

various chemicals ; thus, a very slight attack of the disease was produced, and its extent was necessarily limited to the effects of the poison introduced. No fresh quantity of poison could be formed in the patient's body because no bacteria were there to produce it. The animal showed only a feeble attack of fever after the first doses of attenuated poison, but the anti-toxine was produced in its blood, so that a subsequent less-attenuated dose produced no fever at all. At last, a very virulent dose of poison was given, such as would kill outright an untrained horse or sheep, and, if the animal did not suffer, it was considered fit to be used as a source of curative serum.

The amount of such serum required, as an injection to cure a diphtheria patient, varies, as would very naturally be supposed, with the time which has elapsed since the attack began. In other words, the amount of the antidote varies according to the amount of the poison, and that depends on the time which the bacteria have had at their disposal to produce poison and to multiply. A quarter-of-an-hour after the diphtheria poison was introduced into a guinea-pig, an injection of serum equal to 1-5,000th of the animal's weight, prevented the appearance of the disease. A guinea-pig usually dies from inoculated diphtheria in from thirty-six to forty-eight hours, but an injection of serum, equal to 1-500th of the body-weight, will save it if administered eight hours after inoculation ; or an injection five times as great will save it twenty-four hours after inoculation.

### Dramatic Notes.

#### "THE WRONG GIRL."

"THE Wrong Girl," now being performed at the Strand Theatre, possesses the great recommendation to those engaged all day in heavy, and sometimes depressing, work—it calls forth irrepressible laughter the whole evening. Willoughby Chester is expected by his father to marry Eva Glenfield, the daughter of an old friend whom he has not seen for a long time. The young man has, as is usual in such cases, his affections fixed upon another, Gladys Gordon. By a strategy it is hoped to estrange old Chester's heart from Eva, whom he has never seen. To this end, Willoughby Chester and his friend Captain Harry Montague make overtures to Mr. Willie Edouin and Miss Florence Craven, actor and actress at the Strand Theatre, to impersonate Mr. George Glenfield and Miss Eva Glenfield. They consent, and all might have gone well ; but, unexpectedly, the originals turn up, to the confusion of all concerned. Between Mr. George Glenfield (Mr. W. Blakeley), the genuine article, and his double, Mr. Willie Edouin, there is scarce any difference, owing to the splendid make-up, and wonderful powers of mimicry of the latter. The genuine Miss Eva Glenfield is a modest young girl, dressed becomingly in a pretty light blue costume, trimmed with black velvet, and with a white hat. Miss Florence Craven (Miss Fanny Brough), who has assumed Eva's role, bears no resemblance to her save in name. She plays the part with the avowed object of making Willoughby Chester dislike the daughter of Glenfield to such an extent that he will no longer insist upon the

proposed marriage with his son Willoughby. The wrong Eva, therefore, assumes the most "up-to-date" manner, the most startling costume, and makes use of the least authorised vocabulary that is possible to a modern young woman ; and this is all done because she knows old Chester abhors such things. Her costume is a wonderful creation—dove-coloured material, with innumerable, so it seems, bows of pink satin ribands hanging all round from the waist, and pink satin sleeves. She interlards her conversation with such expressions as "Does the old man feel chippy?" "If you *will* go the pace, old fellow." But even the wrong Eva is taken in by the appearance of the real Glenfield, whose presence she does not suspect, and, thinking it to be her "pal," takes intolerable liberties. Thus confusion becomes worse confounded.

Though taking a subsidiary part, a word of praise must be given to Miss Violet Armbruster, who, though occasionally weak, plays with much sympathy the part of Gladys, looking the while charming in a soft green and white striped silk, with lace prettily arranged round the neck in fichu fashion ; but, of course, the success of the whole play depends upon the vigorous acting of Miss Fanny Brough and Mr. Willie Edouin, whose drollery and real appreciation of their subject win the hearty applause of the audience.

### A Book of the Week.

"THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF MARIA EDGEWORTH."\*

Miss Edgeworth's letters are delightful reading. The comments and criticisms of such a vivacious and wholesome-minded woman upon all the celebrated people and books of her day could not fail to be instructive as well as amusing. Mr. Edgeworth, her father, married no less than four times, and as Maria was the daughter of his first wife, she had three step-mothers bestowed upon her by her father ; and, strange to say, she seems to have loved them all, and the various half-brothers and sisters that arrived at Edgeworthstown as much as if the words "step" and "half" had not qualified the words "mother," "brother," and "sister." The second Mrs. Edgeworth wrote to Maria at her school, and said :—

"It is very agreeable to me to think of conversing with you as my equal in every respect but age, and of my making that inequality of use to you by giving you the advantage of the experience I have had, and the observations I have been able to make, as these are parts of knowledge which nothing but time can bestow."

Is not this a very wise as well as a very charming letter?

Maria's father had a great influence over her writings. He seems to have been a man of most versatile talents and agreeable manners, and his critical appreciation of his daughter's writings, she constantly *says*, were a great help to her, though Mr. Hare hints that in his over-anxiety he spoilt one or two of her later novels.

The life of the Edgeworth family in Ireland, and the love of all the children for their parents, aunts, and

\* "The Life and Letters of Maria Edgeworth." Edited by Augustus J. C. Hare. Two vols. (Arnold, London, 1894.)

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