

cordance. These so-called old-fashioned views are set forth in this little volume, not with the half querulous complaint of a dissatisfied elderly relation, but with all the vigour of an exceedingly astute and able woman writer. I allow myself one quotation, which is, I think, very fairly representative of the tone of the whole book. Speaking of the wonderfully human impersonation of women on the stage by that greatest of actresses, Eleonora Duse, the authoress says:—

"She shows us the everlasting child in woman, who is possessed of an erotic yearning for fulness of life. Woman is not, and cannot be, happy by herself, nor is the sacrifice of a moment enough for her; it is not enough for her to live by the side of a man, a husband's tenderness is as necessary to her as the air she breathes. His passion, lit by her, is her life and happiness."

Some months ago I reviewed in these pages the life of Sonia Kovalevsky, the woman mathematician, who had a world-wide reputation. The brief account of her life and unhappiness is related in these pages with pathetic words. George Egerton, whose works of fiction ("Keynotes and Discords") most of us have read and most of us have disliked, is dwelt upon at some length in a chapter entitled "Neurotic Keynotes." Duse's acting is described with a charm of language that recalls Mrs. Meynell's famous article in the *Pall Mall* last year. Amalie Skram I never heard of till I read the article about her in this volume, and this chapter, in consequence, did not interest me—but Marie Bashkirtseff is one of the most interesting characters of modern introspective autobiography. A well-known critic described her as the "Mongolian Minx," which was an unfair epithet to bestow on the poor talented Russian girl; she was a minx, but she was something more than that, and her self revelations and heart sorrows will be read about, long after many more virtuous and philosophic writers are forgotten—because she was so essentially human, and every perfectly candid autobiography of a human being cannot fail to be absorbing to all generations of men and women. The last modern woman, Fru Leffler, was a Swedish writer who, according to our authoress, found marriage with the Duke of Cajanello much happier than her previous "long insipid period of literary production!"

As I have said before, most Nurses and other women engaged in an honourable and independent career of their own, will quarrel with the sentiments propounded in this little book, but just for that reason they ought to read it, because it is well sometimes to read and listen to the opinions of those with whom we radically disagree.

A. M. G.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

"Memoirs of Barras," edited by George Duruy. Translated by Charles E. Roche. (London: Osgood, McIlvaine.)

"Paradoxes," by Max Nordau, author of "Degeneration," &c. Translated by J. R. McIlraith.

"The Africander, a plain tale of Colonial Life," illustrated, by E. Clairmonte. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)

"The Folly of Eustace," by Robert Hichens, author of "An Imaginative Man."

"Illumination," by Harold Frederic, author of "In the Valley."

"The Island of Dr. Moreau," by H. G. Wells. (London: William Heinemann, 21, Bedford Street, W.C.)

"The World and a Man," by Z.Z., author of "A Drama in Dutch."

"Paul Heinsius," by Cora Lyster.

"Ginette's Happiness," by Gyp. Translated by Ralph Derechef. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Square, E.C.)

Coming Events.

May 1st.—Meeting of the Executive Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 5 p.m., at the offices of the Corporation, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W.

May 2nd.—Concert by the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society, at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., in aid of the funds of St. Thomas's Hospital. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught will be present.

May 6th.—The Duke of Cambridge will preside at the University College Hospital Banquet, Holborn Restaurant, 7.

May 7th.—A "Café Chantant and May Day Revel" is to be held at the Queen's Hall, in aid of the Hospital for Incurable Children, 2, Maida Vale. It will be opened at 3.30 p.m. by Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar.

May 11th.—The Duke of Cambridge will preside at the Festival Dinner of the Royal Blind Pension Society, Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

Princess Mary Adelaide will distribute the faithful service prizes at the 52nd Anniversary of the Ragged School Union and Shaftesbury Society, at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place.

May 16th.—Concert and Garden Party, under the immediate patronage of Princess Mary Adelaide, at North House, Putney, in aid of the Memorial Cottage Hospital, Mildmay Park, in the afternoon.

National Health Society, 53, Berners Street.—Annual Distribution of medals and certificates at Grosvenor House (by kind permission of the Duke of Westminster), 3.

May 19th.—Concert at Stafford House, by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, in aid of Mrs. Kitto's Convalescent Home and Orphanage at Reigate.

May 26th.—Lord Charles Bruce will preside at the Festival Dinner of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road.

June 1st.—Opening of the Nursing Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall.

June 3rd, 4th and 5th.—Nursing Conferences at the Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall.

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