

have the cause of womenhood deeply at heart should read "Conflict." The conflict portrayed is a two-fold one. For, appositely to much of the keenest debate of our time, the book unflinchingly declares the urgent need of reclaiming new and stronger ideals for women than those commonly allowed by conventional tradition.

Book of the Week.

RUNNING WATER.*

A book by Mr. Mason needs no recommendation to ensure its being read. The writer of a "Four Feathers" places himself in a position rather to be criticised than praised. It is with this fact in mind we confess "Running Water" is a slighter bit of work than might be looked for from such a writer. But this is of small matter to the reader who wants a book for sheer recreation and mental recuperation. For this purpose there is all that can be desired in "Running Water." It is interesting from the outset where we find mystery enshrouding the personality of the heroine, and a hero seemingly too absorbed by his craze for Alpine climbing to be likely to fall in love. That Hilary Chayne meets Sylvia Thesiger just at the period when he loses a friend and is for the first time disenchanted in his favourite pursuit is one of the many clever touches in the story. The writer knows his work too well to allow cause and effect to occur simultaneously, however. Sylvia's disadvantages are so great that it needed a man of uncommon type to discover her worth in the midst of them. Outwardly reserved, and utterly incomprehensible to her frivolous mother, Sylvia is in reality sensitive to the last degree. Mrs. Thesiger lives apart from her husband under a different name. A sister-woman could not have better described how mortified Sylvia is by the ridiculous way she is overdressed, or the degradation she feels in being a member of the society in which her mother delights.

Among the mountains the girl meets Hilary Chayne, a man belonging to the world of which she has only dreamed. This is the turning point. She can bear her purposeless Continental life no longer, and chooses to go to her father, Garrett Skinner, who lives in London. Then her real troubles begin. How Chayne's reappearance in her life distresses her. How she refuses to marry him, and wishes "he would leave her to fight her battle and hide her shame alone" provoke one's curiosity to the full. It seems scarcely possible that such a tangle of intrigue and misplaced devotion to a sense of duty can be successfully unravelled. The straightening of the skein is a trifle too hurried. In moments when Mr. Mason allows himself the most leisured writing, he leaves nothing to be desired. For his descriptions of Alpine climbing alone, the book would be well worth reading. We have no glorified guide-book language to wade through—real atmosphere, keen, clear, and bracing is all round and about

* A. E. W. Mason. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

us: moreover, the descriptions are so skilfully interwoven with the narrative as to make both enthralling. It is the work of the man who has done the thing himself with the enthusiasm of the mountaineer and the soul of the artist.

Besides this there is some considerable skill in characterisation, a diversity of type not easy to handle. The figure standing out most conspicuously is that of Garrett Skinner—the suave, courteous gentleman, whose every virtue one so soon learns to question, and about whom clings a mystery that is to the very end of the book never quite cleared.

E.L.H.

Life.

Let me but live my life from year to year
Not hurrying to, nor turning from, the goal
With forward face and unreluctant soul;
Not mourning for the things that disappear
In the dim past, nor holding back in fear
From what the future veils; but with a whole
And happy heart, that pays its toll
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.

So let the way wind up the hill or down,
O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy;
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,
My heart will keep the courage of the quest,
And hope the road's last turn will be the best.

Henry Van Dyke.

Coming Events.

April 12th.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, 4.30 p.m.

April 15th.—The Prince and Princess of Wales visit Richmond to open the Swan Memorial Ophthalmic Wards at the Royal Hospital, Richmond. 4 p.m.

April 18th.—Catholic Nurses' Association, Conference at 109, St. George's Road, Southwark.

April 18th.—Meeting, Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster, 2.45 p.m.

April 20th.—Nurses' Missionary Society. The Fifth Annual Conference and Meeting, University Hall, Dr. Williams' Library, Gordon Square, W.C., 10—12 a.m., and 3—6 and 7—9 p.m.

April 24th.—Examination under the authority of the Central Midwives' Board, Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C. The Oral Examination follows a few days later.

April 27th.—Meeting for Nurses at the Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, 3.30 p.m. Tickets on application to the Secretary, Women's Total Abstinence Union, 4, Ludgate Circus, E.C.

A Word for the Week.

We should be trying to find out not in what we differ from other people, but in what we agree with them.—Ruskin.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)