

exceptionably connected, Merton and Logan by name, are at their wits' end as to how to make a living. They talk idly of this common difficulty in Merton's rooms, and suddenly a luminous, a great idea, comes to Merton. There is, he holds, a "felt want" existing for a method of restoring family harmony, about to be rudely shattered by ill-advised matrimonial ventures. They will offer themselves to disentangle the hearts of rash youths or maidens, or fatuous elderly gentlemen, or rich old ladies, from the objects of their misplaced choice. To carry out the great idea, several things are required—luxuriously appointed offices, list of exalted patronesses, and a set of thoroughly reliable Disentanglers, all of them warranted themselves "immune," owing to the prior engagement of their affections.

The intrepid youths succeed in procuring all these things, and then the fun begins. Every story is delightful, but perhaps the body-snatching one is the raciest and the most wholly successful skit upon the taste of the day in short stories.

It is probable that a great many people will read Mr. Lang's stories—as they used to read Mr. Anstey's "Wreck of the Puffin"—without knowing that they are meant to be skits at all. The irony is very subtle, and here and there the style suggests that the author has grown so interested in his own story that for a while he almost forgets to laugh, until suddenly brought up short by the millions of bullion in tubs on the deck of the yacht, or the ship bearing the Mylodon, the Bunyip, the *Beathach na Loch na bheiste*, the Berbalangs, and so on!

But, for all the absurdities, the stories are really of quite thrilling interest, and the search for the daughter of the millionaire is quite one of the best things of its kind in modern fiction.

The stories leave us in a whimsical kind of despair. Why should one man be able to do so many styles so well? He might have made a fortune as a purveyor of lurid sensation had he chosen; and here he has actually preferred to pose as an historical authority, a *littérateur* of the most pronounced kind, from which exalted station he turns laughing aside to show us poor strugglers that he can with ease meet us and beat us on our own ground.

G. M. R.

What to Read.

"The Life of Theodore Roosevelt." By Murat Halstead.

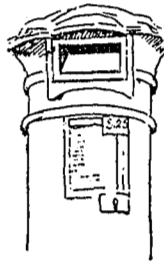
"Human Personality and its Survival after Death." By Frederic W. H. Myers.

"A Dawning Faith; or, The World as a Spiritual Organism." By Herbert Rix, B.A.

"Memoirs of Count Grammont." By Count Anthony Hamilton.

"Concerning Children." By Charlotte Perkins Stetson Gilman.

CHARLESWORTH — RAM.—On February 14th, at Christchurch Cathedral, Zanzibar, Francis Charlesworth, M.B., of H.M.'s Agency, Zanzibar, to Mary Frances Jane Ram, of the English Hospital, Zanzibar, eldest daughter of the late Rev. George Stopford Ram, of Clonatin, county Wexford, vicar of St. Peter's, Bournemouth, and the Hon. Mrs. Ram, of 59, Courtfield Gardens, S.W.



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.

COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to observe that one member of the aristocracy has raised her voice against the system of supplying to the poor as nurses women who would not for one moment be considered competent to nurse the better classes in illness. The minimum standard must be the same for all, whether they nurse rich or poor, and certain is it that when this minimum standard comes to be defined the one permitted by the County Nursing Associations will not satisfy us.

If only well-intentioned ladies of leisure would condescend to consult with experienced nurses as to what constitutes an efficient nurse, their efforts for their poorer neighbours might result in good instead of harm. Why do they ignore us in relation to our own affairs?

Yours truly,

A PROFESSIONAL WOMAN.

NURSING ORGANISATION.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—As it is very important that something definite should be decided with a view of putting the nursing profession on a better footing, and providing for their better training, I should like to make the following suggestions, which I think could be put upon a working basis:—

Governing Authority.

A Central Nursing Board should be appointed, consisting of medical men, nurses, and a representative of the law, and it should have all control with regard to the registration and the granting of certificates to nurses.

Examinations.

The Board should hold examinations four times a year in the following subjects:—

1. Medical Nursing.
2. Surgical Nursing.
3. Gynæcological and Monthly Nursing.

The examinations to be both written and oral.

Subjects 1 and 2 may be taken separately.

The examinations to be held in various centres throughout the country, on the same day, and at the same hour.

A fee to be charged to each candidate for each examination and re-examination, not exceeding £3 3s.

The Board should publish a syllabus of the work required for each examination.

Certificates.

One certificate to be granted for subjects 1 and 2, A separate certificate for subject 3,

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