

many and varied untruths and such very sharp practice—to put it mildly—that she decides he is impossible, though prepared to wink at a good deal and find excuses on the score of his poverty; yet even she gives him up at last, but keeps his secrets and continues her charities.

He tries a species of ritualistic revival and has dreams of some day becoming a bishop, dreams which are never realised, though we leave him after the storms are long passed in a sufficiently comfortable vicarage with a common-place vicaress and a large family.

The Curate's vulgar little cousin Pauline is also a remarkably unsympathetic personage in spite of being in a rapid consumption—not brought about by the Curate's desertion, however; she is so sordid, so vain, and so altogether unlovely and unloveable, that one is quite relieved when she quits the scene of action. Her epitaph should read, "Here lies a body whose soul never had a chance!"

The chronicles of other Sunninghamites are involved; there is the button-maker, the richest inhabitant, whose son falls in love with the prettiest dweller in the village, Letty Vayzell, daughter of a Scientist who, being in advance of the epoch, is universally considered to be crazy; at that period to call anyone 'an Original' was to brand him as an Idiot; now, we are all competing to deserve that epithet.

Characteristic as the studies are, there is an air of ugliness over the book; it is curiously lacking in "prettiness," but very many good folks will never miss this quality, but will find the story all the more realistic for the absence of fanciful touches in the forcible delineation of the inferior motives and slack perception of prosperous "business" people who flourished fifty years ago in wealthy and highly respectable Sunningham.

Those who admired "A Champion of the Sixties" will find Miss Barnett's new book no less interesting; there are many good things in it—not of the kind, perhaps, to appeal to lovers of the Rubayat or the Mahar-bharata, yet for all that there will be a huge public that will appreciate its many merits and enjoy the graphic pictures of Life as it was lived in a suburban but important village in the early Victorian epoch, which "God bless us!" does seem like the Dark Ages as compared to the present general illumination.

Bookland.

"Brightnoth's Prayer and other Poems," a new booklet by Dean Stubbs, contains the following dedication to his wife:—

These, sweet heart, as of right, to thee,
Love gifts due to thine own soul's life,
Thine but mine save by Love's decree,
Wife!

God-taught truths of the joy of life;
Earth-born dreams of eternity;
Echoes glad from the great world's strife;

All, sweet heart, as of right, to thee,
Fraught with laughter, with sadness rife;
Crown thou these who art crown to me,
Wife!

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Etchingam Letters." By Mrs. Fuller Maitland.
 "The Life of Maximilien Robespierre, with Extracts from his Unpublished Correspondence." By George Henry Lewis.
 "Der Krieg." By Von Johann von Bloch. A German translation of the Russian work of the author, "The War of the Future: its technical, economical, and political significance."
 "The Phillippines and Round About with Some Account of British Interests in These Waters." By Major G. S. Younghusband.
 "Lives and Times of the Early Valois Queens." By Catherine Bearne.
 "The Game of the Candle." By Rhoda Broughton.
 "The Black Douglas." By S. R. Crockett.
 "Young Lives." By Richard Le Gallienne.
 "Miss Nanse." By Sarah Tytler.
 "Professor Hieronimus: a Novel." By Amalie Skram. Translated from the Danish by Alice Stronach and G. B. Jacobi.
 "Autobiography of a Child."

Coming Events.

April 24th.—Metropolitan Hospital festival dinner, Hôtel Métropole, Mr. Harry L. W. Lawson, L.C.C., in the chair.

April 25th.—Annual Dinner of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, at Hôtel Métropole, Duke of Cambridge in the chair.

April 25th.—Meeting at the Mansion House in aid of the Royal Free Hospital.

April 29th.—Annual Dinner of the French Hospital and Dispensary, Hotel Cecil. The Lord Mayor will attend.

May 1st.—Prince of Wales presides over dinner at Hôtel Métropole in aid of the London Lifeboat Saturday Fund.

May 2nd.—The Duke of Cambridge presides at the Annual Dinner of the Sanitary Institute, Whitehall Rooms.

May 3rd.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany opens a Grand Bazaar at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, in aid of the Great Northern Central Hospital.

Viscount Peel presides at the Annual Dinner in aid of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, at the Hotel Cecil, 7.30.

The Bishop of London presides at the King's College Hospital Festival Dinner, Hotel Cecil.

May 11th.—Chelsea Hospital for Women—Annual Meeting of Governors, Lord Glenesk presiding, 3.

May 12th.—Hospital for Children in South London—Public Meeting at the Mansion House to further the scheme for re-establishing the Belgrave Hospital, the Lord Mayor presiding, 3.

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