

irresolute, we have done with him. As Mary herself told him:—

"It was a coward that played the sneak for Ferguson And a coward played the rogue for Smith. It was a coward lost Fenwick—because he dared not look behind. And a coward will now sacrifice his benefactor to save his own skin. And you only know in how many other things you have played the craven. But the rather for that; up now and play the man. You have a chance now! Do this one brave thing, and all will be forgiven. Oh, Dick, Dick," she continued—and with a sudden blaze in her face she stooped, and threw her arms around me, "if you love me, do it! Do it! For us both! Do it, or, if you cannot, God knows that it were better we were hung than married!"

Mary Ferguson is conceived in the author's best style; one wishes there were much more about her in the story, and one chafes in helpless rage at the notion that she should be married to such a poltroon as Price. Let us hope she reformed him; a man could hardly live with such a woman and continue to be so despicable. There are one or two small blemishes in the workmanship of the story, such as the complete ignoring of old Brome, the generous benefactor of Price, directly the plot no longer requires him, but on the whole, the narration is delightful, with that perfect ease which distinguishes this writer. The period, in the latter years of William III., when Jacobite plots were the order of the day, is full of possibilities. There are some scenes which are unsurpassed in any of his books. But—there is the "but"—we cannot away with Richard Price, nor feel for him even the least sneaking shadow of kindness or sympathy. G. M. R.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Italian Literature." By the late John Addington Symonds.
 "A History of the Indian Mutiny." By T. Rice Holmes.
 "Carlyle on Burns." By John Muir.
 "Pasteur." By Percy Frankland and Mrs. Percy Frankland.
 "Through the Goldfields of Alaska to Behring Straits." By Harry de Windt.
 "The Story of Hawaii." By Jean A. Owen (Mrs. Visger).
 "The War of the Worlds." By H. G. Wells.
 "Weeping Ferry, and other Stories." By Margaret L. Woods.
 "A Forgotten Sin." By Dorothea Gerard (Madame Longard de Longgarde).
 "The Fight for the Crown." By W. E. Norris.
 "Hugh Wynne: Free Quaker." By Dr. S. Weir Mitchell.
 "The Making of Matthias." By J. E. Fletcher.
 "Manoupa." By Rose Soley.
 "Ribstone Pippins." By Maxwell Grey.

Coming Events.

- February 21st.—Lord Lister presides at Dr. Nansen's lecture at Queen's Hall.
 February 21st.—Sanitary Institute. Introductory Lecture. "Blots in our Sanitary Administration—Why Epidemics occur?" (Admission Free.) By Louis Parkes, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.Lond., Lecturer on Public Health, St. George's Hospital, Medical Officer of Health, Chelsea. 8 p.m.

February 22nd.—Fancy-dress Ball in aid of the Great Northern Central Hospital, at the Highbury Athenæum.

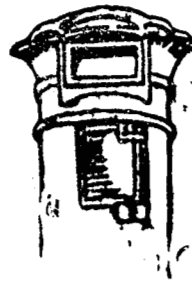
February 25th.—Matinée for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund of the Society of Women Journalists at the Grafton Galleries. 2.30 p.m.

February 25th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Sessional Lecture. "The Nursing of Europeans on the West Coast of Africa." By Miss Mary Kingsley.

February 25th.—Royal Hospital for Children and Women: Annual Court of Governors at the Mansion House.

February 26th.—Princess Christian opens Diamond Jubilee Beds at Hampstead Hospital.

March 11th.—The Lord Mayor presides at the annual meeting of the East London Nursing Society, at the Mansion House.



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.

"SICK AND OBSTETRIC NURSES BILL."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—This Bill, which was recently referred to in the NURSING RECORD, is now in print, and copies will be immediately sent to the medical and nursing journals for review, and to a limited number of Members of Parliament. Anyone interested in the subject can have a copy by applying to me. We want the best Bill available, and this one is the outcome of special experience here, and I think it will meet the views of the medical and nursing professions, and of the general public.

I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER MCCOOK WEIR.

East Sheen,
12th February, 1898.

[We are much obliged to Dr. McCook Weir for his letter and draft of his Bill. We hope to deal with the latter next week.]

MANSLAUGHTER OR MURDER?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much interest the correspondence upon the above subject in the NURSING RECORD. Personally, I am inclined to believe that in the majority of cases of overlaying of infants the cause is either parental drunkenness, or premeditated murder, and in either case should surely be severely punished. A drunkard who commits murder in any other form is not exonerated on account of his drunkenness; why should an exception be made in favour of drunken mothers, who murder their babies? I was interested in Miss Twining's suggestion that a bed should be made for infants upon chairs if a cradle is not available, but I

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