

## Book of the Week.

### PEGGY THE DAUGHTER.\*

There comes to most people a time of mental or physical exhaustion, when absolute idleness is impossible, and when a little light reading seems the best possible medicine.

A book like Miss Tynan's "Peggy the Daughter" is eminently one to meet such a case, interesting from the first page, with just sufficient excitement to keep the interest from ever flagging.

The story is, of course, Irish, the time very early Victorian, and truly some of the doings in those days must have been passing strange. Apparently, the abducting of heiresses was no uncommon event, the young "bucks" of the period gaily assisting each other. Miss Tynan introduced her heroine in the opening chapter, which is entitled "The Gamblers." Sir Pierce Rowan declared that "his little daughter should preside over his dinner table, no matter who said him nay, so Miss Peggy Rowan aged six, in short-waisted frock of silk, with pearls in her hair, and on her neck, sat proudly at the head of the table. The presence of the demure little figure had an excellent effect on the wild company," and wild company they truly were. When Peggy had been carried to bed the play ran high, and the wine flowed, the men drinking not wisely but too well. Sir Pierce, left a widower at twenty-six, with an only child, tries to drown his grief at the loss of his wife, in the companionship of men who play high and drink deeply. His luck is always against him, he loses slowly but surely all that he has; then, what seems the prevailing habit of the times, is recommended to him, to run away with an heiress.

In this case the lady is a Quakeress, Priscilla Penn; charming as little Peggy is, it is the elder woman who excites most of our interest and sympathy. It would be hard to depict a more beautiful character than Priscilla's; her father, John Penn, owner of the chief haberdashery store in the town, is a typical old-fashioned Quaker, very wealthy, and save in the matter of money, unworldly, and bitterly hard to all outside his own creed.

The account of the abduction on a dark night, as the Quakers are returning home by the side of the river, is given in most dramatic style.

Pierce has never seen Priscilla's face, she going about always heavily veiled. He believes her to be old and ugly, and cares only to secure her money. With her the case is different; she has often seen "Beauty Rowan" and secretly loves him for his handsome face.

During the pursuit, Pierce fires and hits a man, but gets away with the lady to his own house, where they are married by an old priest just before the pursuers catch them up. He has by this time seen her face, and finds she is young and "passing fair." He is arrested, but she refuses to annul the marriage as her father wishes. Both abduction and attempted manslaughter being punishable, the Judge being a so-called "just Judge," passes the

heaviest sentence possible, twenty-five years, which is mercifully shortened to twelve.

During all these years Priscilla cares for Peggy with tenderest love, the child develops into a charming young girl. Then comes the irony of fate; she and the son of the Judge, who had condemned her father, fall in love, and naturally the situation seems impossible.

There are many interesting episodes told in Miss Tynan's usual easy graceful style. After so many trials, the reader is glad to find a happy ending, when the white-haired man, not yet forty, comes back to his lovely home, Carrigrowan, to find it all restored and in order, thanks to the money of the wife so strangely married. Before the trial, he had seen her daily in gaol, and, "in this tragic and terrible atmosphere, love took the place of liking in Pierce Rowan's heart."

E. L. H.

## Coming Events.

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES AND NURSING EXHIBITION.

July 22nd.—10 a.m.

Discussion: "The Care of the Insane."

Discussion: "The Duty of the Nurse to her Profession."

2 p.m., Large Hall, Church House.

Discussion: "The Nurse as Patriot."

July 23rd.—10 a.m.,

Discussion: "Morality in Relation to Health."

Discussion: "Scientific Temperance."

2 p.m., Discussion: "The Nurse in the Mission Field."

Discussion: "The Organisation of Private Hospitals."

### HOSPITALITY DURING THE CONGRESS.

Thursday, July 22nd.—4.30 p.m., Reception at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress.

Evening: Theatres, etc.

Friday, July 23rd.—5 p.m., Tea at the Irish Village, the International Imperial Exhibition, Shepherd's Bush. Hostess, the Hon. Albinia Brodric. By invitation. Visit to the Exhibition.

Saturday, July 24th.—Visit to Windsor Castle and Royal Domain. Special Railway Tickets, 2s. 6d.

### THE NURSING EXHIBITION.

July 22nd and 23rd.—The Exhibition at Caxton Hall will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission free to 3s. ticket holders. Tickets and Catalogue, 6d.

July 26th.—Meeting of conjoint Registration Committee, convened by Mr. J. W. Cleland, M.P., House of Commons, Room 17, 4 p.m.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Let not one of you plead her insignificance, her want of means or ability, as an excuse for standing aloof from making both the public and private life of the nation a purer, nobler, and lovelier thing than it is."

MARIA GREY.

\* By Katherine Tynan. (Cassell.)

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