

- (a) Work for money ;
 (b) Work of a philanthropic, social, or educational kind ;
 (c) Artistic, scientific, or literary work.

No girl under eighteen must sign. Every person signing is requested to add her occupation, university degree, if any, or other qualification.

When filled up the forms should be returned to Miss Clementina Black, c.o., Mrs. Dowson, 116, Chancery Lane, W.C.

Book of the Week.

THE INCOMPLETE AMORIST.*

It is pretty certain that most people will misunderstand the title of this book. Mrs. Nesbit uses the word Amorist to describe the person whom Bernard Shaw call a philanderer. He is the man who plays at love. But he is not complete, for his amorising breaks down, he falls really in love, and suffers accordingly. This is retribution of the purest kind ; and no girl will read these pages without feeling that her own wrongs are as it were avenged by Betty Desmond, in her leaving the Amorist to his fate,—the fate of being married by the woman who all along intended to have him, instead of marrying the girl he loves.

The book is, all through, full of Mrs. Nesbit's own delightful vein of humour. Nowhere is this more forcibly exemplified than in the conversations between the excellent ladies who form the membership of the Mother's Meeting which Betty personally conducts in her step-father's dreary country parish, before flying off to Paris to become an Art Student.

We could wish that we had more of this wonderful drawing from the life, for, truth to tell, the after career of Betty, full of adventure though it be, has more smack of such fantasies as the Psammead, than flavour of real life.

The lady to whose care Betty is entrusted in Paris, is suddenly killed in a street accident. Sooner than go home to her stepfather in England, Betty determines to go off on her own account, having plenty of funds, the gift of her aunt, Miss Julia Desmond, a lady whose portrait would be thoroughly delightful if it were not, like most of the characters in the book, a wee thing overdrawn.

It is pretty well incredible that a girl of Betty's temperament could possibly have gone out by herself at night in Paris, seated herself outside a cafe frequented by loose women, and finally taken one of these home as a chaperon. It is also incredible that she should have kept up the deceit for months, allowing the Reverend Cecil, her stepfather, to suppose all the time, that she was in the guardianship to which her aunt entrusted her.

Men may be able to forgive Betty more easily for this behaviour than women will. Girls are innocent and ignorant when brought up in country parsonages ; but Betty was not a fool, and there is such a thing as intuition.

Probable or not, the history of Betty's career is

* By E. Nesbit. (Constable.)

most extremely entertaining. She goes about dining at restaurants with two men, one of them being the Incomplete Amorist, who is fast succumbing to her charms, and the other a good, honest not very wise young man called Temple, who is likewise much in love.

The situation is dominated by Lady St. Craye, who means to marry Vernon, the amorist. She persuades Betty to leave Paris, in order that she may have the field clear, and suggests that she should go to stay at a certain country place, where young Temple is already staying at the same hotel. Temple manages to save the reckless Betty from being carried over a mill dam in a boat ; and makes such good use of his chance, that by the time Betty's father and aunt have awakened to the true state of things, and run the truant to earth, there is an understanding between them.

Betty is forgiven, and in the end, and after further complications, does marry Temple.

The student life of Paris, the well-meaning American girls, and all the local colour, is admirably given. But perhaps the best part is the opening chapters, where the experienced Amorist practises on the guileless Betty, to his own later undoing. As a novel, it marks a great advance upon the "Red House," though it leaves us still of the opinion that Mrs. Bland's real forte is her inimitable children's wonder stories. She always seems a bit hampered by the limitations of fact. G. M. R.

What to Read.

"Red Rubber: the Story of the Rubber Slave Trade Flourishing on the Congo in the Year of Grace, 1906." By E. D. Morel. With an introduction by Sir Harry E. Johnston; G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

"Pet Marjorie: a Story of Child Life Fifty Years Ago." By John Brown, M.D.

Coming Events.

November 16th.—Lecture on Public Health and Hygiene by Dr. Newman, D.P.H., to the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 5.45 p.m. These Lectures will be held weekly on Fridays until December 14th. The Course will be concluded after Christmas.

November 19th.—Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll opens the new wing of the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road.

November 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.—Provisional Committee National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland Conference Practically Illustrated on the Nursing of Tuberculosis, Maternity, and Mental Nursing: St. George's Hall, Mount Street, London, W. 11.0 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. Admission free.

November 28th.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught will preside at the festival dinner of the Royal Free Hospital at the Hotel Cecil.

December 13th.—Princess Henry of Battenberg opens a Bazaar in aid of the Plaistow and District Nurses' Home, Public Hall, Canning Town.

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