

Art Notes.

ECCE HOMO!

THE Ecce Homo of Munkacsy is a picture which is worthy of a place in the front rank of modern sacred art, and we hope that many nurses will make an opportunity for a visit to the Dowdeswell Galleries, 160, New Bond Street, while it is on view there. Those who visited "Calvary," by the same artist, which was exhibited in London, we think in 1885, will remember even yet the impression which it produced upon them, and the reputation of the artist will only be enhanced by this his latest production, which is without doubt the work of a genius. It is a painful fact that, absorbed as he was by his subject, the mind of the painter became overstrained, and, just after its completion, and the addition of his signature, a complete mental breakdown occurred, so that it is most doubtful if ever we shall have another picture from the brush of this master painter.

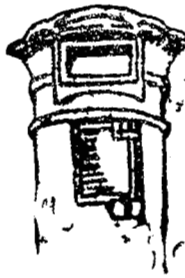
The scene depicted is the moment when the world's Redeemer is brought out on to the Tribune's balcony, by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, who, after vainly endeavouring to persuade the fanatical multitude that he "found no fault in Him," in his desire to propitiate the Jews condemned our Lord to crucifixion. The figure of Pilate, weak, ingratiating, and cruel, is well depicted, but it is in the sublime central figure that all the dignity of the picture is gathered. Bearing the marks of cruel scourging on his sacred body, clothed in the purple robe, wearing a crown of thorns, and holding the reed, in mockery of a sceptre, the Saviour stands on the balcony, a butt for the mock obeisance, the vindictive hatred and scowls, and the execrations of the ribald mob gathered in the courtyard. But, though that is there also, it is not an impression of physical suffering that abides with us after a contemplation of this picture. Both this, and the distress which must have been caused by the insults of the rude mob for whose salvation His own life was shortly to be sacrificed, are obliterated by the mental suffering, marvellously portrayed, as the Saviour whose "soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death," gazes upward, oblivious of the crowd, manifestly engaged in communion with His Father, whereby He may gain strength for the coming struggle with the powers of evil. The rest of the picture deserves to be studied inch by inch. The marvellous perspective makes it almost impossible to believe that the scene before one is depicted upon a flat canvas—each figure stands out with the solidity of real life. The wild unreasoning fury of the excitable fanatical Jews is wonderfully depicted, as well as the agony of the blessed Virgin, and of the Magdalen, who form part of the crowd, while a bit of balustrade in the foreground stands out in a marvellous manner, and one feels surprised that a lean eastern dog which finds place in the picture, does not wander out of it into the room. We are only sorry that modern ideas do not lend themselves to the acquisition of this masterpiece for one of our cathedrals; we can imagine no greater aid to devotion, nor do we think that any better place could be found for a Lenten meditation than before Munkacsy's Ecce Homo! We are not surprised to learn that, when this picture was exhibited in Hungary, the effect produced upon a people, whose religious instincts are much more spontaneous and unreserved than our own, was such that the Gallery became a sort of shrine, and men and women were often to be seen kneeling before it, in prayer.

WHAT TO READ.

- "Poems." By William Ernest Henley.
 "Pictures of Russian History and Russian Literature." By Prince Serge Wolkonsky.
 "Life and Progress in Australia." By Michael Davitt, M.P.
 "Plain Living: A Bush Idyll." By Rolf Bolderwood.
 "Alaska: Its neglected past, its brilliant future." By Bushrodt Washington James.
 "Storm and Sunshine in the Dales." By P. H. Lockwood.
 "Poor Max." By Iota.
 "Simon Dale." By Anthony Hope.
 "A Voyage of Consolation." By Sarah Jeanette Duncan.
 "In Years of Transition." By Samuel Gordon.
 "Miss Betty." By Bram Stoker.

Coming Events.

- February 26th.—Princess Christian opens Diamond Jubilee Beds at Hampstead Hospital.
 March 8th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Sessional Lecture. "The Nursing of Europeans on the West Coast of Africa." By Miss Mary Kingsley.
 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.

DR. P. BROUARDEL ON PREMATURE BURIAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—A remarkable book by Dr. Brouardel on "Sudden Death, The Signs of Death, and Premature Burial," has just been published in a translation by Dr. F. Lucas Benham, which the *Lancet* of January 8th, 1898, justly describes as "a veritable classic." The subject is one that for some time has occupied public attention in England, has been introduced in Parliament, and referred to more than once in the NURSING RECORD AND HOSPITAL WORLD. Dr. Brouardel is Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris, Member of the Institute, and of the Academy of Medicine, and his carefully considered opinions ought not to be passed over, or lightly regarded. The volume comprises part of a series of lectures on Forensic Medicine, which the translator remarks "is a subject

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