

lay so near the heart of Charles Reade, and Frank Smedley, and others of that school. The ideal of the pretty, good girl, who comes into her brother's smoking room because she knows the man who admires her has called to see him, and then pretends she does not see the gentleman in question, is an ideal which may now be looked upon as completely exploded. It may almost be said to be an ascertained fact, nowadays, that the honesty and the good sense of women compares quite favourably with those of the lords of creation, and these are two qualities never by any chance possessed by heroines of the type we are discussing.

But setting aside the fact that this story has wandered into an era to which it in no sense belongs, it is a very charming story. The author somehow manages to preserve that dewy freshness which first charmed us; his young men are young, and all eager to do battle for their coy beauties, and the plot of the tale is of a very unusual kind.

The hero, in the course of his Surrey rambles, stumbles upon a truly remarkable set of people, who are encamped in the ruins of an old monastery. The people in the neighbouring country do not seem to have been aware that the place in question was habitable, but there are these curious people, and it is presently discovered that they hail from Daghestan, in the Caucasus, and are of the Lesghian race, a wild tribe, but professing Christianity of a sort. The king, Sûr Imar, has been banished for fourteen years by the Russian Government for revolt. He employs his leisure in making type for the Lesghian language, which has never been written before, his design being to take back with him some thousands of copies of the New Testament as a preliminary step in the civilization of his people. Of course he has a daughter, lovelier than the stars of heaven. How this young lady's destiny is complicated by her meeting with the simple but muscular George Cranleigh is here told, with much else of an exceedingly interesting and picturesque description. G. M. R.

Bookland.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Cretan Sketches." By R. A. H. Bickford-Smith.
 "Our Troubles in Poona and the Deccan." By Arthur Crawford.
 "The Story of Canada." By Howard Angus Kennedy.
 "A Fiery Ordeal." By Tasma.
 "Vittoria." By George Meredith.
 "Human Odds and Ends." Stories and Sketches. By George Gissing.

Coming Events.

December 29th.—Annual Entertainment for the nurses of St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand.

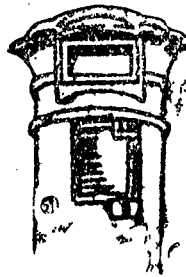
SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT'S READINGS.

January 7th.—At the Windsor Albert Institute, in aid of the Princess Christian Nursing Institution, the Dean of Windsor presiding.

January 8th.—In Lincoln's Inn Hall, in aid of the funds of King's College Hospital, the Bishop of London presiding.

Editorial Notice.

WE have already drawn attention to the fact that all letters addressed by absent members to the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, assembled in General Meeting on December 17th, were suppressed by the Hon. Officers on that occasion. Upon a demand being made for them a handful of letters was produced by the Secretary, already opened, and handed to the Chairman. The Chairman, after glancing over their contents, announced to the meeting that they "seemed to contain some rather strong expressions," and asked the meeting if it was wished that they should be read—a broad hint, which, of course, elicited shouts of "No!" We publish below two of these suppressed letters, and shall be glad to insert any others which may be sent to us, as the NURSING RECORD is, we are aware, the only organ of the profession in which fair play and free speech are allowed to nurses. We shall also be glad if all those who voted against the proposed new Bye-Laws at the meeting on December 17th, will communicate with us.



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.

SUPPRESSED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As all the letters addressed by country members, who were unable to be present at the Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association on December 17th, were suppressed by the officials, I beg to enclose to you copies of two of these letters, which were forwarded to me, as Secretary of the Members' Rights Defence Committee, by two ladies who judging from the tactics pursued in the past by the Hon. Officers concerning unpalatable documents, evidently thought it well that someone besides the officials should be acquainted with the fact that these letters had been sent. The proceedings on the 17th proved the wisdom of this step, as, had I not received this information, we should not have known that a single letter had been received, although our whole constitution was being recast, and the only way in which it was possible for absent members to express their views was by letter. I may say that I am personally unacquainted with both these ladies.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY.

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