

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., moved a vote of welcome to the deputation, expressing strong satisfaction at their zealous work. Mrs. Frances, in seconding the motion, expressed a welcome on behalf of the women workers of London. The resolution was carried. Miss Reddish, of Bolton, moved that the franchise was of vital importance to women engaged in the industrial struggle for existence, since the disability kept down their wages and lowered their position in the labour market. She remarked that the deputation represented 66,800 women textile workers who desired shorter working hours, more leisure, and better conditions of work. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ellis, of Bradford, who urged that unless the franchise were obtained for women men would have to come down to an existence wage such as women received. The motion was carried, and the proceedings terminated with votes of thanks.

A Book of the Week.

CHARLOTTE.*

Mrs. Walford has come uncommonly near, in 'Charlotte,' to writing a very impressive book. The drawback to it is, that she has succumbed to a very natural and common temptation, and sacrificed consistency to prove her point.

'Charlotte' is the typical modern girl. By-the-by, if there is anything in a name, 'Charlotte,' is a hopeless misnomer for the modern girl—and her career is sketched for us with considerable ability. We are introduced to her Sunday afternoon receptions, chaperoned by her odious mother, and usually rounded off by a dinner party at Ranelagh. Mrs. Sunning, her mother, aids and abets her daughter in the wholesale lying which their mode of life involves. Charlotte is merely marketable produce in her eyes. This of course was the case with the worldly mother of Thackeray's day; we all remember Ethel Newcome's appearance in the drawing room, with a large label "For Sale" pinned upon her back. The dire feature in the modern development is, that the mother, however worldly she may be, is not as worldly as her daughter. In the olden days, girls began with illusions about marrying the man they loved; it was the stern parent who intervened. Charlotte, quite as grasping as her mother, and a good deal cleverer, merely cares for the income and the position. Lord Tarporley and she are allies. "Tarp" has settled in his own mind that this is not the kind of woman one marries, but that she is delightfully good company. He has a house boat at Henley for her pleasure; and on the house boat is Drax Rotherham.

This young man, handsome, simple-minded, of no social position, and but moderately well off, displays at first an indifference to the all-conquering Charlotte which necessitates his subjugation; and this is undertaken by the young lady with so much spirit, and proves so far more lengthy an operation than she expected, that she only just pulls herself up on the brink of allowing him to propose,—nay, worse, on the brink of allowing herself to accept him. The man has really made an impression; but her mother is at her elbow, and it is made to seem as though the mother were the evil genius of the one disinterested impulse of her

daughter's life. But in the sequel, and to the serious detriment of the author's moral, we own that Mrs. Sunning was the best judge of her daughter's thorough worthlessness; for, by next spring, when Drax has inherited half a million and a house in Carlton House Terrace, we are told that Charlotte's fancy for him has already subsided, and though she now intends to marry him, she has wholly ceased to love him. The engagement takes place, and Drax's disillusionment sets in rapidly. He has engaged himself in spite of the serious warnings of the priest, Sebastian Alban—who, we may remark in passing, is a total failure as a character sketch—and he feels he has deserved unhappiness. Charlotte has not changed; she is what she always was. The fault was in his not seeing it. He determines to dree his weird; when Charlotte magnanimously cuts the knot by marrying Lord Tarporley by special license on the eve of her wedding-day. "Tarp" having taken up with a good little girl, who bored him fully as much as Drax (who was, we must own, somewhat dull), bored Charlotte, felt that the position was intolerable, and took the shortest way out of the cul-de-sac.

It is the sequel that seems to us illogical.

We believe that anyone so totally without feeling as Charlotte, so clever, so sensible of the value of position, so without impulses or emotions, would have taken particular care to keep on the windy side of the Divorce Court. It does not tally with the cool, calculating worldling. It is the world, not the flesh, that is Charlotte's idol. That she would have made Tarporley wretched is certain. That she would have given him a handle to get rid of her, is almost incredible.

G. M. R.

What to Read.

- "Mary the First, Queen of England." By J. M. Stone
- "Five Stuart Princesses: Margaret of Scotland, Elizabeth of Bohemia, Mary of Orange, Henrietta of Orleans, Sophia of Hanover." Edited by Robert S. Rait.
- "Napoleon's Campaign in Poland." By F. Loraine Petre.
- "The Strenuous Life: Essays and Addresses." By Theodore Roosevelt.
- "China and the Powers; a Narrative of the Outbreak of 1900." By H. C. Thomson.
- "Hospital Sketches." By Lucas Galen.
- "A Prophet of the Real." By Esther Miller.
- "Fables for the Fair." By One of Them.

Willing's Press Guide.

A most useful book of reference which has now reached its twenty-ninth Annual Issue is Willing's Press Guide, published at 125 Strand, W.C., price 1s., and which every one who undertakes public work should possess and consult. It contains an alphabetical list of the newspapers and periodicals issued in the United Kingdom, with the year of establishment, the day of publication, and the publisher's name and address, and affords a most complete guide to the newspaper world.

* By L. B. Walford. Longmans and Co.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)