

## Book of the Week.

## THE GREY KNIGHT.\*

Mrs. de la Pasture's writing is always charming, always good, and refreshingly simple. "The Grey Knight" fails in none of these characteristics. It is perhaps a trifle thin as regards story, and it can hardly be said to have a plot. There is no mystery as to what will be the destiny of any of the people in the tiny corner of the world to which we are introduced; their several fates are obvious. The chief power of the book lies in the very excellent characterisation.

For fifteen dreary years of her never happy life Louise Owen was the slave of her querulous invalid husband, and when at length his death in a measure set her free she was still tied and bound by the effects of the thankless drudgery. Her husband's people, amongst whom she had always lived, were most pronouncedly out of sympathy with her; her mother-in-law, who was also her aunt, being a hard, unresponsive person, sharing with her only daughter, Anne, a terrible roughness of manner which they prided themselves upon as unswerving honesty and truthfulness. The effect upon the patient, gentle Louise was one of utter repression; her innate dislike to hurting people's feelings was looked upon as hypocrisy; her attempts to pour oil upon the troubled waters were regarded as slyness. With a display of feeling that was astonishing to Anne, Louise eventually made a meek assertion of her independence, and broke away from the Owen household to live a life of her own. Under the auspices of a doctor and his wife who had retired into the country she proposed taking up parochial nursing. The character of Dr. Morgan is a splendid one, his wife's most admirably drawn. They present an extraordinary contrast of wonderful breadth and crampedness—the doctor so full of sympathetic impulses, and understanding of his fellows, while Mrs. Morgan "was absorbed in multitudinous small occupations" that narrowed nature and intellect alike. It says much for the doctor that he even understood his wife's absolutely contrary point of view.

It is small wonder that he was a hero in the eyes of Louise, who was so little used to being understood. Inadvertently, attempting to benefit both Louise and his greatest friend, Dr. Morgan introduced the former to the love of her life. Sir Harry Tudor Glyn was dangerously ill, but between them Louise and the doctor brought him back from death's very door to health and strength. As a very natural sequence Sir Harry fell in love with Louise and wished never to part with her. It seemed as if the course of true love must inevitably run smooth for once. Louise was a changed woman in the very zenith of her great happiness, when suddenly something occurred to throw her back on herself, bringing out all the latent cowardice in her nature so fostered by the harshness of her early training. She

was much too meek, indisputably weak, but all one's sympathies go with poor Louise in the dilemma in which she found herself.  
E. L. H.

## SPRING.

God! Thy delights are ever new!  
The whole creation, if she groan,  
Hath also travail-pangs of bliss,  
When waking under constant blue  
She finds within her arms the Spring,  
And greets her with a mother's kiss.

And if our dead must pass, to go  
Beneath the sod—beyond our sight,  
We need not tremble at their home;  
For when they lie and sleep below  
It is but at the roots of life,  
And to a mother's arms they come.

A garden grows above their bed,  
God's rain falls gently on their rest;  
And long before the Spring can show  
Her face to us, about the dead  
The pulsing of her life begins,  
And flowers take being at their breast.

## COMING EVENTS.

April 30th to May 1st.—Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition, Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer Street, Regent Street, W. Free to Nurses and Midwives. 2.30—10.30 p.m.

April 30th.—Lecture, "The Country Midwife and her Future Relationship to the State," by Dr. E. B. Reekitt, 8 p.m.

May 1st.—Lecture, "Sanitation for Nurses," by Miss V. E. M. Bennett, M.B., 8 p.m.

May 1st.—Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Tea 4 p.m. Meeting 4.15.

May 1st.—Opening of the Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh, by Prince Arthur of Connaught.

## THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.—MAY 2ND.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Saturday, May 2nd, at 4.30 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart will preside.

An important Resolution will be considered in opposition to the Bill "To Provide for the Establishment of an Official Directory of Nurses." Members are earnestly requested to make every effort to attend.

May 7th.—Grand Concert in aid of the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association, at the Shoreditch Town Hall, 8 p.m.

May 11th to 30th.—"What To Do With Our Girls" Exhibition, Prince's Skating Rink, 243, Knightsbridge, S.W. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

## A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

There is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent sincere earnestness.—Charles Dickens.

(\*By Mrs. Henry de la Pasture.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)