

nice, lovable, and quite, comfortably human creation. It is Miles Dormer, the unfortunate object of George Paston's studies, who seems to me an impossible creation, for he was evidently born into the book to be analysed and found wanting, and I contend that he is not a human being at all, and never is alive from the first page to the last. It is really very strange how very few of the principal men characters of women's novels are endowed with life. They are clever casts and wax reproductions of the originals, but seldom or never alive and endowed with that vitality which is the work, not of pains-taking, but of genius. Even the greatest women writers who succeeded in drawing their minor men personalities with skill, failed when they endeavoured to describe the hero of the novel. Can anyone really consider that Daniel Deronda and Robert Elsmere were genuine human beings, or that the glorified prigs in the old-fashioned women's novels, and the tarnished discreditable men beings in modern women's novels would bleed anything but sawdust or ink if they were pricked with the pen of analysis? No, thus far the female pen has not yet succeeded in depicting the "old male," and the reason, I veritably believe, is that he is too simple a being for a complex feminine mind to comprehend.

A. M. G.

## Bookland.

### WHAT TO READ.

- "Life of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria," by Millicent Garrett Fawcett, with portrait. Eminent Women Series, price 1s. (London: W. H. Allen & Co.)
- "Can Russia Invade India?" by Colonel H. B. Hanna, Bengal Staff Corps. (Archibald Constable & Co.)
- "The Eastern Basis of Christianity," by Mr. William Kingsland, F.T.S. (London, New York and Madras: The Theosophical Society.)
- New Volume of Sermons by the Rev. Canon Eyton, "The Temptation of Jesus," and other Sermons. (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.)
- "Under God's Sky," by Deas Cromarty. (A. D Innes & Co., Bedford Street, Strand.)
- "When Valmond came to Pontiac": the Story of a Lost Napoleon, by Gilbert Parker. (Methuen & Co., 36, Essex Street, W.C.)
- "Almayer's Folly, a Story of an Eastern River," by Joseph Conrad. (T. Fisher Unwin.)
- "Sonya Kovalevsky": a Biography, by Anna Carlotta Leffler and Sisters Rajevsky, being an Account of her Life, by Sonya Kovalevsky, translated by A. De Forühjelm and A. M. Clive Bayley, with Biographical Note by Lily Wolfsohn. 2 portraits. (T. Fisher Unwin.)

## Coming Events.

June 24th.—Annual Festival of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Service at St John's Church, Clerkenwell, 10.15 a.m.; Luncheon, Albion Hotel, Aldersgate Street, E.C., 1 p.m.; General Assembly at the Charterhouse, 2.15 p.m.; Dinner in evening at Imperial Institute.

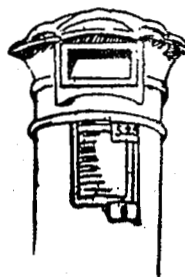
June 25th.—Annual Summer Concert at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 8 p.m.

Grand Bazaar and Fancy Fair in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will be opened by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, at 3 p.m.

June 26th.—Princess Christian opens Bazaar in aid of the Clerkenwell Parochial Schools, at Clerkenwell Town Hall.

June 27th.—The Princess of Wales will open, and the Duke and Duchess of York be present at a Grand Bazaar in aid of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, at the Portman Rooms, 1 p.m.

Afternoon Concert by the English Ladies' Orchestral Society at 3.15 p.m. in the Picture Gallery at Bridgewater House, in aid of the funds of the British Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem.



## Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;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.*

### NURSES AS COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am very glad you have called attention in an editorial to a common enough experience in our profession, of Nurses being requested by certain manufacturers to undertake to introduce certain articles, such as nursing and surgical appliances, corsets, perfumes and smelling salts—and even proprietary medicines!—to their private patients, and to receive on the sale of these articles a *commission*, more or less large, according to the generosity or status of the firm which makes such overtures. Now, it stands to common sense that Nurses in the course of their private work must gain experience of the value of certain sick-room requisites, and even as to the pleasantness of certain tooth-powders and scents. And there is not the slightest reason why they should not give their patients the benefit of their experience, by recommending for their use the best things they know of. But it is absolutely derogatory to our profession that they should convert themselves into commercial travellers on a small scale. It really will make one afraid to advise a patient even in the smallest matter of sick-room comforts, lest one might come under the suspicion of making a profit out of their necessities. Of course, on the whole, taking the year round, Nurses are not very well paid, but their condition is not so necessitous that they need stoop to so low an expedient as commissions on drugs and smelling salts, to say nothing of the harmful effect on the patients of amateur doctoring, such as the introduction of proprietary preparations into the sick room.

Yours,  
ANTI-COMMERCIAL.

### COUNTY COUNCIL LECTURERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—One of your correspondents suggests that it would be useful to gather different experiences of County Council lecturers, so I venture to add in your columns mine. I have always felt interest in the subject of Technical Education, but have at the same time seen that it is a serious

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