

Christopher proves, later on, to have his serious side. But owing to the exigencies of the plot, poor Myles is never allowed to smile all through his brief and troubled pilgrimage. Christopher, when he finds that Honor seems to care for Myles, breaks the engagement, lets the house, and goes abroad. Presently comes news that he has died of snake bite, and three months after his body is brought home and laid in the family vault, Honor proposes to Myles, and they are married.

The blind uncle, Mark, who is supposed to be very wise, early in the book makes the remark that Myles is not the right husband for Honor; the reader therefore, who knows this author's methods, is not surprised that dark misfortune should be in store for the unlucky husband who has braved so sapient a saying; and almost prepared for the fact that Christopher is by no means dead, but invented the tale of his death in order to leave clear the way for Honor's happiness.

When Myles and Honor are married, Christopher returns.

The three-cornered situation then created, is the triumph of the novelist's art. Christopher and Honor enjoy each other's society in a cheerful way, priding themselves upon the entire purity of their intentions; Myles, being thoroughly wholesome in mind, suffers torment. The conversation between Christopher and the blind Uncle Mark, when the latter tells Christopher what his attitude and reasoning amount to should be a triumphant answer to all the hill-top school of sentimental thinkers who consider the barriers imposed by religion and morality as merely arbitrary and not conducing to the happiness of mankind.

It is a fitting retribution for Honor that, after the tragic death of her great-hearted husband, she should marry Christo. One does not envy her future, with the ever-present, haunting fear that Myles might not after all have come by his death by accident, but have deliberately ended the life she had made so wretched.

The humours of the Dartmoor rustics are as good as can be, and add greatly to the charm of a clever book, but a book which leaves upon the mind a great sadness.

G. M. R.

Poem.

THE WOMAN HEALER.

Steadfast she comes to cast her rose of youth
Beneath the feet of pain—a rose whose breath,
Eternal sweet with woman's tender ruth,
Softens the shadows leading down to death.

New figure in the centuries, she stands,
Guiding the cruel mercy of the knife;
With thought-engraven brow and skilful hands,
And yearning heart to save the house of life.

Bless her, O women, for it was your call,
It was the myriad cry of your distress
That urged her outward from the cloistered hall
To make the burden of your anguish less.

And brothers, you who watch her toilsome days,
With doubtful lip in half derision curled,
Scant not her meed in courtesies and praise,
The bloom and starlight of the spirit world.

For with a sense of loss too fine to own
The nestward longing of the carrier dove,
She turneth from her first entitled throne,
And all the household walks that women love.

The gracious ministries of little deeds
And service for the few, by love made sweet—
From these she turneth unto wider needs,
And pours her ointment on the strangers' feet.

But even while the battle leaves its trace,
The warward battle ill to be withstood,
She but refines her best, peculiar grace,
And proves her self-forgotten womanhood.

Amer. Med. Jour.

What to Read.

- "Oliver Cromwell." By Theodore Roosevelt.
"The Child: A Study of the Evolution of Man." By Alexander F. Chamberlain, M.A., Ph.D. Lecturer on Anthropology in Clark University, Worcester, Mass.
"Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War." By Lieut.-Colonel G.F.R. Henderson. With an introduction by Lord Wolseley.
"The Flame of Life." By Gabriele D'Annunzio. Translated from the Italian by Kassandra Vivaria.
"Tommy and Grizel." By J. M. Barrie.
"Haggith Shy, Quakeress." By Mark Ashton.
"The Woman of Death." By Guy Boothby.
"Lord Jim: A tale." By Joseph Conrad.
"Old Fires and Profitable Ghosts." A Book of Stories. By A. T. Quiller Couch.

Coming Events.

October 26th.—Princess Henry of Battenberg opens the New Pavilion at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

October 27th.—The C.I.V.'s arrive at Paddington about 2, attend service at St. Paul's, and will be welcomed by the Corporation at the Guildhall and the Head Quarters of the Hon. Artillery Company.

October 30th.—"The War as I saw it." A lecture by Mr. Winston S. Churchill, M.P., at St. James's Hall. Viscount Wolseley will preside. 8.30 p.m. Lord Lister opens the new laboratories at King's College, 5 p.m.

November 1st.—First of course of four public lectures arranged by the Childhood Society. "Treatment of Feeble Minded Children in Asylums." By R. T. W. Sharpe, C.B. Chairman Sir Joseph Fayrer, Bart., K.C.S.I., etc. Sanitary Institute, 72, Margaret Street, W. 8 p.m.

November 1st.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council, Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Agenda:—"To consider the Revised Draft Constitution for the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland." 4 p.m.

November 6th.—The Lord Mayor unveils two frescoes executed by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Normand (Henrietta Rae) in the Royal Exchange.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)