

Bookland.

MR. STEAD is not content to rest on his oars; he must always be in the van of progress. In addition to his admirable plan of establishing village libraries he is now inaugurating the publication of a weekly penny series of the masterpieces of English literature.

He says: "The Masterpiece Library is founded in the belief that it is unjust to complain that the masses have no taste for the best books until the best books are brought within their reach. For the million, literature that cannot be bought in weekly pennyworths is practically non-existent. In towns, free libraries to some extent supply reading for the masses, but what is wanted is the library in the home."

The first issue of the Masterpiece Library contains not only the "Lays of Ancient Rome," but all the other poems of Lord Macaulay. The cheapest copy of the "Lays" hitherto has cost threepence. They are now published at one penny! The cover is a bright orange-tinted stout paper—an excellent imitation of leather. The print is large and splendid, and this first issue contains, in addition to Macaulay's beautiful poems, the portraits of and autograph letters from Lady Henry Somerset, Lord Salisbury, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, and many other notables, expressing the utmost sympathy with the undertaking.

In the first forty years after the "Lays" were published, 100,000 copies were sold. The Masterpiece Library will circulate 100,000 copies in a single week.

So far, the cheapening of printing, paper-making, and allied trades has brought many of the best books within the range of the sixpenny, and to some extent of the threepenny public; but Mr. Stead proposes to carry this process further and make the treasures of our literature accessible to the penny public.

He says he "hopes to establish a Poet's Corner in every home, and at a total outlay of four shillings to place the masterpieces of the master singers of our nation within the reach of the poorest of our citizens." It is also suggested that these popular penny poets will have the effect of helping to cultivate a taste for poetry among the elder scholars in our schools. To secure this end in his own county, Earl Grey has divided Northumberland into eight districts, in each of which he offers a prize each month for the best of every ten essays sent in, on subjects to be announced by him with the publication of the Penny Poets.

This offer is made by Lord Grey "with a view to encourage scholars in the standards of elementary schools in Northumberland to try and study the Penny Poets," and he asks the co-operation of school-managers and teachers in furthering his attempt to introduce the masterpieces of our literature to the elder scholars in Northumbrian schools.

This edition of the poets will be a splendid addition to Nurses' libraries, and the individual Nurse will be able to add to her storehouse of the beauties of our great writers at the most modest outlay. "How to get books" is one of the difficulties of the Nurse's life, and here is the solution. The books are of such a compass that they take little room amid one's belongings, and thus the gems of our great writers may be conned and read and studied and inwardly digested, and will afford an endless source of recreation and mental happiness.

The second issue will consist of Sir Walter Scott's "Marmion." This was first published at a guinea and a half. The cheapest edition at present procurable costs sixpence. Early in June anyone will be able to buy "Marmion" for a penny. The next to follow will be Byron's "Childe Harold," after which the beautiful poems of Lowell, followed by the works of Burns, Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" will come after, and so on with the other masterpieces of the world. Mr. Stead has once more earned the gratitude of the thinking and the reading public.

Coming Events.

June 3rd.—Tenth annual parade of the London Cart Horse Parade Society, Regent's Park.

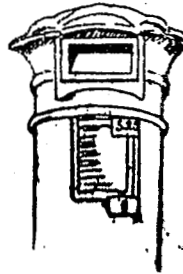
June 5th.—Princess Christian opens a bazaar at Englefield Green, near Windsor, in aid of the Englefield Green National Schools.

June 7th.—Bishop of London presents certificates at the Sion College, Victoria Embankment, 3 p.m., to members of the London Diocesan Church Reading Union who were successful at the last examination.

June 13th.—Mrs. Eva McLaren's second meeting of the School of Method, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., 3 p.m.

Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

A SICK FUND FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am entirely at one with your Holmwood correspondent regarding the necessity for a self-supporting Sick Fund for members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. It seems to me impossible to overestimate the importance of the subject, or the pressing need for the immediate initial steps being taken to establish such a Fund.

To be debarred from the work we love so well is bad enough, but the burden of our misfortune presses even more heavily, if the financial loss caused by forced inaction, is of dire importance to us.

The wards of a Hospital ought to have taught us what being "in" a "club" means to those laid low. Surely we might "borrow a leaf" from our patients' book, and adapt it to our needs and means, as Nurses.

The timely help, which forethought and thrift will give us the right to claim, will in our hour of need be a very different matter to being recipients of charity, however kindly bestowed.

Faithfully yours,
MARIAN C. PINCOFFS,
Reg. Nurse.

Dunster,
May 20th, 1895.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was so glad to see in your issue of 18th inst. a letter signed "Another Happy Nurse" on the subject of forming a Sick or Benevolent Fund in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association. I shall be most happy to join and help in any way I can. I have often felt it was just the one thing the Association lacked.

May I also express my unqualified opinion, with Miss Homersham, that some effort is necessary to raise the standard of lecturers employed by the County Councils; more

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