

The history of his selfish connection with Ada is a curious and interesting study of one of those unfortunate *liaisons* where the woman gives all, sacrifices all, and the man repays her, first with tolerating affection, and then with brutal desertion. The honest pity with which the humble tragedy of Ada's life is regarded by her illiterate lover Ned, is in very striking contrast to the callous behaviour of the man who should have been her protector. The chief merit of the book lies in its delineation of the characters of these three people; nothing particular happens, and there are no exciting adventures, and therefore this story is not of the new school of the romantic.

Has the world become more selfish of late years? And is the terrible band of complete egoists growing in our midst? Else why do so many modern tales make male egoists the central figure of their stories? Is it not rather significant that so few men or women writers ever describe *women* egoists, at any rate upon such a large and all embracing scale? The story is a very clever one, and may be recommended to those readers who enjoy this kind of "powerful" tale. It is profoundly sad, and shows to what depths of cold-hearted wickedness a man of genius may descend who has lost the fear of God, and cares only for himself in the world.

A. M. G.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

IMPROVED COLOTOMY DRESSING TRAY.

THIS new appliance, evolved from the practical experience of a private Nurse, is a china bowl, so shaped as to fit against the side or abdomen of the patient and to rest at two different angles if required. It is excellently fitted for the dressing of empyema or colotomy cases, the discharge passing easily into the wide-mouthed tray, and it, therefore, has very great advantages over the ordinary kidney-shaped trays which, in their turn, were such an advance upon the old dressing basin. This tray has a capacity of three and a-half pints, and being fitted with a handle at the back, the hand of the Nurse is prevented from coming in contact with the discharges, which in these cases are often so offensive. The appliance, we are informed, was suggested by Nurse Manchester, and is made by Messrs. Down Bros., of 5 and 7, St. Thomas' Street, S.E. We can cordially recommend it to the notice of Hospital workers as well as of private Nurses, and have already tested it ourselves in a suitable case, when it was found to act remarkably well and to be most convenient.

WASHING SILKS.

HITHERTO it has been a difficult matter to give to an invalid, especially those suffering from contagious diseases, fancy work intended to be used afterwards; but this need be no longer, as Messrs. Carl Mez have brought out

every variety of colour and shade in embroidery silks and thread, that can be washed, and still retain their colour—floss silk, cable silk, and thick, handsome cord, rich and effective for embroidery. Another specialty of this firm is their flannel silk, made in the general colours of flannel, for embroidering petticoats, &c., also endless colours in excellent embroidery thread.

INVALID PREPARATIONS.

MESSRS. ARMOUR & Co., of Chicago, have during the last few years taken a prominent position in supplying the English market with many valuable invalid preparations. For many years previously they occupied a leading position in this respect in the United States. The firm is chiefly known at present for the celebrated Extract of Beef, but it also produces a large number of special preparations to which the attention of Nurses may with advantage be given. The nutrient wine of beef peptone contains an ounce of beef tea, partially digested, in each ounce of excellent sherry. Vigoral is the name given to a fluid extract of beef properly seasoned, and designed to be used as a hot drink, and therefore both as a food and as a stimulant, purposes which so far as we have tested it seem to be amply secured. Nurses would do well to obtain Armour's Cookery Book, which contains many useful recipes for invalid diets, and which we understand will be sent gratis and post free to any reader of the NURSING RECORD on application to Messrs. Armour & Co., 59, Tooley Street, S.E.

AUTOMATIC SIGHT-TESTING COMPANY.

THE machinery of the present day is rapidly developing in the direction of the penny in the slot process, and, to judge by appearances, the day is not far distant when the present restriction of automatic instruments to the supply of tobacco, toffee, matches, scent and fancy articles will be extended to all the more ordinary necessities of life. We have already gone far beyond the automatic machines which calculated a person's weight or height, or even foretold their future prospects, and the realms of science and of medicine are now being occupied. For example, many of our readers may have seen a most ingenious machine which is placed in various railway stations and other public places, and by means of which anyone can test his sight and discover whether he requires an artificial aid to vision or not, and also, in the former case, precisely what strength of glasses is needed for his particular use. These machines have been introduced by a Company which has already acquired a very considerable reputation

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