

one of the sweetest and most natural and most wholesome of love idylls.

The great triumph of the book is, however, the character of Uncle Isaac. This preposterous old person, with his imaginary property, who sponges on his relations as long as they have a penny, and avoids them when they have none—he is simply inimitable—his manners, habits, and vocabulary are alike unapproachable.

"You are a windy ole kidder," says Mr. Cottam, foreman of the works, another portrait sketched in slightly but with the utmost skill; and on that estimate of character, nobody could possibly improve.

Poor Nan's marriage to Mr. 'Enery Butson supplies the sad part of the story; but one breathes freely when he is satisfactorily got rid of; and the end of the book leaves us with glimpses of a possible future for all.

Truth, delicacy, unforced feeling, keen observation, and a style which never exaggerates, yet never fails to point its end—these are the characteristics of this story; its charm is peculiarly its own.

G. M. R.

Bookland.

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN is editing for publication, by Mr. Fisher Unwin, the proceedings of the recent Women's Congress. A separate volume will be devoted to each section, and in the case of the Professional Section the amount of material necessitates the issuing of two volumes. It is a matter for congratulation that many valuable papers will thus be preserved in permanent form, and their publication will be awaited with great interest by many.

Mr. Heinemann announces the publication of several notable novels in the near future, including a series of Ghetto tragedies by Mr. Zangwill, entitled "They that Walk in Darkness"; "The Voices of the Night," by Mrs. F. A. Steel; "Active Service," by Mr. Stephen Crane; and "Twice Derelict and Other Stories," by Maxwell Gray.

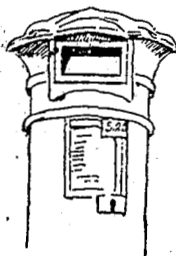
MRS. FLORA ANNIE STEEL'S new Indian novel, "The Hosts of the Lord," will begin in the October number of the *Pall Mall Magazine*.

WHAT TO READ.

- "A History of the Peace Conference at the Hague." Edited by G. H. Terris. With impressions by Felix Moscheles and W. T. Stead.
- "The Life of William Makepeace Thackeray." By Lewis Melville.
- "A Prisoner of the Khaleefa. Twelve Years' Captivity at Omdurman." By Charles Neufeld.
- "The Art of Thinking." By T. Sharper Knowlson.
- "The Red Rag of Ritual." By George Cusack.
- "Our Lady of Darkness." By Bernard Capes.
- "Over the Edge." By George Wemyss.
- "The Jamesons." By Mary E. Wilkins.
- "Sellcut's Manager." By Mrs. Ormiston Chant.
- "A Fair Imperialist." By V. Y. Leatherdale.

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.

INEXPRESSIBLE EGOTISTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in Miss Dock's most admirable article on nursing in Germany which you published in last week's NURSING RECORD, and also in her statement that, in spite of her strongly preconceived ideas as to the egotism of those who, "after making short trips in other lands, come home and write articles about them," yet so strongly does the feeling of having something to say possess her, that at the risk of inconsistency she feels impelled to say it.

We are certainly the gainers that she has done so, and, furthermore, with the greatest respect for Miss Dock's opinion, I do not think she is right about the inexpressible egotists. I fully agree that it is absolutely inadmissible, and lays oneself open to ridicule, to express a dogmatic opinion upon the manners and customs of any country after a brief visit to it, but descriptive articles come into a totally different category, and I believe they are best written by new comers. For instance, Miss Dock would, I have no doubt, write a much more interesting account of our English Hospitals than any British nurse could produce, because our familiarity with them blunts to some extent our powers of observation. The late Bishop Steere, of the Universities Mission to Central Africa—and he was a very wise man—used to say to new members of the mission, "Write home all you can in the first year, you will never write so well again." I believe he was right. But writing descriptions of how new surroundings strike one is a totally different matter from making up one's mind that everything is wrong, and wishing to set it to rights before one has been out five minutes. Here a pause is wise, not to say seemly. I hope I have made my meaning clear.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

ANTI-DOGMATISM.

A DISCLAIMER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is with deep disgust and shame that I see a grave charge against one of my own profession, and worse still, one of my own name, *Maguire*, in your NURSING RECORD. As I am hoping to enter a London hospital shortly for training—I feel that just in self-defence I must write stating that I have no knowledge of the nurse in question—although unfortunately bear the same name. However this should not prove detrimental to me, as I can fully satisfy to the contrary any who may suppose there is any connection between the unhappy woman in question and myself.

E. MAGUIRE.

Cheltenham, 24th September, 1899.

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