

his intercourse and conversation in society in London. He struts about, and dominates every scene in the book, thus missing the truth that evil undermines our thoughts and actions, and acts, not like thunder or a sledge hammer, but like a poisonous microbe upon the constitution of man.

Everyone knows the tale of Miss Marie Corelli's sufferings at the hands of reviewers, and we are glad to learn that she does not mind the criticisms bestowed upon her a bit. She devotes many pages in this book to telling us this, and further informs us that the exquisite, lofty-minded authoress, Mavis Clare, who is self-evidently intended to represent her own personality, names all her doves after the principal newspapers that review her. This lady gravely asserts that reviewers are in the habit of being paid large sums of money for booming the books of aspiring authors, and represents them as accepting cheques for £500 to secure appreciative notices in magazines! What an encouragement this should be to the indigent reviewer!

Mavis Clare, who in this book is held up as a sample of all that is perfect in womanhood and authorship, is represented as living in Lily Cottage, by herself in the country, surrounded by roses and doves, dogs, and auto-photographs of all the crowned heads in Europe; as visited by the Prince of Wales, her friend and admirer, whenever he feels inclined for a little "higher conversation;" as passionately adored by millions of the British public; and last, but not least, the devil himself, when he comes into her presence, is so humbled and awe-stricken by her august purity, that he bows in adoration and meekly kisses her hand. "Ye gods and little fishes!"

A. M. G.

Review.

"A MANUAL of Obstetric Nursing," by Marian Humfrey. (Sampson, Low and Marston.) The present volume completes Miss Humfrey's Manual of Obstetric Nursing, and we think there are very few readers of the first admirable volume who will not invest in this second, which appears to be even more valuable than the first.

Miss Humfrey writes from a long practical experience, and every line shows that she has brought great powers of observation to bear upon her subject. That she is original in her observations, and very wise, is apparent after reading a few lines only. She appears to combine the motherliness of feeling, which every good midwife and obstetric Nurse should have, with a thorough knowledge of her work from the scientific aspect.

The book is divided into two parts, the maternal and infantile. In the former, chapters are devoted to *post-partum* hæmorrhage, puerperal convulsions, insanity, lesions, &c., and each page is full of the most practical information of what to do in normal and abnormal situations; how to temporarily supply the place of the obstetrician and how to supplement his treatment with most skilful care and Nursing.

Miss Humfrey displays much ingenuity in making her patients comfortable, as shown by the following incident:—"A patient of mine was lamed with white leg. It was necessary for her to remain in bed for some weeks in order that the affected limb might be kept in that state of *absolute* repose that is the chief point to aim at to effect good recovery. She had a

favourite cane easy chair in her bedroom. 'How nice it would be if I could have that in bed,' she said. 'Have it cut down,' said I. And cut down it was. And this is what we did with it. We moved the bolsters and pillows out of the way, and put our chair that had been so disgracefully treated close up to the head of the bed and steadied it there; brought one leg-rest close up to the seat, lifted up the lady on to her chair, and made her cosy with cushions and pillows to suit her own comfort."

The book is so full of suggestions which would be of value in any branch of Nursing, such as hints as to the best inkstand, bedside-table, light, and occupation for the invalid, that its value is not only to the obstetric Nurse. All Nurses would have much to learn from the book, and we can hardly imagine books which would form so pleasant and acceptable a Christmas or New Year's gift as these two admirable volumes of Miss Humfrey.

Part II., devoted to infantile ailments, and the treatment of the newly-born, is delightful reading to baby lovers, as the author is so plainly devoted to her little subjects, and has an infinite knowledge of "mothering" and caring for them. To all Nurses whose work takes them much among infants and children this is a very valuable part of the book. At the end of the book there are a series of questions on the salient points connected with the emergencies and more serious complications of the puerpera, and of infants, which will be very useful to the Nurse who wishes to test by self-examination how far she has mastered the subjects treated of in the book. The volume which we cordially recommend to our readers is dedicated, by permission, to H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Unsolved Mysteries," by Violet Chambers Tweedale. (Digby, Long & Co.)
- "Puritanism in the Old World and in the New;" a Historical Handbook, by J. Gregory. (London: James Clarke & Co.)
- "Lyrical Verse from Elizabeth to Victoria," edited by Oswald Crawford.
- "Life in the Tuileries Under the Second Empire," by Anna L. Bicknell. (London: Fisher Unwin.)
- "Queen Victoria's Dolls," by Francis H. Low. Illustrated by Alan Wright. (London: George Newnes, Limited, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.)
- "A Doctor of the Old School," by Ian Maclaren. (Hodder & Stoughton.)
- "Notre Dame de Paris," by Victor Hugo. Translated by A. L. Alger. (London: Routledge.)
- "John Hare, Comedian, 1865-1895;" a Biography, by T. Edgar Pemberton.
- "The Temptress," by William Le Queux. (Tower Publishing Co.)
- "The Amazing Marriage," by George Meredith.
- "Lady Bonnie's Experiment," by Tighe Hopkins.

Coming Events.

December 21st.—Her Royal Highness Princess Christian "At Home" at the Royal School of Art Needlework, 3-30 to 6-30.

Princess Christian opens "the Children's Salon" Christmas Sale of Work at the Westminster Town Hall on behalf of the underfed Children of the Metropolitan Schools.

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