

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE RAKE'S PROGRESS.*

We have no doubt that this book will become widely popular. It is written with all the charm with which its gifted authoress knows so well how to surround her description of persons and places. A romance in which many persons are involved, inexpressibly sad, and clothed in the glamour of a hundred and fifty years ago.

It is well, as the title shows, that Rose Lyndwood was recognised for what he really was, otherwise his exceedingly attractive personality might have blinded the reader to his true character. In spite of it all, every one was in love with him—save his wife—and it is difficult to lay down the book with an adequate resentment towards such a really worthless person.

His cousin Susannah, writing to her friend Selina Boyle, says to her: "If youth, beauty, a fine name, the lightest spirits, are to be ruined by the common lures of the world; if ordinary vices are to tarnish a character so bright—But no! I will not think it, nor must you. Remember Rose as all nobility, virtue and discretion—the sweetest gentleman in England."

Both these women broke their hearts for him. "He leant against the wall by the fireplace. His light brown hair was unpowdered, and tied with a turquoise ribbon. At the corner of his full lower lip a patch of velvet, cunningly cut into the shape of a bat, showed in contrast with it. His delicate fair brows were slightly frowning, and his languid lids almost concealed his eyes.

"I have been looking into my affairs," he said. This remark meant nothing to Marius, and his brother saw it. "It's a damned unpleasant thing to say," he added, with a half-insolent smile, "but—its ruin."

Ostensibly to save his ancient house, and his brother's prospects, but in reality to please himself, he offers himself and his title to the daughter of a wealthy parvenu, Lavinia Hilton. His callous treatment of her hardly accords with a nature in which traces of sweetness are still left.

"He crossed to Miss Hilton and took her hand. She trembled a curtsy. 'I come as a suitor, madam,' he said, as he kissed her finger tips. 'Would it mightily displease you to become Countess of Lyndwood?' Then he looked at the girl; he found her pale, fair, very young; to him, at least, without charm or savour. Her large eyes seemed to widen with fright; her lips quivered.

"I am honoured," she said, and glanced at her father."

She repays his unstudied contempt with a hatred that knew no abatement during their unhappy union. She herself was of an unlovable, vindictive disposition, and her ultimate aim was to

humble his pride, by sacrificing her own good name. The closing scenes of their lives is told with much dramatic force and realistic colouring. Rose Lyndwood loses his life in a street brawl, and his beautiful person, along with his beautiful house, is in death displayed for money to pay his creditors. "There were two servants inside the door, standing quietly, the blinds were drawn and the room close with the perfume of flowers. The thing was decorously done, Susannah told herself, with passionate bitterness."

"Did anyone tell you" asked Miss Chressham "what he said?" "I always believed in the immortality of the soul." A strange thing for him to believe; but I am glad, are you not?"

H. H.

READ.

"Valserine," by Marguerite Ardoux (Marie Claire).

"General Mallock's Shadow," by W. B. Maxwell.

"London Lavender," by E. V. Lucas.

COMING EVENTS.

September 30th to October 4th.—Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland. Masonic Buildings, Oxford. Meetings of the National Council of Women, October 2nd and 3rd, 10.30 to 1 and 2 to 4.

October 2nd.—Meeting at the Mansion House in support of the Nurses' Missionary League.

October 3rd.—Conference and Farewell Meetings to bid Godspeed to members of the Nurses' Missionary League leaving for the foreign field, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

October 11th.—Meeting Executive Committee Society for State Registration of Nurses. 431, Oxford Street. 4.30 p.m.

October 15th.—Catholic Nurses' Association (Ireland), Annual Meeting. Lourdes House, Dublin.

October 19th.—British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Streatham. Lord Strathcona will lay the foundation stone of the Alexandra wing.

October 22nd.—Central Midwives Board Examination, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

October 23rd.—Mansion House, City of London. Public Meeting in support of the memorial to Lord Lister.

October 29th–November 2nd.—Cookery and Food Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, S.W.

November 2nd.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council. Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Be not simply good, but good for something. —*Thoreau*.

*By Marjorie Bowen. (Rider & Son), London.

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