

Pennant, active in educational work; Mrs. Bland Sutton, organiser of the Children's Happy Evenings' Association.

There are now so many societies concerned in Women's Suffrage that it is quite impossible to refer to all the meetings which take place. We can only briefly allude to the "At-Home" given by the Leeds Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, presided over by Mrs. Curren Briggs, in the Albion Hall, Leeds. A resolution in favour of votes for women, containing an appeal to the Prime Minister, was proposed by Councillor Margaret Ashton, of Manchester, who contended that men could no more represent women than the upper classes could represent the lower classes. It was seconded by Miss Isabella Ford (Leeds), who stated that there was to be a month's campaign in Leeds to show that women really did want votes.

At a recent meeting of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, the Chairman being Prebendary Russell Wakefield, Mrs. Montefiore and Miss Hicks represented the unemployed women, and asked that day nurseries should be established in every district in London where there was a distress committee. These nurseries would provide employment for the women, because clothes could be made for the children and employment afforded in cleaning and washing. Miss Hicks also urged the establishment of additional workrooms, and Mrs. Montefiore that more money should be allocated to the relief of women.

### Book of the Week.

#### MISS ESPERANCE AND MR. WYCHERLY\*.

It is always a pleasure to meet a book like Miss Esperance, which is, in its way, unique, possessing the double charm of absolute simplicity, and, at the same time, deep human interest. It deals with just the happenings of ordinary everyday life, but told with such ease, and, at the same time, vivacity as to make it delightful reading; really a restful book. We have no intricate plot, no terrible problems to solve, yet it is full of incident, and teems with quiet humour.

The scene is laid in Scotland, in a village a few miles from Edinburgh. Miss Esperance is a charming little old lady belonging to the old school when manners counted for much.

"She walked delicately, and talked deliberately the English of Mr. Addison."

With her lives an old family friend, Mr. Wycherly, a scholarly Oxford man.

There are no long descriptions of tedious retrospections. In very few pages we are told all we want to know of the chief characters. The real interest of the story begins when Miss Esperance, at the age of seventy, adopts her nephew's two orphan boys. The children are delightful studies of child life, great contrasts in character, and both thoroughly nice little fellows. Round the educa-

ting of the boys the story revolves. Montague, the elder, is a thoughtful, dreamy child, with a thirst for knowledge, responding readily to Mr. Wycherly's kindly, clever, if slightly eccentric teaching. The younger boy, Edmund, is possessed of the "Bethune temperament," which is apparently a turbulent one: so disturbing is he to the peaceful classical atmosphere of Mr. Wycherly's study, that he is early handed over to the Reverend Peter Gloag for tuition, and here we are introduced to a typical old-fashioned Scotch minister and his family. The reverend gentleman himself accepts and teaches religion on the sternest lines of Calvin, but his kindness to his little pupil, and his tender affection for his delicate wife prove he has a warm, quite human heart. Miss Esperance's two servants, Elsa and Robina, deserve a word of praise, as being well and cleverly drawn, sustaining throughout the thoroughly Scotch character of the book. The humour often provokes a smile, yet there is an undercurrent of sadness which makes it essentially true to life.

In the present day, when violent emotions, or so called psychological studies are the usual style of writing, we cannot feel too thankful to meet with a book which rivets the attention at once, where the interest is all centred in simple doings, and yet is sustained without flagging from first to last.

E. L. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*December 3rd.*—Central Midwives' Board. Special (Penal) Meeting. Board Room, Caxton House. 9 a.m.

*December 5th.*—Society of Women Journalists. Annual Dinner, Gaiety Restaurant. Mrs. J. R. Green, President, in the chair. 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

*December 8th.*—Lecture by Dr. Ralph Vincent, at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, on "Scorbutus." 5 p.m.

*December 12th.*—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. A Special General Meeting at the Hospital, 2.45 p.m.

AGENDA.—(1) Revision of Bye-Laws. (2) To consider proposition from Territorial Force re the Nursing of No. 1 Hospital, City of London.

Social Gathering, 4.30 p.m.

#### THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

Lectures.—Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Trained Nurses cordially invited.

*December 16th.*—The Nature and Treatment of Neurasthenia, by Dr. Alexander Bruce.

#### ULSTER BRANCH IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The following lectures will be held in the Club-room, 16, Crane's Buildings, Wellington Place, Belfast:—

*December 9th.*—"Mental Nursing," by Dr. J. Patrick, at 7.30 p.m.

Members may bring a friend on payment of sixpence to the secretary.

#### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The only freedom I care about is the freedom to do right; the freedom to do wrong I am ready to part with on the cheapest terms to anyone who will take it of me.

HUXLEY.

\* By L. Allen Harker. (John Murray.)

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