

wholesale condemnations will still continue to admire much that he denounces, yet on the whole it will be difficult to deny that the greater part of the preachings and performances of these persons do not make either for health or for righteousness.

Book III. deals with the symptoms of "Ego-Mania"; this is perhaps the most interesting portion of the book. The word itself is a revelation, and has been at once adopted by all European writers, and consequently translated into most modern languages. "Ego-Mania," "Ego-Maniacs"—are not these words a decided acquisition to our language? The egoist may be a disagreeable member of society, but egoism is not, according to Max Nordau, a disease. The ego-maniac, on the contrary, is a mental invalid "who does not see things as they really are, does not understand the world, and cannot take up a right attitude towards it." The arguments that follow this statement are extremely entertaining, and so is the author's classification of ego-maniacs, among which he includes many prominent personages. The chapter on "Realism" deals with Zola and his school, and the book finishes up with a gloomy prophecy with regard to the immediate future, when nervous irritability shall have increased and the capacity for attention and contemplation have diminished; but Max Nordau for our consolation predicts that the hysteria of the present day will not last, and that in due course of time people will recover from their present fatigue, and the swing of the pendulum of thought and the progress of science bring about a better and healthier condition of mind in Europe. The book is full of interest, but one cannot help suspecting that its author shows himself slight symptoms of that "degeneracy" that he so feelingly deplures in the case of most other modern writers and thinkers, when he classes Walt Whitman as a "degenerate," and writes of Dante Rossetti's poems as "stark nonsense"! The book is exceptionally well translated, but we miss a guiding index which in such a work as this is greatly needed.

A. M. G.

Literary Notes.

APRIL MAGAZINES.

THE magazines this month are full of good things.

"Penalties of Ignorance," by Lady Priestley, is the title of a bright, well-written article in the current number of the *Nineteenth Century*. The writer begins by describing a visit paid shortly before the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war to an ancient abbey which combined a convent for Benedictine nuns with a General Hospital for the sick. She then goes on to tell of the deplorable condition of the patients, explained by the absence of the nuns occupied with their devotions in the chapel; and as to the children's wards she was unable "to cross the threshold for the stench and reeking atmosphere." Thither, when the war broke out, hundreds of wounded were carried from the comparative safety of the battlefield. Of course, "few left the hospital alive." Lady Priestley then describes a visit paid to the same place not long ago. All had changed. Air was admitted, bath room established, silence, order and scientific cleanliness prevailed. Sisters, doctors, and assistants were clad in modern overalls of white. What was the cause? A new era was initiated with Pasteur's "Studies on Ferments." And this reform in hospital management is, we are assured, to be found not only in France, but also in Germany, Denmark, Finland and Russia.

In the current number of the *Fortnightly Review* there is an appreciative article upon "Glasgow, a Model Municipi-

city," a city "on the crest of the wave of reform." In dealing with its sanitary system the writer traces the origin of the Sanitary Department in 1863 to the epidemic of typhus and cholera that ravaged the city from 1848 onward. The medical officer and his lieutenant, the Sanitary Inspector, are at the head of quite a little army of inspectors who are empowered to have taken off compulsorily to the Corporation Hospital cases of infectious disease unless they can be isolated at home. But, the writer continues, his stay is made as enjoyable as possible, the consequence being that the average Glasgow labourer now regards Hospitals in much the same way as Maggy in "Little Dorrit" who was accustomed to say "Such beds is there! such lemonades! such oranges! such d'licious broth and wine! such chickens! oh! ain't it a delightful place to go and stop at!"

Mrs. Humphry Ward's new story, "The Story of Bessie Costrell," will be published in the *Cornhill Magazine* and in *Scribner's Magazine*, in the May, June, and July numbers.

The author of the much reviewed "Into the Highways and Hedges" is "only a woman" after all, this really clever and original book having been written by Miss Frances Frederick Montresor, the youngest child of the late Admiral F. B. Montresor, R.N., who lost his life in the Soudan. Mr. Louis Zangwill, a brother of Mr. I. Zangwill, is the author of "A Drama in Dutch"; the book was published under the initials of "Z. Z." Still another series of novels—Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. have adopted the title of "The Leit Geist Library" and the first volume, which will be ready next week, will be by Miss L. Dougall, author of "Beggars All" to be followed by "The Sale of a Soul," by F. Frankfort Moore, "Chiffon's Marriage," being a translation by Mrs. Patchett Martin, of one of the latest and most popular novels of the well-known French authoress "Gyp." New novels will also soon be brought out by Marie Corelli and Mrs. Mannington Caffyn.

William Blackwood and Sons are now bringing out a standard edition of George Eliot's works in half-crown volumes, "Adam Bede," vol. i., will be ready next week.

BOOKLAND.

Books to read: "The Peoples and Politics of the Far East—Travels and Studies in the British, French, Spanish and Portuguese Colonies, China, Japan, Korea, Siam, and Malaya," by Henry Norman. A brilliant and instructive book. (J. Fisher Unwin.)

"Duc de Lauzun, the Private Court Life of Louis XV.," from the French of Gaston Mangras. (Asgood McIlvaine and Co.)

Extract from the Preface: "In 1811 the Imperial police authorities were informed that a manuscript left by the Duc de Lauzun was about to be printed, and would give rise to a great scandal. The manuscript was seized. Queen Hortense desired to read it, and succeeded in obtaining the loan of it for a few days. She had it copied in all haste; the original MS. was then returned to the Minister of Police, and burnt, it was said, in the Emperor's private room, and under his very eyes." These memoirs are taken from the copy made by Queen Hortense, public archives, and private documents.

"The Decline and Fall of Napoleon," by Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley. (Sampson Low, Marston, & Co.)

"The Model of Christian Gay," by Horace Annesley Vachel. A vivid story of Californian life. (Richard Bentley & Son.)

"Two in the Bush and Others Elsewhere," by F. Frankfort Moore. Delightfully fresh. (A. D. Innes & Co.)

Articles to read: *Nineteenth Century*, "England and the Mediterranean," by Colonel Sir George Clarke, K.C.M.G.; "Sex in Modern Literature," by Mrs. Crackenthorpe. *The Humanitarian*, "Corporal Punishment in Schools," by Rev. G. Rice Byrne, M.A. *Pall Mall Magazine*, "Chronicle of a Street," by the Countess of Cork and Orrery.

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