

1840. Last occasion (Courvoisier) on which the public were admitted to the chapel at Newgate to hear the "condemned sermon."  
 1853. Ticket-of-leave system established.  
 1868. Last public execution, May 26th.  
 1898. Abolition of dark punishment cells. Increased facilities for elementary education, giving each prisoner under instruction two hours twice a week.  
 More frequent letters and visits allowed.  
 Conversation at exercise permitted to well-behaved prisoners.  
 Dietary increased.  
 1900. Convicts permitted to retain photographs of respectable friends and relatives in their cells.  
 1901. Treadmills abolished in all prisons.

## A Book of the Week.

### MOTH AND RUST.\*

Miss Cholmondeley has given us quite a light book this time. It begins well, goes on well, but finishes lamely; or, rather, the end is scamped, as though the writer had grown tired of the story before it was done. The idea is distinctly a good one. George Trefusis, the only son of a patrician mother, has made up his mind to marry the beautiful but middle-class Janet Black.

Janet is not only beautiful, but honest and true, though stupid. She has, however, a quite unspeakable brother, as is often the case. The scene in which this terrible Fred comes to tea with his sister's future mother-in-law is delightful. Lady Anne Varney is the other member of the little party, and Fred and his sister both insist on addressing her as "Lady Varney."

But the cleverest part of the story is the portrait of the MacAlpine Brands. Mr. MacAlpine Brand, the moneylender, has a young and pretty wife, whom he sincerely loves; he himself goes by the name of "Monkey Brand." The picture is drawn with such apparent slightness, with such lightning swiftness, that it is only by the impression produced that its power is realised. Janet goes to London to stay with the pretty, hard, worldly, ill-bred woman, and arrives at an awful moment, the block of flats in which the Brands live having been almost burnt out. Mrs. Brand herself has fallen over the staircase, broken her back, and lies dying. She commissions Janet to go upstairs for her, at all risks, to burn some compromising letters, so that her husband, whom she now truly loves, shall never discover that she has been unfaithful to him, nor that the child is not his own. Janet is too good and loyal to refuse, and too stupid to realise the perils of all kinds attendant on her mission. She goes up the wrecked staircase, and reaches the fourth floor in safety. It is this description of the burnt-out place, this situation of the woman dying in agony downstairs, while slow, faithful Janet braves horrible danger to save her reputation, which is the telling part of the book. It is impossible to reproduce the effect of horror without embarking on quotations far too long. The effect is cumulative, done with touch after touch; the picture of a ghastly devastation, a sight to shudder at.

\* By Mary Cholmondeley. (John Murray.)

Of course poor Janet is seen burning the papers. She is too honest and too stupid to do anything but what she had promised the unfortunate Cuckoo Brand to do—simply to deny that she burnt anything at all, a statement which everybody knows to be untrue.

The result is that the weak and stupid George Trefusis breaks his engagement, and she never quite gets over it.

Anne and her lover are far less satisfactory. While able to convey to us in a few pages an exact idea of the relations between Monkey Brand and his wife—to allow us to see with extraordinary clearness the entire life of the woman, Miss Cholmondeley fails to convince us in the case of Lady Anne, sweet woman that she is!

But Anne's mother, the duchess, is excellent:—

"She was one of those small, square, determined women, with a long upper lip, whose faces are set on looking upwards, who can make life vulgarly happy for struggling, middle-class men, if they are poor enough to give their wives scope for an unceasing energy on their behalf. By birth she was the equal of her gentlemanly husband, but she was one of Nature's vulgarians, all the same. . . . There was no need for her to push, but she pushed. She made embarrassing jokes at the expense of her children. In society she was familiar where she should have been courteous, openly curious where she should have ignored, gratuitously confidential where she should have been reticent."

G. M. R.

## What to Read.

"The Life and Letters of the Right Honourable Friedrich Max Müller." Edited by his Wife.

"An Old Country House." By Richard Le Gallienne.

"The World's Work." Edited by Henry Norman, M.P.

"Heroines of Poetry." By Miss Constance Maud.

"The Green Republic." By Dr. O'Gara.

"Across Coveted Lands." By Mr. Savage Landor.

"The Woman of the Hill. By "Une Circassienne."

But words are things, and a small drop of ink  
 Falling, like dew, upon a thought produces  
 That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

'Tis strange the shortest letter which men use,  
 Instead of speech, may form a lasting link  
 Of ages.

BYRON.

## Coming Events.

January 8th and 9th.—Christmas Entertainment, Great Hall, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 7 p.m.

January 15th.—Meeting at Chelsea Infirmary to discuss the State Registration of Nurses. 8 p.m.

January 22nd.—Meeting at Fulham Infirmary to discuss the State Registration of Nurses. 5 p.m.

January 27th.—Meeting at the Brook Fever Hospital to discuss the State Registration of Nurses. 3 p.m.

January 29th.—Meeting at the Fountain Fever Hospital, Tooting, to discuss State Registration of Nurses. 2.30 p.m.

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