

But the author has had one thing in her mind. Having made a heroine, who knocks a blackmailer on the head, rolls his corpse under the sofa, sits upon him all the afternoon, receiving visitors, then carries him down to the cellar, and has him safely walled up, she thinks it incumbent upon her to reiterate over and over again, until we are convinced what a charming woman this is. Having relieved her mind on the point, for it would really be impossible to say more in praise of any human being than is here said of Clorinda, may we hope that she will have leisure to look into the life around her, and give us another Professor, another Louisiana at least, if we are never to hope for the boon of another Bertha?

Meanwhile all who wanted to love "A lady of Quality," but had their doubts as to the propriety of her behaviour, may read "His Grace of Osmonde," when all such doubts will be set at rest for ever.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

AMBITION.

Not his as yet the gift of fair renown ;

But that great hope which, shining through despair,
Lightens and makes his cross a thing to bear
Against the gloom of fortune's darkening frown.
While others lay their little burdens down,
He keeps the upward path, content to wear
A coronet of weariness and care,
Till life shall crown him with another crown.
For how is he to rest him while the light
Strikes on and ever on from hill to hill?
If, when he gains some lonely radiant height,
Which was the passionate purpose of his will,
His pilgrim soul goes forth again in flight
To win the radiance of a higher still?

FERDINAND E. KAPPEY (*Weekly Sun*).

It is stated that, before Mrs. Steele wrote "On the Face of the Waters," she went to India and studied and photographed every place connected with the Mutiny which it was her intention to put into her story. Once more Mrs. Steele has set sail for the East, with a view to procuring material for her next novel. The scene of the new story will probably be laid at Lucknow.

The many admirers of Ian Maclaren, and of "The Bonnie Brier Bush," will rejoice that a portion of this most popular work has appeared in a new dress, and a most charming dress it is. Under the title, "A Doctor of the Old School," that portion of the "Bonny Brier Bush" specially relating to Dr. Maclure has been published in a dainty form by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, 27, Paternoster Row. The little book is profusely illustrated by Fred. C. Gordon, and the artistic merit, both of the illustrations and of the binding, is of a high order. We anticipate that "A Doctor of the Old School" will have a large sale, and will form, in many instances, a most welcome Christmas-box.

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Old Rome and the New, and other Studies." By W. T. Stillman.
"Last Studies." By Hubert Crackanthorpe.
"More Tramps Abroad." By Mark Twain.
"With the Conquering Turk." By G. W. Stevens.
"Admirals All." By Henry Newbolt.
"Ballads of the Fleet, and other Poems." By Rennell Rodd.
"Dariel." By R. D. Blackmore.
"A Passionate Pilgrim." By Percy White.
"This Little World." By D. Christie Murray.
"Byeways." By Robert Hichens.

Coming Events.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

December 6th.—Hygiene. Mrs. Charles Hamilton, Victoria Hall, Becklow Road, Uxbridge Road. 3.30 p.m.

December 7th.—Woman's Suffrage. Dr. Alice Vickery. 3.30 p.m.

December 13th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, Strand. 8 p.m.

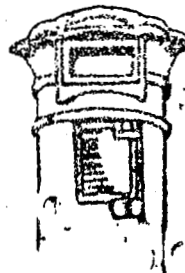
ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

December 15th.—Annual Conversazione. Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, W. 8.30 p.m.

December 17th.—Special Meeting of Members of the Corporation, by command of H.R.H. the President, at the Rooms of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 20, Hanover Square, W., to consider the proposed new Bye-Laws. 4 p.m.

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.

"ABSOLUTE DESPOTS."

To the Editor of "*The Nursing Record*."

DEAR MADAM,—I feel sure every Matron member of the R.B.N.A. will read with interest—and, I hope, will duly reflect thereon—the opinion of Dr. Joseph Bell, of Edinburgh, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association, reprinted for our special benefit in our professional organ. Dr. Bell's paper, which is entitled, "On the Relation of the Trained Nurse to the Profession and the Public," makes the following

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