

## Book of the Week.

## THE MAGNATE.\*

Since, after the short title, "The Magnate," no further legend appears, "Author of," etc., we may fairly conclude that Mr. Robert Elson is a new writer, and, if so, he is to be heartily welcomed into the ranks of novelists.

This is a work of real power and great interest. The delicate insight and minute descriptions are almost feminine; then, again, the grasp of the whole subject points to a "master" mind, and it is not an easy subject to deal with, to treat truthfully, and, at the same time, with restraint. Here we have both; in addition, the style is so easy there is nothing to jar on the reader, no involved sentences or abstruse words, necessitating a dictionary at one's elbow. From the very beginning the story grips and flows easily and naturally. Never once through the four hundred pages does the interest flag.

The hero and heroine appear in the very first page. Janet Nicholson, a beautiful young girl, acting as mother's help, is spending her "afternoon off" in a sheltered cove at Ilfracombe, where her employers are staying a few weeks.

John Holden is forty-two, a Yorkshire millionaire, also enjoying a short holiday at the sea. The description of him, sitting on the rocks, as he appears to the girl, is not attractive—"middle-aged, bulky, and commonplace," is her verdict. The first he may be, but, as you get to know the man, the real beauty and generosity of his character unfolds till you realise how very far he is removed from the commonplace. Having been too much engrossed in business to think about women, he has never been in love. He has many friends amongst women, but, so far, has never even touched the fringe of love. With almost the first sight of Janet, Holden realises that he feels something quite different to any other emotion that has hitherto come into his life. He is totally unversed in what the author whimsically calls "The Book of Woman." If such is the case with the hero it certainly is not so with the author; his knowledge of the workings of the female mind is almost uncanny.

The device to effect an acquaintance is simple in the extreme. The lady goes to sleep in her cove, is cut off by the tide, and John Holden rescues her. However, it suffices. He is a simple-hearted, unconventional man; she, though a lady by birth, has had a rough time. A penniless orphan, she had earned her living from an early age, and apparently thinks little of picking up a casual acquaintance with a man she considers "middle-aged." She is sorely in need of a friend, and accepts him as such; her beauty has so far been only a cause of trouble to her. Wherever she goes she attracts, and, like Holden himself, has never been attracted.

After many months of doubt and heart-searching, he realises that she is the one woman in the world for him; his feeling is not reciprocated, but

she consents to marry him to get away from the intolerable life she is leading. She knows nothing of his wealth, simply accepting his statement that he is well off. It takes her many months to realise the beauty of his character, and he has a hard time of it till he wins her love. The book is full of other characters, all well and distinctly drawn, each preserving his and her individuality, and none of them superfluous. E. L. H.

## VOILÀ TOUT.

## ONCE IN A DREAM.

The Rosebud girl was idle, but the grey woman sat upright, and her fingers were never at rest.

The girl sat at the feet of the woman.

"Stop clicking," she cried, seizing hands and pins, "and, oh! tell me of joyous things—of when you were young, who loved you, and all that."

The grey woman turned her face to the fire.

She spoke delicately.

"I have always been plain and poor—once in a dream—someone called me darling."

## COMING EVENTS.

January 27th.—Meeting of the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood. An Address will be given by Mr. Herbert Paterson, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Temperance Hospital, on "The Responsibility of the Nursing Profession towards Temperance Work." Trains leave Baker Street 3.25 p.m. Tea and Coffee 4.30 p.m. Meeting 5 p.m.

January 28th.—The Sanitas Company, Limited, "At Home" to Nurses, at the Factory, Locksley Street, Limehouse, E. Tea, 3.30 p.m.

January 29th.—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m. Important business.

February 1st.—The Royal Sanitary Institute. Lectures and Demonstrations for Sanitary Officers in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, for Meat Inspectors, on School Hygiene, and for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses. Full particulars from the Offices, Royal Sanitary Institute, Margaret Street, London, W.

February 2nd.—London Society for Women's Suffrage. "The Nursing Profession and the Vote," Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Doré Gallery, Bond Street, W., 5.15 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.

## THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

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

January 27th.—Some Practical Points in the Treatment of Ear, Nose, and Throat Affections, by Dr. A. Logan Turner.

## A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Nothing so near approaches death as a broken trust.

\* Robert Elson (Heinemann.)

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