

with his customary truth to nature—of the Duke of Launceston, played by Mr. C. W. Gawthorne with a very amusing and grotesque originality; of Amiel, the devil's valet, singularly effective and impressive, in the hands of Mr. Edward O'Neil; of the solicitors, Bentham and Ellis, cleverly caricatured by Messrs. George Humphrey and Compton Coutts and of Lady Sybil—Lord Elton's daughter and the unhappy heroine—impersonated with much force and feeling by Miss Granville. As may be supposed, she was at her best in the surprising scene, in which Lady Sybil openly makes love to the Prince in the hall of her own house—Willowmere—in Act III., after all the household have retired for the night. This scene, both in the novel and on the stage, is a scarcely possible one, and undoubtedly constitutes a severe strain upon the imagination of the reader or spectator; but granted its possibility, it is powerfully treated, and is well handled by both actor and actress who have undertaken to portray it.

The subsequent one, in which Lady Sybil is supposed to have taken poison and to be awaiting the approach of death, and which departs altogether from the horror-striking catastrophe in the novel, is almost too trying for a young artiste. Shakespeare, who always knew exactly what to do with his characters on the stage, makes Juliet die rapidly with the dagger's thrust, and it would have been wiser on the part of the adapters had they allowed Lady Sybil to expire more quickly. Even Hamlet's death-throes—which Shakespeare has purposely left room for, in order to give time for his exquisite final utterances—have been much shortened by most recent exponents of the part, and one cannot hope to have, what is wanted in the case of Lady Sybil as now being played, a Sarah Bernhardt always at command, capable of carrying Nature into the domain of Art. It was little short of an histrionic miracle that Miss Granville did not break down under her load! Of the last Act, in which an attempt is made to illustrate the tremendous—though perhaps, at the same time, fantastic—wreck of the Satanic ship, and in which Act Satan himself rejoices in his own defeat, arising out of the spiritual escape of Geoffrey Tempest, we are bound to say that possibility is sacrificed for effect! The Devil having all along been painted as a man, it appears to us that a human ending such as that set forth in the novel would have been more satisfactory and consistent. Nothing is more difficult, if one has to maintain an equilibrium of thought and action, than to have one foot on the sea and another on the land, and Miss Marie Correlli, though possessed of an "excellent fancy," is scarcely a modern antitype of the Angel in the Revelations! For purposes of fiction she may be permitted to propound a Satan of her own creation, and to conduct her mystic character through the mazes of an intensely wild and weird story, but when that story has to be translated into real life, and enacted by men and women, the supernatural must surely be separated—as in the case of Macbeth and the Witches—from the natural elements, and Satan must be made either an angel or a man. Strict criticism apart, the piece is well worth seeing, and if regarded, as the novel itself ought to be regarded, as a purely imaginative effort, and having no theological bearings, may be witnessed without any misgivings as to its moral or religious aspects.

E. G. H.

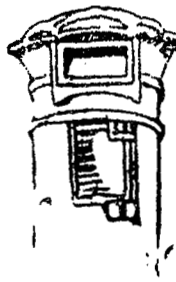
Coming Events.

January 22nd.—Second Sessional Lecture, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, "On the nursing of cases presenting symptoms of Mental Disease," by Professor E. W. White, M.B. Lond., 8 p.m.

January 25th.—Royal United Service Institute, 4.30 p.m.: Meeting to discuss the formation of a Central Hospital Board for London.

January 26th.—Invalid Cookery Class, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W. Tenth and last lesson, 2.30 p.m.: Clear soup, savoury custard, arrowroot soufflé, boiled whiting, rissoles, wine whey.

February 4th.—Meeting of the Hospital Reform Association, St. Martin's Town Hall, 4 p.m.: Dr. Ward Cousins, Dr. J. G. Glover, Mr. Victor Horsley, Mr. Walter Rivington and Dr. Lovell Drage will take part in the discussion.



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.

MIDWIVES AND MURDER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In the last issue of the *Lancet* an article appears by Dr. Rentoul which it appears to me it behoves all midwives to read. In it he charges us with—

(1) *Deliberate Murder.*—He says: "You are aware that one of the chief causes of still-birth is delay in the progress of the confinement; and that if Midwives are to be employed because their charges are lower than medical men, it follows that Midwives will refuse to increase the charge by calling in a medical man.* In fact, we might make a rough rule, as follows—that the number of healthy infants stillborn will be about equal to the number of times upon which the forceps and turning should be used." Surely this is a most unfounded and preposterous charge to make against a body of hard-working women who are not all so ignorant or uneducated as Dr. Rentoul would have us imagine.

(2) *Practising Criminal Abortion.*—After commenting upon the proportion of still-births among illegitimate infants, as compared with those of legitimate ones, Dr. Rentoul says: "This shows there is a very large field open for the criminal still-birth business as well as for the abortion-monger," and "the number of women, mostly Midwives," who keep certain herb shops is greatly on the increase." And referring to Midwifery he says, "Are we therefore to hand over this great and important branch of the practice of physic

* The italics are mine.

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