

and publishers do not look kindly upon these penny editions, one who is an intimate friend even going so far as to say that he wondered how I could "venture to come to tea in his house with a penny poet sticking out of my muff." The editors of some papers, that shall be nameless here, did not smile upon my proposition to write for them articles as to the great National advantages of classical penny literature, and so for a while I felt dejected (as any journalist always does who wants to write an article which her editors will not publish for her). Suddenly I remembered the NURSING RECORD, and I thought to myself with delight, these penny editions of the poets and great novelists are the very best invention in the world for the Nurses of England; they are cheap, portable, and, moreover, in case of infectious illness they will prove invaluable, for they can be burnt without a pang. I do not for a moment wish to advocate the buying of penny poets *instead* of more beautiful editions, but I do earnestly desire to try and persuade every one to buy them *as well* as the more costly volumes, and to point out what a desirable acquisition they would be to people who are really too poor to invest 2s. 6d. in a poet that they feel by no means sure that they will appreciate as a constant life companion.

I have all the orange-coloured series lying before me on the table; Wordsworth and Shelley I have mentioned already, and though their names are known to all readers, I doubt if their poems are handy in everybody's memory. I will ask my readers next time they travel to invest in the Wordsworth, and turn to page 29 of this penny version and read the poem headed "November, 1896," and say if it is not a most remarkable poem, as it most assuredly would apply word for word to the recent political crisis.

Walt Whitman is known to comparatively few readers even by name. Yet he is a giant, and though the form that his muse adopts is somewhat savage (a well-known critic has described him as "an Orson of the Muse"), yet his ideas are lusty and wholesome, and to some people have proved most inspiring and helpful. Here now is a chance, for one penny, to become a little acquainted with him. "Matthew Arnold, His Poetry and Message," is another issue. The preface to this pamphlet is long, and absorbs more than half the volume, but it is well written and will doubtless help many people to understand his poetry. I am glad to see that Tristram and other longer poems are to appear later in the "Masterpiece Library," which assuredly would be incomplete without them. The Quaker poet Whittier's poems are given in two volumes; selections from the "Earthly Paradise," Spenser's "Faerie Queene," Clough's "Bothie" are also included, and diverse others, which, unfortunately, I have not space to mention. Mr. Stead is proving, in my humble opinion, a real benefactor to mankind by the publication of these little selections from the masters of thought.

I am not so delighted with his novels, wonderful though they are in price, paper and print. I do not like my novels digested for me, and cut down to the length required for a penny issue. I see that Sir George Newnes is publishing "absolutely unabridged novels" for a penny a volume. I bought an old favourite "Feats on Fjord," by Miss Martineau, but I could not manage the print while travelling express, though I had been able to read the poets the week before without any trouble. I must not leave the question of penny poets without reminding our readers that Messrs. George Redway have just republished "A Word for the Navy," by Swinburne, on dainty paper

with admirable wide margins, for the same insignificant sum.
A. M. G.

The New Age is an admirable penny weekly. It is crisp, bright, and progressive, as one would expect from the fact that it is edited by Mr. A. E. Fletcher, lately of the *Daily Chronicle*. In addition to political articles, news about women and their progress, books to read, a children's corner, there is a story running now entitled "The King's Cousin," by W. E. Norris.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"With an Ambulance During the Franco-German War," by Dr. Charles E. Ryan. (London: John Murray.)

"The Life of Cardinal Manning, Archbishop of Westminster," by Edmund Sheridan Purcell. (Macmillan & Co.)

"The Use of Life," by the Right Hon. Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D.

"Stray Thoughts for Invalids, Original and Selected," by Lucy H. M. Soulsby, author of "Stray Thoughts for Girls."

"The Lost Stradivarius," by J. Meade Falkner.

"The Sport of Stars," by Algernon Gissing, author of "A Moorland Idyll," &c. (Hurst & Blackett, Limited, 13, Great Marlborough Street.)

"A Provincial Lady," by the author of "Vashti and Esther."

"Prisoners of Silence," by Mary A. Dickens.

"A Man and a Woman," by George Redway. (An exceptionally brilliant book.)

"Recent Science" (Röntgen's Rays—The Erect Ape Man,) by Prince Kropotkin.

"The Encroachment of Women," by Charles Whibley.

The New Review for March contains an important article by Dr. F. Rutherford Harris, Member of the Cape Legislative Assembly.

Coming Events.

March 7th.—Medical Society of London Dinner, Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

March 9th.—Benefit Matinée in aid of Siddons House Home Hospital, at the St. James' Theatre.

March 10th.—Annual Meeting of the East London Nursing Society, at the Mansion House, 3 p.m. The chair will be taken by the Lord Mayor.

March 11th.—Lecture on "The Isolation of Cases of Infectious Diseases in the Metropolis," by Mr. A. C. Scovell, Chairman of Ambulance Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, at Sanitary Institute, Margaret Street, W., 8 p.m.

March 13th.—Lecture at the Trained Nurses' Club, at 7.45, by Mrs. William Archer; subject, "Nerves and a little Common Sense." Members of the Society of Trained Masseuses are invited. Tickets for non-members can be obtained from the Secretary at Club, 6d. each.

March 20th.—The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will visit the Royal Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Bridge Road.

March 24th.—The Duke and Duchess of York visit Lancaster to open the new Infirmary.

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