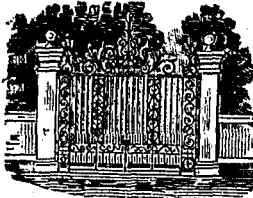


Outside the Gates.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"PEARL OF PEARL ISLAND."*



"Never, surely, were the beauties of Sark seen under happier auspices, or through eyes attuned to more lively appreciation. For love-lit eyes see all things lovely, and no more perfect loveliness of sea and rock and flower and sky may be found than such as go to the making of this little Isle of Sark."

So writes Mr. John Oxenham, and it must be confessed that before he has done with us we are all in such a holiday humour that we have become quite restless. There seems nothing for it but to "up-stakes" and be off to Sark ourselves, to discover whether such things can really be true.

But as if to prove his point incontestibly, Mr. Oxenham has had his book illustrated by sixteen photographs—not fancy pictures, but photographs taken on the spot—that are most convincingly lovely.

In the heart of such beauty he proceeds to further depict for us a thoroughly unconventional love-story, sufficiently simple for everyone to exclaim: "How impossible!" But here again our author has taken precautions, and protected himself against his critics, for he has chosen to lay the scene in the Isle of Sark, which, "you know is a portion of the British Empire, or perhaps I should say the British Empire belongs to Sark; but we are not under British law. We are a law unto ourselves here," said the Seigneur.

So, having hedged himself securely in on all sides, this briefly is the story Mr. Oxenham gives us:—John Graeme, familiarly known as Jock, falls deeply in love with Margaret Brandt. They are both delightful people, and nothing is more desirable than that they should marry. But Margaret is, unfortunately, not of age, and her guardian, Mr. Pixley, has other views for her settlement, having a son of his own. To escape from the toils that are being laid about her, Margaret chooses an old school friend as companion and runs away to Sark.

By a perfectly natural coincidence John Graeme has drifted there also, and to their mutual surprise they meet. Of course, one foresees but one result for the accident, but the course of true love is destined not to run smoothly to the end. There does come a hitch in the proceedings, though the banns have been successfully called the necessary three times, and the very eve of the wedding day is reached without Margaret's guardian being apparently any the wiser. What that difficulty is, and how they get out of it we leave the author to tell.

The people of Sark, according to Mr. Oxenham, are as delightful as their environment. They are

(*By John Oxenham. Hodder and Stoughton.)

simple, kindly, and exceedingly superstitious. There is a small boy, by name Johnnie, who is always counting crows—according to the number he sees he prophesies—and he has a quite awe-inspiring reputation for accuracy. His familiar spirit, a black cat, who rejoices in the name of Marielihou, is as uncanny as himself. There are also two delightful dogs in the tale who add greatly to the picture.

And a really charming character is Miss Henrietta Penny, Margaret's friend. She is a chum worth having, and certainly deserves the good fortune that is meted out to her. There are one or two scenes in the book which might prove exciting did one not feel perfectly confident that such a pretty story would not be marred by tragedy, even though it had proved much more like real life to have done it. E. L. H.

Coming Events.

July 3rd.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 5 p.m.

July 4th.—The Queen, accompanied by the King, opens the new building of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, 15, Buckingham Street, Strand. Policy holders will have to be on the ground, Embankment Gardens, Charing Cross (outside the building) not later than 3 p.m.

July 6th.—The Second Reading of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be moved in the House of Lords by the Lord Amptill, G.C.S.I.

July 6th.—The Lord Mayor's Dinner at the Mansion House, in aid of the London Hospital.

July 7th.—Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, opens a Garden Fête in aid of the funds of the Charing Cross Hospital, Royal Botanic Gardens, 3 p.m.

July 8th.—Garden Party at Guy's Hospital. Medals and prizes distributed to successful students by Lord Rothschild, 3.15 p.m. The laboratories, museums, college, the Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home, and the wards will be open to inspection from 3 to 5.30 p.m.

July 8th.—Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association. A Sale of Work at the Home, 80, Nichols Square, Hackney Road, N.E. Opened by Lady Alington, at 3 p.m.

July 10th.—The Earl of Crewe unveils the Statue of Queen Alexandra at the London Hospital; Prize Distribution to Students and Nurses, 3.30 p.m.

July 15th.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual Gathering of Midwives, 75, Barkston Gardens, S. Kensington, by kind permission of Miss Lorent Grant. Badges will be presented by the Lady Balfour of Burleigh, 4 p.m.

July 16th.—The Royal Maternity Charity of London. Annual Summer Tea of the Nurses, Eustace Miles Restaurant, 40, Chandos Street, Charing Cross, W.C. 3 p.m.

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