight one, but it is well put together, well told, and has a flavour of originality, like all "Tasma's" work. G. M. R.

### Coming Events.

*January 8th.*—The Bishop of London presides at the reading by Sir Squire Bancroft in Lincoln's Inn Hall in aid of the funds of the King's College Hospital.

*January 31st.*—Reading of Dickens's "Christmas Carol," by Sir Squire Bancroft, at the St. James's Theatre, on behalf of the East London District Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. H.R.H. Princess Louise has signified her intention of being present. Tickets are obtainable at the theatre, or from the Hon. Frances Wolseley, Glynde Place, Lewes, Sussex.

#### ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

*January 14th.*—Quarterly Meeting of the General Council. 5 p.m.

*January 28th.*—Second Sessional Lecture. By Dr. Colman. "Egypt."

### Bookland.

Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke has been entrusted by the family of the late Duchess of Teck with the duty of writing the memoir of Her Royal Highness. The book, which will be illustrated, will be published by Mr. Murray, some time before Easter.

Mrs. Bishop's book of travels in Korea will be published this week. The illustrations are numerous, and are produced from photographs taken by Mrs. Bishop. The book comes at a psychological moment.

An article, entitled "The Modern Girl," will appear in the *Temple Magazine* for February, by Sarah Grand.

#### WHAT TO READ.

- "Poems and Songs." By W. E. Brockbank.
- "Poems." By Stephen Phillips.
- "From Tonkin to India." By Prince Henri of Orleans. Translated by Hamley Bent.
- "Peter the Great." By K. Waliszewski.
- "Celebrated Trials." By H. L. Clinton.
- "The New Man: a Chronicle of the Modern Times." By Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer.
- "Through One Man's Sin." By Hamilton Orton.
- "The Son of the Czar." By J. M. Graham.
- "The Singer of Marly." By I. Hooper.

\* "A Fiery Ordeal," by Tasma. (Bentley.)

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