

Carnac are excellent, Joan particularly being wonderfully true to life. One takes the most poignant interest in Catherine's agony, when, of course, her past rises up and confronts her; but the working out is wholly unforeseen, original, and admirable. The writer has so true an appreciation of many things, so sure a touch, so pleasing a style, that one wishes she had shown more clearly that she recognised the contemptibility of John Paston and the despicable nature of Catherine's motives.

Mr. Carnac is a quite possible person, and of a type more common than many might suppose. He is doubtless studied from the life, and his behaviour with regard to Sybil Hemming is natural, and also amusing. We shall welcome another book from Norma Lorimer. G. M. R.

Only One Life!

We pass this way but once,
Then weave thy robe with care,
Life's robe ill-spun
Is ne'er undone;
The robe we weave we wear.

We pass this way but once,
Then live to-day thy best,
In all you do
Be kind and true,
With God leave all the rest.

We pass this way but once.
The ripened harvest white
Has waited long
The reaper's song;
Thrust in thy sickle bright.

--A. H.,
British Indian Recorder.

What to Read.

"Sir Henry Wentworth Acland, Bart., K.C.B., F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford: a Memoir." By J. B. Atlay.

"The Red Triangle." By Arthur Morrison.

"The Valkyries." By E. F. Benson.

"Sir Julian the Apostate." By Mrs. Clement Parsons.

"London Roses." By Dora Greenwell McChesney.

"The Balkans: Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro." By William Miller, M.A.

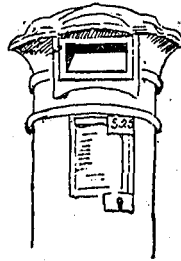
"Letters of a Diplomat's Wife, 1883-1900." By Mary King Waddington.

Coming Events.

June 27th.—General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Great Hall of the Hospital, 3 p.m. Social Gathering, 4.30 p.m. Presentation to Miss Courtenay-Smith, Assistant Matron, upon resignation of office.

July 1st.—The Queen and the Princess of Wales give their patronage to a concert at Stafford House in aid of a girls' memorial to Queen Victoria.

The Duke of Fife, accompanied by Princess Louise (Duchess of Fife), will open the Epileptic Colony, Ewell, 4 p.m.



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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a cheque for £1 is., and to thank you for the same.

Yours faithfully,

ANNIE RILEY,

North-Eastern Hospital, Tottenham.

June 17th, 1903.

THE FEAST OF LUCULLUS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—In commiserating the slaughter of 3,000 larks and 3,000 quail to be gobbled up by the charitable at the London Hospital Ball, have you no sympathy to spare for the 1,200 chickens and 1,000 lobsters which proved all too little sustenance for the merciful multitude gathered together at the Albert Hall. You made no mention of them in criticising the bill of fare.

Yours truly,

ONE WHO WAS PRESENT.

[The point of our remarks referring to this modern method of extracting money from the merciful was that the 6,000 little birds advertised to be "gobbled up by the charitable" at this particular season of the year left their half-fledged young to starve, and was a heartless crime against Nature. We go further, and think that larks should be prohibited as human food. It is a brutalising vision, coarse-fibred humanity crunching these dead, once divine-voiced, songsters, veritably gulping down a whole world of silenced sweetness between draughts of intoxicating liquor. —Ed.]

THE ASEPTIC CARE OF INFANTS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Is not asepticism run rather mad when the outfits for new-born infants have to be sterilised? Why don't we all sterilise our clothes? We ought to if this latest fad is to be carried to its logical conclusion. An infant is not a surgical case, but a healthy person with a whole skin in the majority of cases. How many infants are born with cutaneous affections? Not many in this country. So clothes which have been boiled, and washed sweet and clean, should surely suffice. Again, presumably a midwife in attendance on a lying-in case always washes and disinfects her hands. But what is their condition after taking up a newly-born infant? Nature has provided the infant with its best protection in the form of the *vernix caseosa* with which it is covered, and if this is not aseptic neither will the hands which touch it be so either. Don't let us lose our heads in our efforts after cleanliness. Plenty of

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