

fees of regular practitioners. The non-paying branches of work were then, as now, evidently considered to afford specially suitable spheres of action for women.

### Book of the Week.

#### THE DOLLY BALLADS.

"I wisht if I was" a doctor—just for a little while. For each of my patients who happened to be a little girl or a little boy, or an auntie or an uncle, or a father or a mother or a dear old granny, I would order, when convalescence had begun and the anxious relatives were wearing their best smiles, "one copy of the Dolly Ballads, *immediately.*" I would say this in a voice of thunder, so that the smiling relatives aforesaid would fall over each other down the stairs and away to the nearest bookseller to place the order.

Then would the invalid, little or big, receive the dainty book with languid indifference, turn over a page or two, smile at the title page with its gigantic wooden dolly, and, presto! aches and weariness and the dreary dulness of a sick room would be all forgotten, and the invalid's heart would be captivated by dear, funny, solemn little Dolly.

This is not like any other child's book that I have seen; instead of a grown-up telling tales to children, here is a little child telling stories to her mother—stories that her sister told her "coming froo a wood," or that uncle Alec told "when we played lions on his bed." And the child has delicious little asides, usually in the most exciting parts of the story, where she discusses the sad state of her dolly's hair—

"I wisht if my new dolly

Wasn't burnt from off its hair."

or indulges in philosophic reasonings about the wind—

"How can a Robin sleep, Ma,

When a wind shakes all his trees?"

Every page holds a laugh, though sometimes one feels the tears very close behind. The beautiful child spirit is so daintily revealed, it seems almost impossible that it should have been done through the medium of a mortal man. One marvels that so much of the child nature can have survived the rude buffetings of the world, as to allow the author (Mr. Robert Blatchford) to put into rhyme the lovely fancies of his little girl without robbing them of their bloom.

Then there are pictures innumerable, pictures on every page; and when you think you have seen them all, you will find ever so many that you missed before, straying around the margins, or arranged as fascinating little tail pieces; and you cannot afford to miss one of them, they are so delightfully whimsical. The ferocious "Blue-beer," the incomparable "Bishump," and the "crocum-dile," with the "berry cheerful smile," the dogs and bears and fairies, the giant sitting down to dinner with a feast of small children and a copy of "The Simple Life" open before him, are the funniest things imaginable; and plump

little Dolly appears on almost every page—always doing something, and usually doing it vigorously (especially the picture where she flees before the big white doggie).

These pictures make one regret keenly that their talented creator, Frank Chesworth, is no longer with us.

The book is beautifully got up; the price is 3s. 6d., and it is published by the Clarion Press, 44, Worship Street.

JESSIE HARVEY.

#### A SONG.

We were young, we were merry, we were very, very wise,

And the door stood open at our feast,  
When there passed us a woman with the West in her eyes,

And a man with his back to the East.

—From "Poems" by

MARY E. COLERIDGE.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*January 25th.*—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Special General Meeting, 3 p.m. The Winter Social Gathering, 4.30-6.30 p.m.

*January 27th.*—London Fever Hospital, Liverpool Road, N. Opening, before occupation, of a reconstructed block (comprising four wards and four private rooms for female patients), by Lady Balfour of Burleigh, 3 p.m.

*January 27th.*—Miller Hospital, Greenwich. Lecture to Nurses. Anatomy. By Mr. J. Poland, F.R.C.S.

*January 28th.*—Royal Ear Hospital, Dean Street, Soho. Lecture by Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., on Special Nursing of Diseases of the Ear and Nose. 4.30 p.m.

*January 29th.*—The King, accompanied by the Queen, opens Parliament in State.

*January 30th.*—The Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, receives a Deputation from the Women's Suffrage Union, introduced by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

*January 31st.*—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, "To consider a Draft Constitution for a National Council of Nurses for Great Britain and Ireland." 431, Oxford Street, 3.30 p.m.

*February 4th.*—Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Lecture by Dr. Ralph Vincent, on Malnutrition. 5 p.m.

*February 21st.*—Public Meeting organised by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W. Address by the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, who will preside, 3 p.m.

#### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"It profited me, too, to see fields, water, flowers; in these things did I find a memory of the Creator. I mean that they aroused me, tranquilised me, and were as books."

SANTA TERESA.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)