

Committee of the whole House on July 21st. (4) It was then considered and amended on recommitment on October 20th, and passed through Committee; and (5) considered and amended on report on November 2nd. (6) Read for a third time and passed on November 10th, when the Earl of Crewe, K.G., Leader of the House, stated that His Majesty's Government were fully prepared to support the third reading. It also had the powerful support of the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G., Leader of the Opposition.

We have devoted much space to the consideration of the first article on account of its extreme interest to nurses at the present time, but there are many others which should be read, notably, "Men are Men and Women are Women," by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, and "Mrs. Vance," by Cicely Hamilton, a play in which one of the dramatis personæ is a hospital nurse. We advise our readers to procure the current (February) issue of the *Englishwoman*, published by Grant Richards, 7, Carlton Street, S.W., and study it for themselves.

### Book of the Week.

#### THE WHIPS OF TIME.\*

Miss Kenealy has given us a well thought out and ingeniously woven story on heredity, a subject as old as the Decalogue, and as incontrovertible as those laws themselves. That medical men may be tempted to test their theories by such terrible expedients as Professor Hummerstone resorted to, would be apt to fill the ordinary mortal's mind with grave distrust of the scientific doctor.

In the prologue we meet the Professor and his friend, Dr. Lowood, in animated discussion on heredity versus environment. Dr. Hummerstone is convinced that environment is everything, and proposes to prove his theory by exchanging two infants at birth; the chance to do so was ready to his hand. Sarah Munnings, a notorious murderess, condemned to death, but reprieved owing to her condition, is taken suddenly ill on her way back to prison. She is hurriedly admitted to a private nursing home, in which there are also three county ladies, come up to town for their confinements. Dr. Hummerstone is in attendance at this home, and tells Dr. Lowood quite coolly of the experiment he means to make. Dr. Lowood, a firm believer in heredity, and also in the sanctity of motherhood, is horrified at the thought of the child of a murderess being given to a blameless lady of good birth, in exchange for her own infant, in whose veins flowed no felon blood. Realising how sincerely out of sympathy with his so-called scientific experiment Dr. Lowood is, the Professor feigns to give up the idea, but all the same the reader in common with his friend distrusts him. Two years later he admits that he had actually made the exchange. After a lapse of twenty-three years we meet Dr. Lowood once more, the gentle, kindly man has prospered sufficiently to enable him to

retire from work, and fulfil a life-long desire to enjoy a quiet existence in the country.

With the whole of England to choose from, his eye is caught by the name Scrope-Denton, in a list of houses to let. It is a name somehow familiar. He suddenly remembers the experiment and that a lady in the Home came from the neighbourhood of Scrope Denton. That decides him; his interest is roused, and he takes a small cottage there. We have a humorous description of the maiden ladies to whom it belongs. By degrees we get to know all the principal people in the countryside, and are quite as much puzzled as the good doctor to discover in which of the families the changeling is, as even the sex is unknown. The story increases in interest steadily as it goes on, and the final denouement is more or less unexpected, that it is tragic goes without saying, and it is almost a satisfaction to find that the cold, hard-natured Professor is hoist with his own petard, that a just but severe punishment is meted out to him through the only creature he really cares for. Nor is it very surprising that this son should be the cold-blooded calculating man he is, in view of the nature he inherits from his father.

It is to be hoped the plot is improbable, but the working out is consistently clever, the characters are all clearly and well drawn, interesting, and many of them in spite of human failings, sympathetic and very likeable. E. L. H.

### Coming Events.

*February 9th.*—Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the Royal Maternity Charity, 28, Finsbury Square, E.C., 3.30 p.m.

*February 9th.*—Central Midwives' Board Examination: *London*, Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C.; *Birmingham*, the University; *Bristol*, University College; *Manchester*, Victoria University; *Newcastle-on-Tyne*, University of Durham College of Medicine.

*February 16th.*—The Re-opening of Parliament.

*February 16th.*—Conference on Tuberculosis opens, Caxton Hall (four days).

*February 16th.*—Annual Central Poor Law Conference, Guildhall.

*February 18th.*—Territorial Nursing Service for London. Meeting of the Committee, Mansion House, 3 p.m.

*February 22nd.*—The Princess of Wales opens the new ward for children at the Great Northern Central Hospital, 3.30 p.m.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

Lectures.—Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Trained Nurses cordially invited.

*February 10th.*—Pelvic Hæmorrhages, by Mr. N. T. Brewis, F.R.C.S.E.

*February 24th.*—"The Electric Current Production, and Uses of," by Dr. Dawson Turner.

#### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"At a low stage of development men are obedient only to force; but little by little behind brute force there opens out the idea of moral force."

PAUL SABATIER.

\* By Arabella Kenealy. (John Long.)

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