

far more copies than the number that they had printed for the first edition, and so the date of their appearance was postponed, in order that a far larger number might be produced than it was at first anticipated would be required.

The tragedy of Chloe's artificial life is pathetically recorded by a poet's pen. It is the history of a woman who deliberately allowed, nay, forced herself to entertain a "strongly-willed delusion," which, being interpreted, means that for over a month Chloe was the victim of a delusion which did not really delude her brain, but which lulled her senses fantastically like a dream which she yet realised would be over when she awakened. Psychologically this strange study is deeply interesting and impressive, and though both the theme and the working-out are original, yet any one who reads the tale carefully cannot fail to be convinced of the truth of the character drawing of this rare and wonderful woman's nature. Susan, the rustic Duchess of Dewlap, is less convincing, but some of the scenes between her and her companion Chloe are full of deep insight into female human nature and vanity. Mr. Beamish is one of Mr. Meredith's fantastic characters who seems especially created in order to deliver himself of his author's aphoristic and epigrammatic sayings. The end of the story is painful, and tragic.

"The House on the Beach," a realistic tale, is less satisfactory, and, truth to tell, is laboured and a trifle dull. The humour is bitter throughout, and it is certainly very dubious that any colonists could ever be so fanatically devoted to their ancestral country, England, as Annette Smith and her father. Scattered through the pages are some very happy phrases such as "What with our clothes and our cowardice, it do seem we're not the equal of men when winds is high."

This story, though it contains a fine description of the Cinque Port, is the least interesting of the three contained in this volume. Even ardent Meredithians might perhaps have been content to exist without possessing it for themselves; but "The Case of General Ople" is a perfect gem of comedy of the purest water. It is very witty and frankly funny, and it is doubtful if anyone with the slightest sense of humour could read it even to himself without laughing aloud. The plot of the little tale is so quaint, so ingenious, that, slight as it is, it shows Mr. Meredith in one of his sprightliest moods. It is, moreover, quite free from those distorted phrases and forced expressions which try the brain and the patience of the average reader.

The middle-aged dallyings of the be-rouged Lady Camper and her next-door neighbour, General Ople, are irresistibly amusing. General Ople's egoism is depicted by the master hand which has drawn for us that greatest of egoists, Sir Willoughby Patterne; but his selfishness is not so remorseless, and there is a reserve of good temper behind his faults which gives greater hope of reformation than the egoist of the greater picture. Elizabeth, the General's daughter, though but faintly sketched, is a very life-like portrait of a young girl whose life is nearly wrecked by reason of her father's egoism. How her happiness is finally secured by the clever machinations of her next-door neighbour, and how her father finally acquired the widow as his partner for life, the reader must discover for himself, for in these pages he will learn "how it came to pass that a simple man and a complex woman fell to union after the strangest division."

A. M. G.

Reviews.

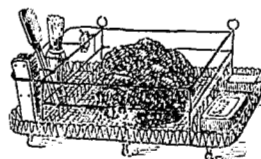
A NEW PARTY.

AMONG the books brought to light with the year 1895, is one entitled "The New Party" (Hodder Bros.). It consists of a remarkable series of essays by remarkable people, who, finding in no existing political or church party a full reflection of all their social aspirations and ideals, have determined to focus their opinions in a new sect, to be called the Isocratic Party. Their object is not merely to pull down like the Radicals, but to construct, to build up a better order of things. Among the essayists are Grant Allen, Walter Crane, the Dean of Durham, Sarah Grand, Lady Henry Somerset, Richard le Gallienne, the Rev. P. H. Wicksteed, a Unitarian minister, Robert Blatchford, author of "Merrie England," the Rev. W. J. Dawson, &c. The book contains throughout much interesting and valuable matter, a little that is extravagant, though nothing to shock the susceptibilities of those who fear innovations. The great charm of the work is that "Hope" is writ large upon every line of it.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

A TOILET RACK.

A VERY useful wire rack has been submitted to us by the makers, the well known firm of Messrs. Allen and Hanburys. Everyone knows by practical daily experience how untidy the washing stand becomes with its multiplicity of articles. The rack to which we allude will be found therefore of much practical advantage as a convenience as well as a saving of labour. It



has spaces for a sponge, for tooth, hair and nail brushes, tooth powder, and shaving brush, and therefore all these necessaries can be kept all together, neat, tidy and clean. Its extreme lightness, portability and cleanliness should make it invaluable in private Nursing, and an article which may well be recommended to all invalids; while its cost is so small that the saving in comfort would amply repay it. We advise our readers to test this ingenious contrivance for themselves.

LAST year, we had much pleasure in noticing the sanitary china and enamelled iron trays chiefly designed for the sick room and obtainable like the preceding article from Messrs. Allen and Hanburys. They are designed to fulfil much the same object as the wire rack, but especially

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