A Book of the Week.

CUT LAURELS.*

We have no hesitation in pronouncing "Cut Laurels" to be the most original novel of this season; and when we can say that of a woman's work it is always a joy to us. This season, in fact, seems to have belonged peculiarly to our sex. Miss Sinclair's "Divine Fire," Mrs. Humphry Ward's "Marriage of William Ashe," Miss Robins' "Dark Lantern," and the book now before us, pretty well exhaust the list.

Miss Hamilton—her name now is, we understand, Mrs. Luck—is already known by one book of much more than average merit, "Macleod of the Camerons," which we reviewed with warm admiration some years ago in these pages. Her new book bears more or less upon the same theme—that is, we open the story with the husband from whom she has been parted for years.

Here, however, the likeness ends. The theme of "Cut Laurels" is a more poignant, more crucial, more adequate. Incidentally, the character of Phyllis is a masterpiece.

We congratulate the writer of this most convincing book.

G. M. R.

Songs of Forgetting.—I.

"Quand on est mort c'est pour toujours."

Grey spiders swinging from tree to tree,
Spin, spin
A silver shroud, dew-dropping, for me;
A narrow shroud of grey to lay
Sorrow in.

Ring-doves high in the apple-bloom,
Strew, strew
A narrow bier for a narrow tomb;
Strew joy's purple pall all
With violets blue.

Deep in the earth, you blind brown mole,
Make, make
A narrow grave for a little soul
Where shadows across the grass pass—
It will not wake!
—Una Aewyve Taylor,
in the Westminster Gazette.

What to Read.

"The Proposed World's Tribute to Shakespeare: A Plea for the Erection of a Memorial Statue and National Theatre." By Walter Stephens.


"Napoleon: The First Phase." Some chapters on the boyhood and youth of Napoleon I., 1769-1793. By Oscar Browning.

Coming Events.

July 1st.—Annual At Home at the West Ham and East London Hospital, at the Hospital, 3.30 to 6 p.m.
July 3rd.—The United States Ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid are entertained at luncheon by the Society of American Women in London.
July 6th.—Meeting Parliamentary Bills Committee, Society for State Registration of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, W., 5 p.m.
July 17th.—Opening of the Marie-Céleste Maternity Wards at the London Hospital.