

cousin), Dr. Saxham and his wife and boy, Count von Herrnung, Patrine Saxham (whose willing weakness was the cause of so much sorrow to herself and others) play for us the drama which keeps us absorbed to the last page.

According to the mental outlook of the reader, so will the verdict be. Some will disapprove, some will regard the book as a tract more powerful than many sermons. None can be indifferent, for the pen of Richard Dehan, which made "The Dop Doctor" one of the outstanding books of our time, has limned for us a living and glowing picture of current events, and of Society in the days preceding the war, which will be read by the children of those who fought the great fight, when Blue Books are buried in official departments, and lie unread on the shelves of the British Museum. So much greater the pity that the manner in which the Woman's Suffrage Movement is presented cannot be regarded as representing facts, rather they are so distorted as to be grotesque.

P. G. Y.

WHAT TO READ.

We recommend to the attention of our readers Dr. Muehlon's Diary, published by Cassell & Co., Ltd. (5s. net), as a book to be read. Dr. Muehlon at the outbreak of the war was a director of Krupp's works at Essen. He severed his connection with the firm, left Germany, and settled in Switzerland. The Diary is of poignant interest.

They should also endeavour to procure a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Reality: the World's Searchlight on Germany," No. 135. It is printed by G. Binney Dibblee, and is obtainable in England and Wales through any branch of W. H. Smith & Son, and in Scotland through any branch of John Menzies & Co., Ltd.

"RED-ROBED FRANCE,"

The Huns stripped off my own green gown
And left me stark and bare;
My sons, they spread a red robe down
And wrapped me in it there.

The garb they brought was red as blood—
The robe was red as flame;
They veiled me in it where I stood
And took away my shame.

Was ever web so costly wove,
Or warp so glorious spun?
I'll wear no vestments prized above
That wide and scarlet one.

Though younger sons some happier day,
Weave me a fair green gown
Anew, or bid me don array
Of corn-ripe gold and brown,

The names (like beads, told one by one)
My heart will still repeat;
Will call, with tears, each dear, dear son
Whose red robe wrapped my feet.

By Charles Buxton Going, in
"Everybody's Magazine."

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.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I entirely agree with Miss Theresa McGrath as to the importance of nurses interesting themselves in the development of public health work, for it appears to me that such work is of more far-reaching importance than that of any other department of nursing. To help in maintaining a high standard of health is even more worth while than helping to cure disease. In the latter case we are trying to mend what is damaged: in the former, to maintain what is perfect in a state of perfection. The repair of a damaged article may be carried out so skilfully that few people can detect the flaw, but it is there all the same, and detracts from the value of the article in the eye of the expert.

In the same way, once health has been impaired it is never quite the same again; it may be most skilfully restored, but the flaw is there. For this reason it seems to me most desirable that trained nurses should have charge of the infants under five in nursery schools. These years are supremely important ones in the life and development of the child, and the daily supervision of these infants by a skilled nurse would have a far-reaching influence on their health in after life. What more worth while to a nurse, who sees things at their true value, than to fight, in the interest, not alone of the individual child, but of posterity, against the onset of a disease such as rickets, or the development of tuberculosis? Or, again, to build up the health of the child with a bad family history, so as to enable it to offer an effective resistance to the inroads of disease.

In work of this kind there is no picturesque background, no spectacular triumph, but nothing could be more solidly fruitful in good result. But if the importance of the trained nurse as a factor in preserving the health of young children is recognized, then the most skilled workers should be secured, and they should be paid salaries commensurate with their skilled services. It is unfortunately a lesson which, as a nation, we are very slow to learn, where women are concerned.

Yours faithfully,

PUBLIC HEALTH.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

September 7th.—What are the principal functions of a School Nurse? How may she assist in raising the standard of national health?

September 14th.—What do you know of Exophthalmic Goitre, its symptoms and nursing care?

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