

She does not in the least resemble his early love, but her young daughter, when he meets her, is so startlingly like her grandmother that he is unable to control his agitation at the sight of her. So like in face, and as horribly unlike in up-bringing as the daughter of "Mrs. Brook" is bound to be and cannot help being.

Nanda is not a bad girl; by no means; but, because she is her mother's daughter, her life has been passed in a vitiated atmosphere. She compares herself, in one bitter simile, to a "little drain-pipe" through which corruption has been allowed to run. For the set that surrounds Mrs. Brook is a superficial fast set, a set with all the unmannerliness and the loose views and the self-indulgence and the insincerity which characterizes certain sets at this dawn of a new century. Mr. Longdon is obliged to conclude that everyone is "like that," because the set at Mrs. Brook's is so undeniably "like that."

However, his tender memory and the girl's wonderful likeness, help him to understand Nanda, because he loves her; and all his simple soul is fired with the longing to snatch her from the influence of her mother.

There is a young man, a Mr. Vanderbank, to whom he takes a fancy very early in the book. This young man is Mrs. Brook's own special hobby, and when she discovers that Mr. Longdon would like him to marry Nanda, naturally she is not pleased.

And here comes in the irony of fate. Vanderbank, the unqualified admirer of Mrs. Brook, will not marry her daughter (notwithstanding the fact that he is in love with her), just because she is Mrs. Brook's daughter. That kind of woman is very good to call upon, to dine with, to dance attendance upon; but not—not—to marry—not to make the mother of one's children, they would know too much.

This is the terrible lesson of the book. Contrasted with Nanda is little Aggie, who has been brought up to know nothing, who is *jeune fille* after the French fashion, and reads "Stories from English History." This type, in Mr. James's reading of life, is no more successful than poor Nanda's. It should be carefully stated that, as regards the title of his book, the awkward age of girls is awkward only for their mothers, not for themselves.

The whole book is one to make us think, long and deeply, as to the results, upon the next generation, of the new systems of child-rearing which we are trying so freely and so lightly.

The fact that Mr. Longdon, the old courtly relic of other days and manners, judges Nanda more truly and comprehends her better than does Vanderbank—the man of her own day and set—is the great cleverness of the tale, which will well repay the attention of a true lover of detail. G. M. R.

Bookland.

"The Cheery Book," by Joe Kerr, is a bright little volume of American verse. Here is a characteristic specimen:—

A man, a maid,
A tree, a shade,
A pop—Ah!
A prayer prayed,
Preacher paid,
Married maid
And man displayed:
Pooh! Bah!

WHAT TO READ.

- "The City of the Soul." Poems.
"The Little Land, with Songs from its Four Rivers." By Laurence Housman.
"1812: Napoleon I. in Russia." By Vassili Verestchagin.
"The Dominion of Dreams." By Fiona Macleod.
"A Pauper Millionaire." By Austin Fryers.
"Lesser Destinies." By Samuel Gordon.
"The White Woman." By W. Edwards Tirebuck.
"Unholy Matrimony." By John Le Breton.
"The Day of Recompense." By Silas K. Hocking.
"Tattle Tales of Cupid." By Paul Leicester Ford.

Coming Events.

June 3rd.—Celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday in London.

Dog show in aid of the School Building Fund of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, in the grounds of the Medical School, 8, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., 1.30.

June 6th.—The Duchess of Fife opens a Bazaar in aid of St. Mary's Hospital and Clarence Memorial Wing, at the Great Central Hotel.

June 7th.—Princess Louise Marchioness of Lorne attends at a Fête at North House, Putney Hill, in aid of the Memorial Cottage Hospital, Mildmay Park.

Princess Louise opens a Bazaar in the Garden of the Victoria Hospital, Chelsea, and presides at the flower stall. The Bazaar continues for two days.

June 8th.—Arts and Crafts Fête and Concert, under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, at North House, Putney, in aid of Cottage Hospital, Mildmay Park (and following day).

June 15th.—University College Hospital—Annual Banquet, Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

QUEEN'S HALL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH,
AT 8 P.M.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., in the Chair.

The Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Susan B. Anthony (U.S.A.), The Rt. Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., Hon. Mrs. Arthur Lyttelton, Hon. W. P. Reeves (Agent-General for New Zealand), Mrs. Wynford Philipps, and the Hon. J. A. Cockburn (Agent-General for South Australia), are expected to address the meeting.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission Free.

Reserved seats—Stalls (front rows), Grand Circle (front row), 2s. 6d.; Stalls (other rows), Grand Circle (second row), 1s. To be obtained of Miss Edith Palliser, 20, Great College Street; or Mrs. Charles Baxter, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster.

The Societies hope that supporters will, as far as possible, take reserved seats, in order to reduce the heavy expenses of the meeting. These expenses will otherwise fall on the general funds of the Societies, to the detriment of the permanent work, and the Associate Scheme.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)