

The inquiry on the Commune which has been in progress for some time in one of the reviews is to be published in volume form. Among the contributors are Henri Rochefort, the Marquis de Gallifet, Louise Michel, and Edouard Lockroy.

#### WHAT TO READ:

- "Old Memories," by General Sir Hugh Gough, G.C.B., V.C.  
 "A Fountain Sealed," by Walter Besant.  
 "In the Tideway," by Flora Annie Steel.  
 "Sketches in Lavender, Blue and Green," by Jerome K. Jerome.  
 "East End Idylls," by A. St. John Adcock, with an introduction by the Rev. the Hon. J. G. Adderley.  
 "A Rose of Yesterday," by Marion Crawford.  
 "The Wooing of May," by Alan St. Aubyn.  
 "My Lord Duke," by E. V. Hornuing.

### Dramatic Notes.

#### HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

"THE SEATS OF THE MIGHTY" being the piece with which Mr. Beerbohm Tree selected to open his new and splendid Theatre, has scarcely had sufficient justice done to it at the hands of the critics. With the exception of some want of coherence in the working out of the story, and of the curious dramatic blindness which prevented the author from seeing that his *dénouement* should have been placed where his opening was, viz., in France, so that the equilibrium of his piece might be preserved, and his primary characters—particularly those of Louis Quinze and the Marquise de Pompadour—might be maintained in their just proportions; with the exception, we say, of these defects in its development, the play, as a whole, is by no means lacking in interest or in striking situations. In the cynical and witty part of Ténair Doltaire, Mr. Beerbohm Tree has ample scope for displaying his wonted versatility; in Louis Quinze, Mr. C. Brookfield looks every inch the *blasé* old King; in Captain Moray (a British officer), Mr. Lewis Waller fully maintains his reputation for both reserve and power; in Sergeant Gabor, Mr. Lionel Brough is effectively blunt; in Corporal Labrouk, Mr. Macvicars does not lose a minor point; in the Marquise de Pompadour, Miss Janette Steer leaves us to regret her early disappearance from the piece; while as Madame Cournal (a celebrated dancer), Mrs. Beerbohm Tree simply surpasses herself, and evokes more than once marked and well-merited applause. The youthful heroine, Mdlle. Alixe Duvarney is exquisitely portrayed by Miss Kate Rorke, and, in short, all is done that can be done by the entire cast to give significance and life to the drama. In scenery and costume, there is nothing left to be desired.

E. G. H.

### Coming Events.

June 1st.—Afternoon Concert at the Queen's Hall in aid of the North Eastern Hospital for Children, 3 p.m.

June 3rd.—Mr. Bancroft will give his reading of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" at the Imperial Institute, at 3.30 p.m., in aid of the Colonial Nursing Association.



### Letters to the Editor.

Notes, Queries, &c.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

#### THE MUZZLING CRUELTY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am sure that Mr. Walter Long's scheme of muzzling as a means of stamping out rabies in dogs is utterly incapable of effecting this result.

Hydrophobia, however much the authorities may try to convince us to the contrary, is very rarely met with. Prof. Murdoch Cameron, a good authority, does not believe in the existence of hydrophobia at all, and avows that the whole subject is a farce. In five years, he says, he has not met with a single genuine case of hydrophobia. Dr. Charles W. Dulles, of Philadelphia, in an important paper read before the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, May 23rd, 1896, copies of which are just to hand, says:—"I have made a study of my records for five years of what I have labelled 'mad dog scares' in my notes. The result of this study indicates that in 55 instances of alarms about dogs, with a record of 175 persons (of all ages) bitten, I have found only three deaths from so-called 'hydrophobia.' This, if correct, would indicate that the natural mortality from the bites of rabid dogs is 1:58 or less than 2 per cent. The vast majority of the deaths attributed to hydrophobia have followed bites by unsuspected dogs, and very few have followed bites by dogs that ran amuck and that excited alarm at the time. It is a very curious fact, taken in connection with this one, that a very large number of the deaths from so-called hydrophobia follow the bites of dogs that had no history or appearance of any disease." This evidence, in effect, shows that hydrophobia is, to say the least, almost a mere fiction.

As to muzzling, people seem entirely to forget that the muzzle debar the dog from using his only means of perspiration. I quote the well known authority of Mr. Lloyd Price, a Welsh landowner farming 900 acres:—"A dog never gets into a lather as regards his body whatever heat, thirst, or fatigue he may be suffering from, but, as every schoolboy knows, he, when heated to excess, opens his mouth to its widest extent, lolls out his tongue and pants until he gets cool again. Now, all this a dog does in order to aerate and cool his blood; the tongue and lungs of these animals being the principal organs by which the perspiration is exhaled." So by muzzling dogs in hot weather, and, indeed, in cold also, we do all we can to impede the natural functions. Muzzling, therefore, is nothing short of inexcusable cruelty to the animals, and the edict of the Board of Agriculture is crack-brained to a degree.

A word as to the treatment of dog-bitten patients. When a person has been bitten, whether by dog, cat, or any other animal, if he would take plenty of vapour baths, and sweat the poison out of him, I do not think he need fear any evil results from the bite. This treatment is recommended by many medical men, and so far has always proved successful.

Yours, &c., JOSEPH COLLINSON.

[We fear facts do not support the easy cure of hydrophobia.—ED.]

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