

'Mr. Kinnaid!' she murmured; then she died.
'You might have thought that he was there himself,' said the daughters, awestruck.
And the minister said within himself, 'Who knows but that he was there?'

It is pathos of a rare and tender kind.

The story of the shy schoolmaster, whose love-letter goes astray, to his own complete happiness and salvation; of the curate who finds that the lovely girl to whom he is engaged is incapable of drawing a distinction between right and wrong; and particularly the story of the young man who chances on a lonely house at night, and finds two charming, lonely girls, giving an imaginary party to the characters out of the novels of Miss Austen, Miss Burney, and Richardson, charm by their unusual character, and the sheer simplicity and directness of their style. Miss Dougall's is a brain which turns thoughts into stories as easily as some people turn milk into butter; it is a great faculty, and not so common as one might think.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

THERE is an interesting series of articles, entitled "Round the Hospitals" (by "A Mere Layman"), appearing in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE PATRIOT.—AN OLD STORY.

I.

It was roses, roses, all the way,
With myrtle mixed in my path like mad:
The house-roofs seemed to heave and sway,
The church-spires flamed, such flags they had,
A year ago on this very day.

II.

The air broke into a mist with bells,
The old walls rocked with the crowd, and cries.
Had I said, "Good folk, mere noise repels—
But give me your sun from yonder skies!"
They had answered, "And afterward, what else?"

III.

Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun
To give it my loving friends to keep!
Nought man could do have I left undone:
And you see my harvest, what I reap
This very day, now a year is run.

IV.

There's nobody on the house-tops now—
Just a palsied few at the windows set;
For the best of the sight is, all allow,
At the Shambles' Gate—or, better yet,
By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.

V.

I go in the rain, and, more than needs,
A rope cuts both my wrists behind;
And I think, by the feel, my forehead bleeds,
For they fling, whoever has a mind,
Stones at me for my year's misdeeds.

VI.

Thus I entered, and thus I go!
In triumphs, people have dropped down dead.
"Paid by the world, what dost thou owe
Me?"—God might question; now instead,
'Tis God shall repay: I am safer so.

ROBERT BROWNING.

WHAT TO READ.

"The Life and Times of Thomas Wakley, Founder and First Editor of the *Lancet*, M.P. for Finsbury, and Coroner for West Middlesex," by S. Squire Sprigge, M.B.

"A Short Popular History of Crete." Contains Introduction by Mr. P. W. Clayden, together with Maps of Crete and the seat of war, by J. H. Freese M.A.

"The Romance of Isabel, Lady Burton."

"Pioneer Women in Victoria's Reign," by Edwin A. Pratt.

"The Dreams of Dania," by Rev. F. Langbridge.

"Audrey Craven," by May Sinclair.

"The Wooing of Avis Grayle," by Charles Hannan.

"Through Finland in Carts," by Mrs. Alec. Tweedie.

"The Silence Broken," by G. N. Robins (Mrs. Baillie-Reynolds).

Dramatic Notes.

THE OLYMPIC.

THIS popular theatre was on Monday night last the scene of a revival of a series of Shakespearian presentations, beginning with that of "Hamlet," under the management of Mr. Ben Greet, so long well-known for his laudable efforts to illustrate the works of our greatest dramatist. Mr. Nutcombe Gould, who has for some time past achieved no small reputation at our leading Metropolitan theatres, essayed the title *role* on Monday, and fulfilled the expectations which had been formed of him in the same by his recent performance of it at the Theatre Metropole at Camberwell. Miss Lily Hanbury gave a charming impersonation of Ophelia, and Mr. Ben Greet himself took a congenial character in Polonius. After a contemplated fortnight's run of "Hamlet," "Othello," "Romeo and Juliet," and probably "Macbeth," will follow.

E. G. H.

Coming Events.

May 15th.—The French Ambassador presides at the Annual Dinner in aid of the French Hospital in London, Hotel Cecil.

May 17th.—The Duke of Westminster presides at a meeting on behalf of the Mary Wardell Convalescent Home for Scarlet Fever, Grosvenor House, 3.45 p.m.

May 18th.—Annual Meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation at St. James' Hall, Picadilly, 8 p.m. Mrs. Eva McLaren in the chair.

May 20th.—The Duke of York presides at the Festival Dinner of the Gordon Boys' Home at the Whitehall Rooms.

May 21st.—The Duke of Connaught presides at the Jubilee Dinner of the Samaritan Free Hospital, Whitehall Rooms, 7.30 p.m.

May 26th.—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales opens the new Medical School Buildings at Guy's Hospital.

May 28th.—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales lays the foundation-stone of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, City Road.

June 3rd.—Mr. Bancroft will read Dickens' "Christmas Carol" at the Imperial Institute, in aid of the Colonial Nursing Association.

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