

and well-a-day! for we would gladly have read a third and a fourth Jungle Book and heard more stories of the cunning of Kaa, the wisdom of Bagheera, the foolishness of the Bandalog, and all the rest of the delightful animals that people the Jungle where Mowgli dwelt with his wolves. There are two or three stories in this volume in which Mowgli has nothing to do—of these, I find it difficult to say whether the "Miracle of Purun Bhagat" or "Quiquern" is the more fascinating.

A glimpse is given of Kipling's deep insight into simple human nature in the lines—

"Because we loved him with the love  
That knows but cannot understand,"

which head the story of the Brahmin Purun Dass, once Prime Minister of one of the semi-independent Indian States, who, after having attained the highest honours possible, "resigned position, palace and power, and became a Sunnysasi—a houseless, wandering mendicant." How he and the animals amongst whom he lived saved the village that lay below his shrine from being submerged, the reader must discover for himself. "Quiquern" is a Lapp story, and relates how a certain community near by starved during an Arctic winter, and how Kotuko and a girl found seals and dragged them home in their sledge just in time to save the lives of all their relations. The word-painting with which Kipling depicts Arctic nature, and the interior of the meagre Lapp houses, the training of the young puppies to draw the sledges, and all the various idiosyncracies of those terrible regions, is unique in strength and simplicity.

I hear all the children of my acquaintance groaning that Mr. Lang has given them another *True* story book instead of one of his fascinating selections from classic fairy lore. Mr. Lang has contributed himself to the Red Story Book the history of "The Life and Death of Joan the Maid," which he has extracted from five ponderous volumes which were published by the Historical Society of France, and from other sources. The tale of "Wilson's Last Fight," is told by Mr. Rider Haggard, "The Bull of Earlstoun," and "Grisell Baillie," are contributed by Mr. Crockett, and the rest of the veracious narratives are related by various writers. The Rev. W. C. Green, a well-known authority on Icelandic literature, has translated some vigorous Sagas from the Icelandic. Perhaps, taking all these things into consideration, the boys and girls will be content to put up with a *True* story book this year, if only Mr. Lang will promise not to commit another.

A. M. G.

### Review.

#### "A WOMAN'S WORDS TO WOMEN."

A BOOK most serviceable and interesting, and one written in a charming spirit of friendliness and counsel, is Dr. Mary Scharlieb's "A Woman's Words to Women" (Swan Sonnenschein). It deals with women in the capacity of *Young Girl*, *Young Wife*, and *Young Mother*, and points out the characteristics, needs, and dangers of these several states. It is a book which should be put into the hands of every young woman. It speaks clearly and plainly concerning the function of reproduction as it affects that sex on which devolve

the main duties of this important process. It speaks always with delicacy and reticence, taking a high and noble view of factors which we have too long regarded as belonging to our "lower nature"—factors concerned with the bringing into existence of that which may be a beautiful human life. Only the crudest ignorance on the part of our sex, ignorance of all the complex phenomena involved, could have given rise to that reticence which still obtains, even amongst a cultured class, that these subjects are to be tabooed or alluded to in whispers, and stigmatised as "indelicias." We may be sure that so long as we relegate the mysteries of motherhood and birth to the low plane they have hitherto been accorded, we shall never get the full value out of these. The sooner we regard them as essentially the machinery of evolution, the means by which a yet higher race is ever coming into existence, and not as something of which we are ashamed, the better for the race; a knowledge of physiology dignifying our conception of our bodies and their functions is the basis of all true education and progress. And Mrs. Scharlieb's book suggests this in an extremely interesting way, at the same time that it contains much valuable practical information.

### Bookland.

#### WHAT TO READ.

THERE is an admirable article by Mr. Herbert Page in the November number of *St. Mary's Hospital Gazette* on "The Admission of Women to the Diploma of the two Royal Colleges." It is a satisfactory evidence of the growth of breadth and fairness when so distinguished a surgeon can give such an excellent reproof to the narrow-mindedness of the older "Fellows." It is just such good comradeship that is needed between men and women.

"Studies of Men," by George W. Smalley. (London: Macmillan & Co.)

"Second Jungle Book," by Rudyard Kipling. (London: Macmillan.)

"The Keeleys on the Stage and at Home," by Walter Goodman. (London: Richard Bentley & Son.)

"Casa Braccio: a New Story," by F. Marion Crawford. In two volumes.

"In a Hollow of the Hills," by Bret Harte. With a frontispiece by St. Maur Fitzgerald.

### Coming Events.

*December 3rd.*—Meeting of Executive Committee, Registered Nurses' Society, 5 p.m., 20, Upper Wimpole Street.

*December 4th.*—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Women, 3 p.m., 20, Upper Wimpole Street.

Sale of work left from the Bazaar, at St. Mary's Hospital Board Room, 12 noon till 7 p.m. The Hospital will be open for inspection by visitors attending the Sale.

*December 5th.*—Registered Nurses' Society At Home, 4 to 7, 20, Upper Wimpole Street. Music, tea and coffee.

Bazaar in aid of the Mary Wardell Convalescent Home for Scarlet Fever, in Iron Room, Stanmore Common, open 12 noon.

*December 9th.*—Annual Conversazione of Royal British Nurses' Association, at the Institute of Painters in Oil Colours, Piccadilly, W., at 8.30 p.m. Nurses (non-members) 2s. 6d.; members 1s.; member and friend 5s.; guests 5s.

*December 12th.*—Mrs. Roberts-Austen At Home at the Royal Mint, 4 to 7 p.m., to discuss the work of the National Council of Women. Tea and coffee.

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