

account of Sir George's dignity. His reason for his objection is that he does not think George the man to remain constant to a woman for the sake of an ideal. He knows his character to be weak, and thinks that, after the first glamour of passion wears off, he may hold his wife lightly because other people do so.

The marriage, however, takes place, and Geoffrey, seeing the bride upon her wedding day, succumbs there and then to the abiding love of his life. The young, beautiful, Lady Grandville becomes all the world to him. This is the part of the tale which is drawn so naturally, so delicately. Though the young wife knows that Geoffrey is extremely fond of her—though he is guide, comforter, and friend—she never knows the nature of his feeling for her; for Geoffrey is an English gentleman, and has the traditions of an honourable race behind him. His love is much, but his honour is more.

For eight years the marriage seems to be an unqualified success. Then a governess is engaged for the little girl—the only child of the marriage. The governess is Jane Treachell.

Now Jane Treachell is the conventional wicked governess of fiction. She plots against the life of her mistress, she has secret meetings with a foreign-looking man in the park, she goes to the post office to get her own letters, she altogether manifests the stock-in-trade of the regulation Wilkie Collins governess. But the marvel is that in the hands of Mr. Hamilton Aidé, she is not a bit conventional, but interesting; and the story is not in the least sensational, but quiet, and so real that one believes every word.

The gradual subjugation of the weak Sir George is very well drawn. We are hardly given half-a-dozen sentences as passing between them, but one feels intensely the influence of the clever purposeful woman moulding the weak, obstinate, spoilt young man.

"Devilish plain," is his first verdict upon Jane Treachell, and he only begins to charge it when he sees her sitting to perfection the mettlesome horse which his wife was always too timid to ride.

The obvious fault in the story is the extreme improbability that Sir George could have retained Miss Treachell as a member of his household, after the scene in the Park. He might have been convinced in his own mind that she was innocent—that is most likely; but his wife's state of feeling for her would have been more than enough to make him see that her remaining with them was out of the question. If he was so infatuated as not to see it, Geoffrey ought to have insisted. It does not seem to me that the gentlest of wives could have failed to assert herself after such a scene; and the relations between her and the governess must have become impossible.

But the dénouement is very well worked out.

G. M. R.

#### WHAT TO READ.

- "Danton." A Study. By Hilaire Belloc.  
 "The Story of the Princess Des Ursins in Spain (Camarera-Mayor). By Constance Hill.  
 "Marysienka: Marie de la Grange D' Arquier, Queen of Poland, and Wife of Sobieski, 1641-1716. By K. Waliszewski.  
 "1812." Napoleon I. in Russia. By Vassili Vereschagin.

"A Diary of St. Helena—the Journal of Lady Malcolm." Edited by Sir Arthur Wilson, K.C.I.E.

"The Workers: An Experiment in Reality." By Walter A. Wyckoff. I.—The East. II.—The West.

"No. 5, John Street." By Richard Whiteing, author of "The Island."

"La Strega, and Other Stories." By Ouida.

"Cousin Ivo." By Mrs. Andrew Dean.

"The Hypocrite: A Realistic Novel of Oxford and London Life."

### Coming Events.

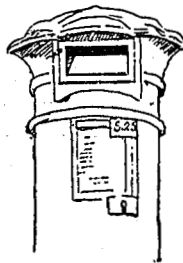
March 21st.—Drawing Room Meeting convened by Mrs. Charles Hancock, at 125, Queen's Gate, at which the Countess of Aberdeen, the Lady Battersea, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and others, will speak on the objects of the International Council of Women, and the forthcoming Congress. 3.30 p.m.

March 21st.—"Life in a Plague Stricken Village." A Lecture by Dr. Marion Hunter (late Plague Medical Officer, Poona), at 17, Pembridge Square, W., by the kind permission of Miss Gladstone. Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S., in the chair. Tickets, 5s. each, may be obtained from Miss Gladstone, 17, Pembridge Square, W., 4.30 p.m.

March 23rd.—East London Nursing Society—Annual Meeting, St. Martin's Church Vestry Hall, 3.0 p.m.

### 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.*

#### IN DEFENCE OF OUR HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—So the Society for the Protection of Hospital Patients has come to life again with Mr. J. G. Osborne as its Secretary—not Hon. Secretary, if we may take his signature as correct. We may all congratulate him on having found a post where he can manufacture grievances with impunity, and I sincerely hope at so much a week. The last time this precious society held a public meeting they selected the Town Hall at Poplar, an unfortunate choice for them if they wanted their abuse of hospitals to remain unanswered. After the large meeting had heard Miss Beatty retell her grievance, and a Miss Somebody else make a horrible speech on a subject best unnamed, and after one or two other speakers had shown their gross ignorance of hospital work and one, I really think it was Mr. Osborne himself, had declared that many hospitals

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)