

mental digestion. On the other hand, some readers are shocked and turned aside by the familiar manner in which Blake writes of "Hell and the Devil" as if he had an intimate personal acquaintance with them; but before reading any of these mystical writings, readers should comprehend that Blake ever speaks and preaches in symbols and parables, and that thus interpreted, "Good is Heaven, and Evil is Hell."

The Proverbs of Hell contain many wise and profound sayings, such as:—

"The eagle never lost so much time as when he submitted to learn of the crow."

"You never know what is enough unless you know what is more than enough."

"The crow wished everything was black; the owl that everything was white."

"The soul of sweet delight can never be defiled."

There are many other Proverbs equally fanciful and original.

Nothing is more easy than to blame a book, and few things are more difficult than to "praise judiciously." Enthusiastic superlatives more than detraction deter a would-be reader, and prejudice him against a writer and his books.

We ourselves have ever been enthusiastic admirers of Blake's writings, and have derived so much joy from reading his poems (and contemplating his exquisite designs to the book of Job and other poems and books) that we hesitate lest from over praise we should deter readers from reading his works and judging for themselves. One thing, however, may be pointed out, that is, that hitherto Blake lovers have had to open wide their purses before they could acquire possession of any of his writings, and though, undoubtedly, his verses do lose a great deal by being divorced from his fanciful and lovely designs, yet in this edition the *original* text of the Songs of Innocence and Experience has been restored, and Mr. Yeats has, with admirable judgment, rejected Rossette's emendations. He has also added a most interesting and representative selection from the more comprehensible of the so-called prophetic writings, with the happy result that people who have not time or inclination for a lengthy study of Blake, nor money enough to buy these rare books, may, from this little 5s. volume, acquire a very fair idea of the quality of his genius both as a poet and as a prose writer.

## Reviews.

"Real Cookery," by Grid. (Fisher Unwin, 1893.)

This is one of the most original brochures we have met with for some time. As it only consists of 86 small pages in large type and wide margins, the first impression is that the quantity of matter is conspicuously small. But the quality is excellent, and makes the diminutive size of the volume still more to be regretted. The moral of the book is, that meats should never be fried, but that they should be grilled, and, moreover, that the said grilling should be invariably done over a charcoal stove. The same moral is pointed so far as fish and fowl are concerned. In fact, "Grid" would

evidently banish the frying-pan to the nethermost regions if he had his way, and he certainly makes out a good case for accusing it of demoniacal powers in the causation of dyspepsia. Our author has taken up his parable with excellent reason against the want of "simplicity" in table decorations as well as in every article of an ordinary menu, and gives amusing reasons why Mary Jane should be preferred to a French *chef* by anyone who desires to feed without having the fear of indigestion constantly before his eyes. A number of original and tasty recipes are given which conclusively prove that Grid not only knows what he is talking about, but that he also has a very fair appreciation of the good things of this sublunary sphere.

"Hints on Home Nursing," by Dr. R. T. Halliday. (Hay, Nisbet & Co.)

This is a useful little book, which the author tells us was originally prepared for his classes on Home Nursing held under the auspices of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association. There is nothing very new either in manner or matter, but most of the points which are of importance in nursing in private houses are touched upon, and throughout the book is profusely illustrated, which has obvious advantages for amateurs and beginners. The author quotes the NURSING RECORD's opinion on one or two matters, with approval, and draws attention forcibly to the dangers of poisoning by carelessness in the administration of medicines.

## Letters to the Editor.

"THE OTHER SIDE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The NURSING RECORD of December 30th published a letter headed "The Other Side," relating to Nurses working on their own account and receiving their own fees, or working in a Home for a stated salary. I should be glad if some other Nurses who have nursed for a number of years would give their experiences. I am a Nurse, and one of the dissatisfied ones; I am receiving a salary of £30 a year, and have been half persuaded to give it up and try for myself. "The Other Side" has made me uncertain. This Home is fairly comfortable, and I know I might be worse off, but if I could earn a little more, it would be very acceptable. I have been watching for other letters on the subject. I shall be obliged if you will publish this letter, and encourage the Nurses to speak out honestly; it would be a comfort and a help to many like myself. I was told only yesterday that the Nurses working on their own account are so miserably poor that they are ashamed to own the fix they are often in.—Yours,

"FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE."

[We shall be glad to publish letters on this subject, as it is one of great importance to Nurses at the present time, and it is only those who have *experience* who are qualified to give an opinion of value.—ED.]

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