

the rough jokes and pattering talk that helps him to sell his goods. At last he whispers to his daughter—"Zit, I *can't* go yarning no longer," and the girl takes his place on the platform, "contemplating the crowd with a look of assurance, mingled with contempt." Zita sells her tea and other wares at a large profit, and then two men, "Drownlands" and "Runham," bid against each other, and for a high price each purchases from the beautiful auctioneer a flail, and this purchase of flails, as one of the 'fen tigers' remarked to another, was the beginning "of a mighty queer tale." After the sale is over, Cheap Jack and his daughter start across the fens, and the van and horse stick in the road, and they cannot proceed on their journey. Poor Jack wanders in his talk, and murmurs many pregnant sayings.

"Things ain't as they 'ort to be," said the Cheap Jack sententiously. "I've often turned the world over in my head, and seed as the wrong side comes uppermost. Then I'm sure I was ordained to be a member of Parliament, but I never got a chance to rise to it. How I could ha' talked the electors over into believin' as black was white! How I could ha' made 'em a'most swallow anything, and believe it was apricot jam! . . . Its lies as carries votes. Its lies as governs the land. The general public likes 'em. It loves 'em. They be as sweet and dear to the general public as thistles is to asses."

And then the poor Cheap Jack dies, and Zita is left alone in the world, with the van, goods and horse. The story of her adventures, and how she takes shelter under the roof of "Drownlands," the purchaser of one flail, who loves her; and how *she* loves "Mark Runham," the purchaser of the other flail, we have not space to tell. There are vivid pictures of the windmills that drain the fens, and of the riots of the "fen-tigers." Zita's proud independence is well described, though no one has a keener eye for a bargain, she will accept hospitality from no one without payment.

"It is of no good your acting the fool, she said (to Drownlands), 'What is right is right.' I shouldn't feel square in my insides if the account were not balanced. My dear father was mighty particular on that score. Every night we balanced our accounts as true as any banker, with a stump of a pencil as he sucked. If I don't balance I can't sleep."

The end of the novel is not equal in vigour and power to the beginning. The death of "Drownlands" and the subsequent marriage of "Mark" and "Zita," are tame and feeble, and we can hardly imagine the wild Cheap Jack girl settling down as the plump mother of Mark Runham's children; and though we may be very glad, that the rest of her life was a happy and contented one, our poetical instincts would have been better satisfied with a different ending.

*Books worth reading.*—"Letters and Memoirs of Edward Seymour, Twelfth Duke of Somerset, K.G." Edited and arranged by Lady Gwendolen Ramsden, and W. Mallock.—"Rembrandt: His Life, his Work, and his Time," Emile Michel, member of the Institute of France. From the French by Florence Simmonds.—"My Dark Companions and their Strange Stories," by Henry M. Stanley, D.C.L., &c.—"The Romance of an Empress: Catherine II. of Russia," from the French of R. Waliszewski.—"A Friend of the Queen (Marie Antoinette—Count Ferson)," from the French of Paul Gaultot, by Mrs.

Cashel Hoey.—"The Castle of the Carpathians," by Jules Verne.—"Cheap Jack Zita," by S. Baring Gould.—"The Odd Woman," by G. Gissing.—"Esther's Shrine," by Helen Millman.

*Books worth buying.*—"Catriona," R. L. Stevenson; "The Heavenly Twins," Sarah Grand, 6/-; Dent's edition of "Evelina," by Miss Burney, 5/-; Dent's edition of the "Works of Miss Edgeworth," 2/6 per vol.

## Review.

"A Guide to the Examination of the Urine." By Dr. Legg. Seventh Edition. Edited by Dr. Lewis Jones, (H. K. Lewis).—This is a clearly written, concise, and useful little book, which we can commend to those who wish for practical information on the subject. It does not aim, of course, at being comprehensive, or it might be asked, for example, why no mention is made of the frequency of temporary glycosuria in gouty patients, and why carbuncle is inferred to be a cause, when surely the probability is that it is a consequence, of diabetes.

## Inventions, Preparations, &c.

### SWINBORNE'S ISINGLASS.

Probably, there are few of our readers who are not aware of the many excellent qualities of this preparation, as an important adjunct to the food of invalids and convalescents. But if there are any who are not acquainted with its merits, we would advise them to write to the manufacturers at 34, St. Andrew's Hill, London, E.C., enclosing two stamps, for a copy of their pamphlet—"Pastry-cook and Confectionery," which contains a large number of excellent recipes, and the fifteenth edition of which has recently been issued by Lady Constance Howard.

### KINGZETT'S IMPROVED SULPHUR FUMIGATING CANDLES.

Kingzett's Sulphur Fumigating Candles have already been described in these columns. Our readers may remember that Mr. Kingzett's first patent consisted in the employment of a fuse moulded in the form of a cone, which was set in or on a mass of Sulphur moulded in a suitably shaped vessel. The fuse in question consisted of Sulphur in admixture with chlorate or nitrate of potassium or sodium. Further investigation by Mr. Kingzett has led him to the discovery that such a fuse may be altogether dispensed with, and he now employs in its place a strip or ribbon of Brussels net or other similar material, which is first of all coated with a thin layer of Sulphur by passage through a bath of that substance in a molten state. The strips of material thus coated with pure Sulphur are afterwards cut up into suitable lengths, bent into circular form, and then inserted in the molten mass of Sulphur forming the body of the candle. On application of a light to the prepared strip which stands up above the surface of the body of the candle, it immediately takes fire and burns with great rapidity, the molten Sulphur running down on to the surface of the candle, and firing it immediately. Mr. Kingzett finds

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