

Book of the Week.

THE AMATEUR ADVENTURESS.*

Of course the book is very slight: one would not expect anything else from such a title, but "The Amateur Adventuress" is exceedingly amusing and quite original.

We discover Miss Katherine Grayson living in the small village of Leighbeck upon an income of about two hundred a year, left her by her father. Her position being so solitary after her father's death, the Vicarage people take it upon themselves to guard her interests, and the Vicar's daughter is particularly solicitous that Miss Grayson shall not fall a victim to "sharks." In order to avoid such a calamity, Miss Anna Griffen takes Kate's money matters in hand, and, leaving the owner as small a margin as possible for personal expenses, gradually appropriates more and more for parochial pet projects. But to Kate there one day comes an awakening, and she realises that she is allowing herself to be devoured by a "shark" all the time, there being no more voracious creature alive than the subscription shark, if it is allowed to get out of hand. There is, in consequence, a difference of opinion between the sometime friends which amounts to a quarrel, and in consequence Miss Grayson determines that she will leave the neighbourhood, and all the unpleasantness behind her. She goes further than that, having found freedom she makes up her mind that she will taste the sweets of it to the full. One cannot go far, however, on an income of about three pounds a week, wherefore, wholly against the advice of her family lawyer, she sells out about a thousand pounds' worth of her securities, takes a paid companion, and a French maid, repairs to an expensive hotel in the Italian Riviera, and deliberately poses as an heiress. She has the most natural qualms at the outset that she will be found out and despised, but she eventually settles down to the enjoyment of her game amidst considerable popularity. Before very long she begins to realise that the ladies whose acquaintance she makes nearly all seem to have either most interesting brothers or sons whom they are most anxious to present to her, and quite a little selection is brought on the scenes by degrees for the benefit of the young "heiress." Her fancy is caught, however, by a man who has no solicitous relatives to advertise him, and Kate is really introduced to him by an infuriated goat, an encounter with whom is also the cause of a sprained ankle for her. The situation is decidedly humorous, but Oliver Ireton's action in the matter is the reverse of funny. Throughout the episode Kate is impressed by the sense that she has never met anyone quite so strong in her life: stranger though he is she has no will of her own, but has meekly to obey orders. It is the beginning of an unmistakable friendship, which ripens rapidly into love on Kate's part, which she imagines to be reciprocated. But just when matters might most reasonably be expected to come to a point, Ireton suddenly, and

without warning, takes himself off. Kate's despair can be imagined—she is in the mood for anything—and for the first time flirts deliberately with one of the eligible "brothers." That there will come a way out of the difficulty one feels sure; it is too light a bit of literature to end in a tragedy; Mr. Frankfort Moore brings the whole to a very satisfactory conclusion, and the book is certainly to be recommended to anyone desirous of a pleasant hour or so.

E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS.

June 18th.—National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Great Procession of Women Suffragists. Nurses are invited to take part. Start Victoria Embankment, Northumberland Avenue, and march to the Albert Hall, 2.30 p.m. Mass meeting, Albert Hall, 5 p.m. Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., in the chair. Speakers: The Lady Frances Balfour, the Lady Henry Somerset, the Rev. Anna Shaw, U.S.A.

June 15th.—Infant Health Exhibition, Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire Street, W.

June 15th.—The Pan-Anglican Congress opens in London. *June 23rd.*—Nurses' Day at the Pan-Anglican Congress. Meeting at Church House, Westminster, 2.30 p.m.

June 16th.—Examination of Central Midwives' Board in London at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and at Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

June 21st.—The National Women's Social and Political Union, Great Demonstration of Suffragists will march to Hyde Park from Euston Station, Trafalgar Square, the Victoria Embankment, Chelsea Embankment, Kensington High Street, Paddington Station, Marylebone Road. Nurses invited to take part. All arrangements notified in "Votes for Women," price one penny weekly.

June 23rd.—The Duke of Portland presides at a Dinner in aid of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Hotel Cecil, 8 p.m.

June 24th.—Colonial Nursing Association, Annual Meeting, 10, Carlton House Terrace, Lord Ampthill will preside. 3.30 p.m.

June 27th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, 2.45 p.m. Social Gathering, 4.30 p.m.

June 27th.—Complimentary Dinner to Miss Isla Stewart, in recognition of her twenty-one years' work as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and in appreciation of her public work for the Nursing Profession. Georgian Hall, Gaiety Restaurant. Reception, 7.30 p.m. Dinner 8 p.m.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"He who has the clearest and intensest vision of what is at issue in the great battle of life, and who quits himself in it most manfully, will be the first to acknowledge that for him there has been no approach to victory, except by the faithful doing day by day of the work which lay at his own threshold."—THOMAS HUGHES.

* By Frankfort Moore. (Hutchinson.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)