

But the key-note of the story is the conjuror, Bannerman, or Signor Stendardo as he calls himself, the strange power he wields over his daughter Mary, and his still stranger power to transfer some portion of the girl's vitality into the hideous automaton, Nemo, which he has constructed.

It may not be generally known, to those who do not study Psychology, that Professors Lombroso, Sidgwick, and others, in the course of their experiments with Eusapia Palladino, came to the conclusion that it was impossible to resist the belief that Eusapia, in the trance state, possessed some means of projecting force from herself, so as to touch and move objects at a distance. Eusapia, as is well known, was convicted, when she visited England, of very vulgar trickery. But this does not altogether dispose of the idea that she really possessed, at certain times, abnormal powers. I heard professor Richet, a French scientist, affirm with conviction, that he had been present when she performed feats which were inexplicable on any normal theory.

This, then, is the foundation of this curious story. Mary's personality is nightly projected into "Nemo" and her consequent sufferings, moral and mental, are ably detailed.

Her father, who in his own way, is attached to her, yet sacrifices her unhesitatingly in his thirst for fame. She is absolutely necessary to his success, he therefore quashes, without a scruple, her love affair with Ezra Burnett.

Having obtained notoriety by means of the uncanny Nemo, the conjuror conceives the idea of coming to his native town, engaging the Town Hall, and giving a free entertainment to his fellow townsmen. He is unaware of the strength of the feeling against him; and the scene of riot and uproar, and the awful results of the attempts to smash "Nemo" form a very vivid and striking chapter.

There is something unsatisfactory in the conclusion. It seems as though the author had "finished up" in haste.

There is no indication that the conjuror, before his death, completely severed the connection he had brought about between Mary and the automaton. One is left with the uncomfortable impression that something of Mary is buried with the gruesome thing which Ezra interred in the back garden. This may be intentional on the part of the author, but it by no means adds to the artistic effect.

G. M. R.

Poems.

MARCH.

I am the bringer of the swallow,
I brim with grass the woodland hollow—
I open up the folded mallow,
I hang the willow with green laces.
In marshy places
I set the shining golden faces
Of kingcups, with the gorse to follow.
I am the life of daffodils
Deep in the valley: on the hills
I am the wind that sways the grasses:
I am the love 'twixt lads and lasses,
Love that is sweet and swiftly passes;
I dust with golden meal the shallow:
I am deep water and the shallow—
I am the blossom on the mallow.

—*Westminster Gazette.*

NORA HOPPER.

SLEEP.

Gentle handmaid, quiet sleep,
Though like Death's thy dark dominion,
Round me still thy vigil keep,
Fan me with thy downy pinion.

Balm of sorrow! Cure of strife!
On a couch oblivious lying;
To live—without the care of life—
And die—without the pain of dying.

Woo'd by Sages! won by toil!
All to thee must homage render—
Ermin'd Prince, and son of soil,
Each can share thy visions tender.

MACLEOD YEARSLEY.

WHAT TO READ.

- "From Sea to Sea." By Rudyard Kipling.
"Napoleon III. and His Court." By M. de Saint-Amand.
"Eighteen Years in the Khyber." By Sir Robert Warburton.
"The Boer States, Land, and People." By A. H. Keane.
"Lavengro." By Geo. Borrow.
"The Morals of Suicide." By the Rev. J. Gurnhill.
"Was it Right to Forgive?" By Amelia E. Barr.
"The World's Mercy." By Maxwell Gray.
"The White Terror." By Felix Gras.

Coming Events.

March 20th.—The annual exhibition of the Royal Amateur Art Society will be opened at two o'clock at 7, Chesterfield Gardens, Mayfair, by the Marchioness of Lansdowne, in aid of the "Officers' Families Fund," the "Parochial Mission Womens Fund," and the "East London Nursing Association."

March 27th.—The Royal Hospital for Incurables—Banquet, the Duke of Fife presiding, Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole.

March 28th.—The Directors of
BOVRIL, LIMITED,
Invite the attendance of
MEMBERS OF THE NURSING PROFESSION
At a
NURSES' RECEPTION,

On the occasion of the opening of the Company's
magnificently appointed New Premises, at
152-166, OLD STREET, CITY ROAD, E.C.
(Nearest Metropolitan Stations, Moorgate Street and
Aldersgate Street),

on
WEDNESDAY, AT 3.30 P.M.

The factories will be inspected and samples of the Government Rations being provided for the Troops in South Africa will be shown. Cards of Admission sent on Application Afternoon Tea provided.

Notice.

MEMBERS of the Matrons' Council are asked kindly to take notice that the Executive Committee will meet shortly to consider the arrangements for the Annual Conference in July. Suggestions as to papers, or questions, to be brought forward are invited, and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Breay, 46, York Street, Portman Square, W.

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