

under existing laws shall be dwelt upon, and illustrated from actual cases dealt with in the Courts.

A meeting convened by the Women's Freedom League will be held in the Queen's Hall on January 8th, 1909, at 8 p.m. The Chairman will be Mrs. Billington Greig, and the purpose of the meeting "to hear a woman Member of Parliament, Dr. Thekla Hultin, tell how the vote was won and is used by the women of Finland." Tickets, price 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., may be obtained from the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

The Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, which was responsible for the Inquiry Office in the Women's Section at the Franco-British Exhibition, has been so impressed by the fact that a large number of societies have published excellent, but little known, books, pamphlets, magazines, and leaflets, that it has decided to open a Central Bureau for the sale of such publications. This Bureau, which will be known as the Workers' Bookshop, was opened on Tuesday last at 18A, New Oxford Street, W.C. The situation is excellent, close to Mudie's, and to the British Museum Tube Station. An experienced worker has been placed in charge, and the Central Bureau has already received considerable encouragement and support in its new venture. The friends of the movement are invited to visit the shop, and to mention the scheme to any societies and individuals likely to join. We wish the scheme all success.

A Commission is at present sitting in Italy to discuss the question of women's suffrage. For this reason, an amendment, proposed by several Deputies, to the Bill for the re-organisation of the Chambers of Commerce, which would have given all business women over 21, and possessing certain qualifications, the right to vote in elections for these bodies, was lost by a small majority, as the Government declared that it would prejudice the question before the Commission. The report of the Commission will be awaited with much interest.

Book of the Week.

HILL RISE.*

Though not often the case with English writers, it is quite ordinary in American works of fiction to find the chief interest vested in business matters. In *Hill Rise*, Mr. Maxwell cleverly strikes the same note, investing everyday life and the business transactions of Mr. Crunden with an intense interest hardly to be expected from such a prosaic subject as bricks and mortar. The whole book is eminently human, the various and varied characters being carefully and consistently worked out. There is a pretty romance interwoven through the whole. The gradual developing of Lizzie Crunden, from the rather foolish, sentimental school girl, to the fine, helpful, healthy

* By W. B. Maxwell. (Methuen.)

minded young woman she becomes, is well told, and with a keen insight into youthful female nature.

The description of the various grades of society in the little provincial town of Medford is capital; Hill Rise, which gives the title, is that portion of the town where the very select members of the inhabitants reside. At the very top of the Hill, we find Sir John Vincent, Baronet, the great man of the place, his presence creating for the twenty families living on Hill Rise a "county" atmosphere.

It is a clever touch, introducing the Masonic element, thus making it possible and even probable that Jack Vincent, the happy natured, easy going only son of Sir John, should break away from the exclusive county traditions, associating in a friendly way with the townfolk, especially Mr. Crunden, a brother Mason.

"*Cherchez la femme*" is a well-known saying, and in this history of Medford all the trouble arises indirectly from the action of the élite in connection with Lizzie Crunden; she is quite a charming girl, ladylike, pretty, and well-educated, but—her father, Hedgehog Crunden, as he is nicknamed, is a builder, a hard-headed business man, who has fought his own way into a sound financial position.

Hill Rise possesses a very exclusive Tennis Club. When Lizzie's name is put up for election by one member rather broader-minded than the rest, she is uncompromisingly blackballed; this rouses her father's resentment, and leads eventually to the ending of the Club, and the sweeping away of Hill Rise Society.

Mr. Maxwell is a firm believer in the benefit of hard work; he has a fine contempt for the idle classes, giving a scathing description of the young loafers. It says much for Jack Vincent's charming personality, that even as a loafer he is attractive, but when brought face to face with his father's serious money troubles, the young fellow shows his grit, his really fine nature asserts itself, and in spite of much opposition, he joins the ranks of the workers, persuading Brother Crunden to give him employment. He has always realised what a warm heart and kindly nature was hidden under the Hedgehog exterior.

Hill Rise is a book to be warmly recommended, well written, and interesting throughout.

E. L. H.

Coming Events.

December 17th.—Special Meeting of Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster. Hearing of charges against two midwives, 2.40 p.m. Followed by Monthly Meeting of Board, 2.45 p.m.

December 20th.—Peace Sunday.

December 25th.—Christmas Day. Distribution of gifts to hospital patients.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"It is the daily drill that makes the battle hero."

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