

Mrs. Uraire is made to exert her authority in a particularly narrow and prejudiced way, so as to make things hard for Mora; and we heartily agree that the policy of making your husband and children afraid of you is the very way to cause them to become deceitful; but Mrs. Chant apparently thinks that it is in itself a narrow-minded thing of a mother to wish that her young daughter should associate with those from whom she would learn good, and those who move in the same social circles as herself. After all, there is some cant in this view. In one short life one can only be friends with a certain number of people; and the desire that those shall be the best, is no ignoble ambition, unless wrongly directed.

If Mrs. Ormiston Chant knew more intimately the class she is describing in Mrs. Uraire—the county gentry in the provinces—she would know that, when she represents that lady as receiving with meekness the admonitions of the Baptist minister, she is making her do something which, for daring, has no parallel in all fiction.

In spite, however, of social impossibilities, there is much in the book that is most amusing, much that is quite excellent; and there is not one spiteful word in it—Church, Dissent, Stage, Aristocracy, Trade, all are included in the large and kindly range of the author's sympathies; and we all can rejoice most heartily in the downfall of the malicious Mr. Bleby.

G. M. R.

WHAT TO READ.

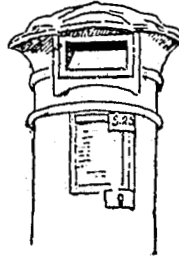
- "Under Queen and Khedive." The Autobiography of an Anglo-Egyptian Official. By Sir Walter Miéville, K.C.M.G.
- "In Moorish Captivity: An Account of the 'Tourmaline' Expedition to Sus." By Henry M. Grey, a Member of the Expedition. Illustrated.
- "The Roman Emperors: or, The History of the Lives and Secret Intrigues of the Wives of the Twelve Cæsars." With Historical and Critical Notes. In two vols. Vol. II.
- "The Memoirs of Victor Hugo." Translated by J. W. Harding.
- "Rulers of India: Babar." By Stanley Lane-Poole.
- "A Winter in Berlin." By Marie von Bunsen.
- "One Hour and the Next." By Millicent Sutherland.
- "A Nocturne." Scene: A Village Church in a broad and pleasant valley of Dartmoor. The Wind—An Organ—The Musician. By H. N.
- "The Ship of Stars." By A. T. Quiller-Couch.
- "Signors of the Night." By Max Pemberton.
- "The Colossus." By Morley Roberts.

Coming Events.

- October 28th.—Annual Meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund at the Mansion House. 3.30 p.m.
- November 3rd.—Meeting of the British members of the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses, to consider the Constitution of the Council, 20, Upper Wimpole Street. 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- November 8th.—Lord Roberts presides at a Dinner in aid of the Victoria Hospital for Children, at the Hotel Cecil.
- November 13th.—The Queen visits Bristol to open the Royal Convalescent Home.

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.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have read the letter in the NURSING RECORD of October 21st, signed by the Honorary Secretaries to the above Fund, correcting some remarks of mine when Chairman of the Conference convened by the Hospital Reform Association. I am reported to have said, in reference to the principle of inquiring into the means of hospital patients, that I "was sorry that the managers of the Prince of Wales's Fund were rather adverse from inquiry, maintaining that their functions were purely administrative," etc.

Although I am in a position to speak from personal experience as to the scope of the inquiries which have been made at hospitals in the past by the Visitors of the Fund, my remarks were chiefly made in consequence of a letter published in the *Times* of August 29th, from Sir Trevor Lawrence (a prominent member of the Visiting Committee) in reply to Mr. Lock's letter in the *Times* of August 9th. He said:—"With regard to the Visiting Committee, it would in my judgment be a serious mistake for that body to constitute itself, as suggested by Mr. Lock, a tribunal to report on the so-called question of out-patient abuse. The functions of the Committee are to inquire into the general administration of the hospitals visited, in regard to buildings, finance, appliances, equipment, and general efficiency. It is undesirable for the Committee to enlarge its functions by taking upon itself to interfere with hospital administration in dealing with patients."

Those interested in the success of the Fund and in the question of hospital abuse, will welcome the information that notwithstanding Sir Trevor Lawrence's letter the Visitors of the Fund do now "specially report not only whether an attempt is made to ascertain the social circumstances of the in-patients, but also whether there is an almoner or enquiry officer for the out-patients." The Managers of the Prince of Wales's Fund are indeed to be congratulated on so speedy a reform; and I shall look forward with interest to their next report.

Yours obediently,

W. KNOWSLEY SIBLEY, M.A., M.D.

Duke Street Mansions, W.

October 21st, 1899.

[Many of our readers will share Dr. Knowsley Sibley's pleasure that the Managers of the Prince's Fund have made the enquiries thought necessary by the Hospital Reform Association.—ED.]

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