

with the Labour Question and the Factory Acts that are dealt with in this novel. They may be carefully read, with considerable profit, by anyone interested in these grave and difficult questions, because the arguments, on both sides, are stated with such extreme fairness. Mrs. Ward is one of the very few women writers of the present day who have intellect enough to see both sides of a question, and with sufficient literary skill to state them clearly and comprehensively. Some readers will doubtless wish that the story was printed in one novel and the lengthy political discussions, in another, or at least in an appendix that could be left unread. But in real life, ambition and politics often interfere with the course of a love story, and their intrusion cannot be skipped and escaped like the printed pages of a book.

A. M. G.

## Reviews.

"A TANGLED GARDEN," by Mrs. Fred Reynolds (Hutchinson & Co.) This new novel is a great step in advance of the authoress's last work, which we noticed some time since. The scene is laid in Wales, and it is refreshing to read of a female character of the best type. A young child plays a most important part throughout the story, and benefits it by so doing. "A Tangled Garden" will interest the reader from beginning to end, and would be a capital book to read to an invalid.

It would be a mental relief to the profession as a whole if somebody would write a Nurse's book which does not begin with "She should be always neatly and quietly dressed." Mr. Domville, in the eighth edition of his excellent "Manual for Hospital Nurses,"\* assumes the John Knox attitude to Nurses, and preaches in his preface against feminine vanities. "It should be remembered," he sermonises, "that even off-duty gaudy ribbons and showy feathers do not become those who only wear their finery occasionally," &c. He then goes on with the well-worn recommendation to the Nurse to "take a bath," have "clean hands" and "clean linen." As this is a "Manual for Hospital Nurses," Mr. Domville would be acting more professionally and in better taste were he to leave domestic and personal matters of this kind to the Matron.

In the section devoted to "The Nurse's duties towards her Patients," Mr. Domville stands on his own ground, and there is much excellence in the advice he gives.

One cannot help wondering of which Hospital the author is speaking when he suggests that, owing to the Nurse not having "provided sufficient bed-covering for her patients," probably "a chance visit to a ward at night would discover it in an untidy condition, through portions of patients' wearing apparel being heaped on the beds." We do not remember to have been through a Hospital of this kind.

The book may certainly be recommended, more especially for Probationers, as the matters are treated from an elementary standpoint. But where a book is so

good it is a pity that it should be marred by the adoption of a "scolding" attitude towards the Nurse, and statements like the following: "A Nurse is tempted, partly through soft-heartedness, and partly through desire for her own comfort, to give a sleeping-draught on the slightest excuse." We are of opinion that Nurses have a greater devotion to their work and a higher code of ethics than is dreamt of in the philosophy of Mr. Domville.

Miss Jack, in "The Art of Cooking for Invalids,"\* gives strong evidence by her recipes and suggestions that she is a good practical cook, but we doubt if she is a Nurse. Anyway, it does not strengthen our conviction in her science of food to read that greased double paper should be tied over the jar in which the meat and water are used for the preparation of beef-tea, because "the grease on the paper makes it non-porous and prevents the strength of the beef-tea escaping." The "strength of beef-tea" is not volatile, and it is distinctly unhygienic to cook meat which is hermetically sealed; also beef-tea should *not* be strained, unless in very exceptional cases. The book would be a very useful one in any household, containing, as it does, many excellent recipes for general use; but beyond the small section on peptonised milk, soups, and puddings, the book is not specialised to the needs of Nurses. The Chapter on Drinks strengthens our suspicion that Miss Jack is a cook—not a Nurse—for she recommends the time-honoured apple-water, rice-water, boiled apple-water (for variety), toast-water, prune drink, suet and milk, treacle-posset, and all those hundred and one out-of-date grandmother remedies which the trained Nurse would not use in an invalid cookery book, and would certainly not victimise her patients with.

We have no word to say anent Miss Jack's book as a cookery-book, but we do not recognise its special merits as an invalid cookery-book.

## Coming Events.

*October 31st.*—Princess Christian presents the Prizes and Certificates to Lady Members of the St. John's Ambulance Association at the Crystal Palace, 2 p.m.

Inspection and Demonstration at Richmond Main Sewerage Works, Mortlake, at 3 p.m. Conducted by William Fairley, Assoc. M. Inst. C.E.

*November 2nd.*—Ventilation, Warming, and Lighting. Louis Parkes, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.Lond., Lecturer on Public Health, St. George's Hospital, Med. Off. of Health, Chelsea.

*November 3rd.*—Demonstration of Diseased Meat, at the Parkes Museum, at 8 p.m., by W. A. Bond, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Med. Off. of Health, Holborn and St. Olaves, Southwark.

First Demonstration on Invalid Cookery, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, 2.30 p.m. First Lesson: Beef tea, sole au gratin, fried sweetbread, vanilla soufflé, custard pudding, toast and water.

\* "A Manual for Hospital Nurses," by Edward J. Domville. Published by Messrs. J. & A. Churchill at 2s. 6d.

\* "The Art of Cooking for Invalids in the Home and the Hospital," by Florence B. Jack. Published by Whittaker & Co., Paternoster Square, E.C.

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