

a woman should be cultivated and even learned than that a man should be. Mr. Hobhouse dwelt on the importance of girls being taught the laws of health and hygiene and cookery and domestic economy. He feared that many parents were not good judges of schoolmasters, and, therefore, it was most desirable that there should be public bodies and public officials to whom parents might look for a guarantee that the education given to their children was up to a high standard.

The Lower House of Parliament in Norway has by forty-eight against thirty-three votes rejected the Government Bill proposing to give women the equal right with men to hold public offices.

A Book of the Week.

SHINING FERRY.*

"Shining Ferry," as it is one of the most ambitious, must also be pronounced one of the best, of Mr. Quiller Couch's novels. There are portions of it, and there are people in it which give one the truest joy in reading of them. The Rosewarne, father and son, the entire Benny family, Aunt Butson, and Nicky Vro, the ferryman, to say nothing of Mrs. Purchase—these give us a gallery so full and so varied that we cannot but feel compensated for the unconvincing heroine and her curious *mésalliance*.

The Rosewarne are of mixed blood—partly gentlefolk, partly of lower extraction. John Rosewarne, partaking of both sides of the family, has sown his wild oats; and their result is a horrible creature called Sam, a man who conceals his moral obliquity under a cloak of dissenting piety. Sam was born out of wedlock, but his mother was not a bad woman; and his father, who truly loved her, married her as soon as he could, and the fact of Sam's arrival on the scene before the ceremony took place is not known in "Shining Ferry." John Rosewarne, after his first wife's death, married again, and his only surviving legal heir is Clem, his little blind orphan grandson, who, with his devoted sister Myra, are members of the Rosewarne household. When, on his father's death, Sam comes into the property, he knows himself to be a bastard, and also that Clem is the real owner of the entailed property. But, having a son of his own, he keeps this secret, and ill-treats the defenceless, blind child.

Hester Marvin is a young girl, whom, before his death, John Rosewarne engaged to be mistress of the new Board Schools of the Cornish village where the action lies. Poor old Aunt Butson, the illiterate school dame who had previously instructed the young, fights unavailingly against the new régime; and the cudgels on her behalf are taken up by Tom Trevarthen, a young seaman, whose championship brings him into warfare with Hester. Hester is, to all intents and purposes, a lady; and her falling in love with Tom seems to need far more justification than the author is able to give it. But there is one scene—that in which Tom, pretending to her that he is unable to write, gets her to write a letter for him to an imaginary lady whom he loves, and in that letter pours forth all that he feels for her, and dare not say.

The best thing in the book is the chapter in which

* By Q. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

that odd trio, Mr. and Mrs. Purchase, and Myra, seek out Mr. Joshua Benny in London to ask him to extricate Clem from the institution for the blind; and the puzzled Mr. Joshua, wholly bewildered and quite accidentally, succeeds in vindicating the power of the Press.

The most finely-imagined part of the story is the retribution which overtakes Sam Rosewarne, and his public penance. For the sinking of the *One and All*, with the child on board, the author is, of course, indebted to Ibsen. It is an exact reproduction of the sailing of the coffin-ship in the "Pillars of Society." But the wretchedness of the lonely, hated man, who, having done all the harm he can, is rewarded by universal detestation and failure; and the way the villagers shun him is a thing that goes to the heart. After the loss of the child, we are told of Hester, that "She marvelled, as she crossed in the ferry-boat, why the passengers, one and all, discussed it as a direct visitation upon Rosewarne, as though Rosewarne had offended against some agreement in which they and God Almighty stood together, and they had left the fellow in God's hands with a confidence which yet allowed them room to admire the dramatic neatness of His methods."

G. M. R.

Man's Warmest Friend.

Blaze out, my fire; in thee I find,
When wet and worn with toil,
A welcome always, warm and kind,
An ever-ready smile.

Alone—if storms beat loud without,
Then thou'rt a friend to me.
I heed not all the tempest's rout,
But closer creep to thee.

Blaze out then, gentle fire; for me
Let thy bright flame ascend.
Thou long hast been, and still must be,
Man's truest, warmest friend.

What to Read.

"The Vacillations of Hazel." By Mabel Barnes-Grundy.

"The Twentieth Century Child." By Edward H. Cooper.

"Helen of Troy, N.Y." By Wilfrid Scarborough Jackson.

"In Search of the Unknown." By R. W. Chambers.

"Slavery: Pictures from the Depths." By Bart Kennedy.

"The Yellow War." By "O," the author of "On the Heels of De Wet."

Coming Events.

April 7th.—Princess Christian attends the annual meeting of the Ladies' Association of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, at 20, Portland Place.

April 8th.—Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein opens the new Whooping-cough block at the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell.

April 11th.—Grand Morning Concert in aid of the Oxygen Hospital, Stafford House, 3.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)