

*Friday, June 17th.*—The Municipal and Parochial Franchise for Women.

*Saturday, June 18th.*—The Parliamentary Franchise. These meetings take place simultaneously from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### GENERAL PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

*Monday, June 13th,* 8 p.m.—The Present State of the Woman's Movement in the Civilised States.

*Tuesday, June 14,* 8 p.m.—Women's Wages.

*Thursday, June 16th,* 8 p.m.—The Woman's Movement in its Relation to the Political and Religious Parties.

*Friday, June 17th,* 8 p.m.—The Franchise for Women.

*Saturday, June 18th,* 4 p.m.—The Woman's Movement: its Foundation and Aims. Closing of Congress.

## A Book of the Week.

### THE VINEYARD.\*

Mr. Chesterton, in his colossal joke, which we hope to review next week, makes one of his characters say that the whole essence of the modern joke is that nobody should see it. If this be so, we must suppose that the title to Mrs. Craigie's latest is a modern joke.

A brilliant Englishman, who wrote of France and things French a quarter of a century ago, tells a story of a man in Paris to whom all his friends always came for suggestions for titles for their work. One morning a friend rushed in: "Think of a name for my new farce!" The man of fertile brain was in his bath, and did not much enjoy being disturbed. "What's it about?" he shouted. "Oh, nothing particular," called his friend through the key-hole. "Anything about a drum in it?" "No, nothing at all." "Anything about trumpets?" "Not a word!" "Then call it 'Sans tambour ni trompette!'" cried the genius; and the play was named.

Some process of the kind has evidently been adopted by Mrs. Craigie, since not only literally, but figuratively, there is no allusion of the remotest kind to a vineyard, so far as the mere reviewer can penetrate into the secrets of a great mind. It is a story of the philanderings of three men and two women in a country town. Anyone who knows the work of this writer will know how fascinating these philanderings are; but one leaves off with a feeling of wonder as to why they should be chronicled.

Jennie Sussex is the orphan daughter of a baronet. Hard times have forced her into poverty, and she teaches in a provincial girls' school, and boards with the Misses Leddle. These ladies have a nephew—bad form, indifferently honest, and extremely handsome. Jennie and he fall in love. He, in order to get the money to marry Jennie, appropriates trust money—his father is a solicitor—and this money is taken by a fraudulent clerk called Coolidge, who decamps therewith. Ruin thus stares Gerald Federan in the face; moreover, Jennie has the courage to say that she does not like his methods. Jennie has a lover, John Harlow, a much better fellow than Gerald. But, as she does not seem inclined to take him—Harlow—on the rebound, after her break with Gerald, he comes forth.

\* By John Oliver Hobbes. (Fisher Unwin.)

with to London, and proposes to the daughter of a boarding-house keeper, whom he has not seen for fifteen years, but who is apparently waiting for his reappearance. Gerald, meanwhile, saves the situation, as far as he personally is concerned, by making love to Rachel Tredegar, a neurotic, hysterical heiress, to whom Jennie is now companion. The character of Rachel, and the kind of unwholesome attraction which she possesses for Gerald, is the best thing in the book. But there is yet another factor in the situation—a young drawing master who taught at the school where Jennie was mistress, Allan Helmyng. This young man, having a mother to advise him, does not make the mistake that Harlow did. He proposes to Jennie forthwith, and we leave them engaged. One is throughout in complete doubt as to which of her three lovers Jennie preferred, and which would have made her happiest.

This may be what the book sets out to show—namely, that one person will do as well as another. If this is so, one is left with the feeling that the thing might have been done more convincingly. The narration from beginning to end is charming. It is, therefore, perhaps futile to quarrel with what is narrated.

The various men and women in the story quote from many obscure authors. We seriously doubt whether Gerald Federan would have quoted Marvell. But the quaint oracles give a grace to the pages they adorn. The motto of the book is:—

"He beholdeth not the way of the Vineyards."

Which is perfectly true, as concerns the present reader.

G. M. R.

## What to Read.

"The Pathway to Reality." Second Stage. By the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane.

"Sir Mortimer." By Mary Johnston.

"The Woman with the Fan." By Robert Hichens.

"The Successor." By Richard Pryce.

## Coming Events.

*April 21st.*—Meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 5 p.m.

*April 22nd.*—Meeting at Chelsea Infirmary, Cale Street, S.W., to discuss State Registration. Miss Isla Stewart will preside. Speakers: The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., and Mr. James Cantlie, F.R.C.S.

*April 27th and 28th.*—Sale of Work at the London Homeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, Bloomsbury. Objects: To provide work for crippled patients who have left the hospital, to provide extra comforts for the children's ward, to increase the Samaritan Fund. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

*May 13th.*—Quarterly Council Meeting of the Matrons' Council, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 11 a.m.

*May 13th.*—Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 20, Hanover Square, W., 3 p.m.

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