

Michael conceives the quixotic notion that he ought to marry the Lily of his youthful friendship, though he learns that she has "gone under." It is for the purpose of finding her that he takes rooms in Neptune Crescent.

"He would bring Lily back from evil. It was imperative to meet Lily again. They had met first of all as boy and girl as equals. Now, he must not come too obviously from the world she had left behind her. His instinct first to sever himself from his own world must have been infallible. And how well secluded was this room. If he met Lonsdale or Maurice or Wedderburn, it would be most fantastically amusing to avoid them at the evening's end, to retreat from their company into Camden Town, into Neptune Crescent, unimaginable to them." Of his finding of Lily, and his effort for her salvation, and his complete failure and disillusionment, we have not space to write.

The book is powerful, brilliant and fascinating. It will, no doubt, shock the susceptibilities of many; such we would warn to leave it alone. But by the understanding it will be read with deep sadness, and with deep regret that for the wreckage of human life there are so few that care enough to stretch out a helping hand. Perhaps one of the saddest points brought out is the deep distrust of these unfortunates and the almost unconquerable suspicion of human nature. H. H.

FLOWERS AND BIRDS.

Are flowers the very thoughts of God
Made visible to bless?
If so it be, O happy ye
Who such a faith confess,
As led by April blossom-crowned
Ye roam by vale or hill,
With every here a cowslip crowned,
And there a daffodil!

Are the birds' songs but jets of joy
From the eternal Bliss?
If it be true, O happy few
With such a faith as this,
As thrilled by many a feathered throat
Ye roam o'er hills and vales,
With every now the cuckoo's note,
And then the nightingale's!

—Words by the Wayside,
JAMES RHOADES.

COMING EVENTS.

February 26th.—Meeting in support of International Women's Congress to be held in Holland, in April, to discuss problems arising out of the War. Caxton Hall, S.W. 7 p.m.

March 6th.—National Council of Trained Nurses' Meeting, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

April 13th.—Irish Nurses' Association, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Lecture on "Burns and Frost-bite." Dr. Mabel Crawford. 7.30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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.

THE MATERNAL INSTINCT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I feel impelled to write to thank you, as a reader of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, for the article in this week's issue, "The Maternal Instinct." Much has been said and written (mainly, I think, by men), on the painful subject treated therein; but, so far as I have seen, your journal only has given the truly womanly and pure-minded aspect. I wish the article might be read by a larger public than takes in a nursing journal. With warmest thanks,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

ETHEL C. TAWNEY.

Chenies St. Chambers,
Bloomsbury, W.C.

"HE ALWAYS WAS INACCURATE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If the words attributed to me that the "Lady Mayoress was the wickedest woman in London for starting the Territorial Nursing Service"—which, by the bye, no Lady Mayoress did—were said in mere chaff, they ought not to have been repeated in earnest six years later. I am glad to learn where this ill-natured bit of gossip originated. But Miss Breay's memory plays her false. In 1909 when, Miss Breay writes, the Lady Mayoress told her this, Sir J. Stuart Knill was Lord Mayor. I have not the honour of Lady Knill's acquaintance, and never spoke to her in my life. Anyhow, I was not alone in opposing the present method of recruiting the Force. Miss Isla Stewart, with many other Matrons, was equally opposed to it. Seeing that our argument did not prevail, she went in heart and soul to help it, and I refrained from troubling. I was never asked to do anything else. But the method which we both thought right, though opposed by the War Office at first, had subsequently to be adopted for recruiting the Army Nurses, and was at once adopted by the Admiralty; and its success has justified our action.

Yours faithfully,

KNUTSFORD.

[In the historic passage at arms between the Hon. Albinia Brodrick and Lord Knutsford (then the Hon. Sydney Holland) at the meeting of the International Nurses Congress in 1909, Miss Brodrick, speaking with the knowledge of an acquaintance of many years' standing, said, "He always was inaccurate." Lord Knutsford, as will be seen above, states the words have been attributed to him that the "Lady Mayoress was the wickedest woman in London for starting the Territorial Nursing Service," and then adds, "which by the bye no Lady Mayoress did."

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