

Mavericks, and asserted that the whole regiment—"nine hundred *pukka* devils"—would befriend Kim if he made himself known to them. The way in which these facts are turned by the pictorial imagination of the Hindu into symbolism, and Kim solemnly begins his search for the Red Bull of his father's prophecy, is most ingenious and interesting.

Kim's friends are, as might be expected, of a curious kind; in fact, his name is "Little Friend of All the World." They include a rascally Afghan horse-dealer, who is a government spy; and it occurs to this man, after he has used Kim on a secret errand with success, that the life of the Government spy is particularly suited to so fertile a liar, so ingenious a scamp as Kim, especially as his profound knowledge of the vernacular swear-words offers him special facilities among natives.

Kim is, as we suppose, the practical illustration of Mr. Kipling's "Gospel of things as they are." He is entirely unprincipled, and wholly irreligious, altogether unscrupulous, with no standard of conduct whatever except loyalty to his friends. This admixture turns him out a charming person, and we leave him on the threshold of a very great career.

No doubt he was admirably fitted for the kind of part which the British Government apparently wished him to play; and that part was anything but an exalted one. Thus the book is a saddening one, and in spite of all its seductions, in spite of the way the journey rolls you on, through India, the way in which the characters leap up in their setting and live before your eyes, the profound beauty and simplicity of the character of the old lama, and the undoubted fascinations of Kim himself, you are left with much the feeling that Browning had when he stood among the masterpieces of Greek art, and owned that what the artist had attempted he had perfectly achieved: but saw more to admire in the feeblest strivings of the man who had something higher to express, and struggled through failure to make himself understood. It is only one aspect of life—the lower—that the master gives us in this book. He gives it perfectly; are we ungrateful in demanding more at his hands?

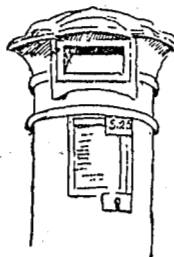
G. M. R.

What to Read.

- "The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson." By Graham Balfour.
- "President McKinley. The Story of his Life." By David Williamson.
- "Mexico As I Saw It." By Mrs. Alec Tweedie.
- "Lord Roberts: A Life for Boys." By Violet Brooke-Hunt.
- "The Man Who Knew Better: A Christmas Dream." By Tom Gallon.
- "The Dolly Dialogues." By Anthony Hope. Containing four new Dialogues, and with eight fine illustrations by Howard Chandler Christy.
- "Flower and Thorn." By Beatrice Whitby.
- "In Spite of All." By Edna Lyall.
- "The Prophet of Berkeley Square." By Robert Hichens.
- "Fancy Free." By Eden Phillpotts.
- "Tales of Dunstable Weir." By Zack.
- "Dross." By Harold Tremayne.

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.

WORKHOUSE NURSING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

Lewisham Infirmary,
282, High Street,
Lewisham.

MADAM,—By some process of mental gymnastics Dr. F. R. Humphreys has persuaded himself that in my last letter I represented Miss Twining as stating that her plan had been annexed by Mr. Humphreys.

The opinion there expressed is my own, and not that of Miss Twining, and it has been deliberately formed after reading her writings kindly sent by her and published before Mr. Humphreys thought fit to announce the plan as his own, and my object in drawing attention to this will have been attained now that Miss Twining's rights as author of the scheme have been established.

Is not Mr. Humphreys fluttering on rather a lofty perch when he charges me with "flagrant conduct" because I do not humbly withdraw my formed opinions at his august bidding?

It is an unfortunate characteristic of our public life that any ambitious amateur if endowed with sufficient pertinacity can always obtain a hearing, and if backed with sufficient noise can sometimes overcome expert professional opinion.

I hope Mr. Humphreys will give me an opportunity of joining issue with him in the pages of the "Great Monthly Magazine."

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

F. S. TOOGOOD, M.D. London.

October 14th, 1901.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

Nurses' Hostel,
Francis Street, W.C.

DEAR MADAM,—The fact that a deputation from the Workhouse Nursing Association has been received by the President of the Local Government Board, and that its statements and suggestions have been listened to is a cause of congratulation to all who have the good of the pauper sick at heart. But unfortunately one is accustomed to the official civility which seems so deeply interested whilst all the time the case is prejudged and decided before the council comes into court. The country must not be satisfied with the policy of drift. The scandal which clings around the nursing of the sick pauper has been admitted on all sides, and it is time that something effective was done. Now that an intelligent Nursing Order has been issued in Ireland, we may take hope for the "adjacent isles," and if only Mr. Long

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)