

Under the auspices of the Women's Trade Union League and the Women's Labour League, a "Women's Labour Day" is to be celebrated on July 17th. Earl's Court Exhibition has been taken for the occasion, and in addition to the usual programme two meetings will be held which will be addressed by Labour Members of Parliament and ladies who have interested themselves in the condition of the wage earners. Tickets of admission are to be sold at half the usual price, and excursion trains will be run from all parts of the country.

Book of the Week.

THE THREE BROTHERS.*

In the "Three Brothers" we have Mr. Eden Phillpotts at his very best, a book of rare power and keen insight.

The scene is laid in Devon, a spot familiar to him, and with his truly marvellous power of description and command of language, we have the lovely neighbourhood of Dartmoor once more presented to us in all the varying phases of storm and sunshine. As with inanimate nature, even so with humanity, he goes straight to the heart of things.

The interest of the book is centred in the doings of the three brothers Baskerville, belonging to a race now nearly extinct, the good old yeoman farmer class, to a certain extent sons of the soil, but having been on the same soil for so many generations that they regarded their position with justifiable pride.

Vivian Baskerville, the eldest of the three brothers, a prosperous farmer, with a good wife and grown-up family, is described as a huge man with marvellous physical strength. Kindly enough in disposition except when his will is crossed, then he carries his firmness to obstinacy.

His favourite in the family is his handsome idle eldest son Ned, who can in his father's eyes do no wrong; Rupert, a good hard working fellow, and his father's right hand, is held in little repute, offending the autocratic old man past forgiveness by marrying against his will.

Humphrey Baskerville, the second brother, is a most interesting character study, judging by the mere outer man he is hard, self-contained, unsympathetic, too keen-sighted not to see through his neighbour's motives, and apt to speak out his mind uncompromisingly; in reality, beneath this rugged outer man, lies a nature rarely sensitive, longing for comprehension by his fellows, but totally incapable of expressing himself; a fine intellect and superior learning take him out of the class to which he belongs.

A widower with an only son, whom he loves silently, small wonder that Mark never realises the depth of his father's affection; a shy, reticent young fellow, the tragedy of whose life is falling in love with Cora Lintern, a beautiful girl with

a keen eye to the main chance, and utterly heartless, eventually she causes his strange and tragic death.

Nathan Baskerville, the youngest brother, is also a widower; his wife leaves him £5,000 on condition he does not marry again. He returns to his native place, Shaugh, going into business at the "White Thorn." In this public resort of all the neighbourhood we meet with many quaint personalities, not the least remarkable being Nathan himself; a handsome, genial man, every one's friend, and ready to do a good turn to all, trusted by everyone, considered a good man of business, prosperous himself, and ready to help all and sundry to make good investments, and yet when his end comes somewhat suddenly, it is found that with the very best intentions he has mismanaged his own and other people's business, even trust money has gone; the quiet widow, Mrs. Lintern, has for years been his mistress, sooner than relinquish his wife's bequest he has placed her and his three children in an invidious position.

The bitterness of his repentance and his death are graphically and touchingly told. It is after the death of his two brothers that the true worth and beauty of Humphrey's character comes out.

Mr. Masterman, the new Vicar, is a fine specimen of a truly good clergyman. Young, enthusiastic, and full of energy, he resolutely sets to work to put things right in a previously ill-managed parish by his tact and geniality, winning nearly everyone over to help him.

The humorous side is well sustained by Joe Voysey, the old Vicarage gardener, and Thomas Gollop, the Clerk, who both vehemently oppose all innovations; having hitherto ruled the parish, they intend doing so still; their discussions and opinions are most amusing.

Jack Head, the Socialist, also gives vent to many strange and daring sentiments. There is not a dull page in the book, and much wisdom; a difficult and too intricate a story to give in few words; but so interesting in every detail that the careful reader is well repaid.

E. L. H.

Coming Events.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

May 29th.—Annual Meeting, Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

Chair.—Miss Isla Stewart, President.

AGENDA.

1. Minutes.
2. Address by the Chairman: "Solidarity."
3. To receive the Annual Report and Audited Accounts.
4. To elect the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.
5. To consider the following Resolutions:—

* By Eden Phillpotts. (Hutchenson).

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)