

A most interesting address on "The Position of the Hindu Woman"—not Mohammedans—was delivered last week at 36, The Grove, The Boltons, South Kensington, by Saxath Kumar Ghosh. The lecturer said that at the present time it was desirable to know the Hindu woman well, for she ruled the greater part of the peninsula. Generally speaking her position was higher than that of man in her own country or in any part of the world. Some of the sacred books were written by women, the husband could not say his morning prayers, or secure salvation without the consent of his wife; again, there was a popular belief that in every family there was a woman in particular favour with the goddess of good fortune. A man did not know which of the women of his family was so honoured, and was therefore bound to treat them all with respect and kindness. The fact that the Hindu women did the cooking was considered in the West a sign of their subjection. The contrary was the case, as cooking in India was almost a religious rite. Food prepared by inferiors could not be eaten, but the lady was the highest member of the household and therefore what she prepared could be eaten by all.

Book of the Week.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES.*

A most charming Canadian story, which no one should miss reading, is "Anne of Green Gables."

Anne is an original and delightful child, all "spirit and fire, and dew" to whom the pleasures and pains of life came with trebled intensity. Happily she eventually fell into kindly hands, though her father and mother both died when she was three months old. "Mrs. Thomas," remarked Anne, "said they were a pair of babies, and as poor as church mice," but at least they bequeathed to their little daughter a sweet and generous disposition, a disposition not spoiled even when, as she related, "they left me an orphan, and folks were at their wits' end to know what to do with me," and when she was adopted by Mrs. Thomas, who had a drunken husband. Anne asks, "Do you know if there is anything in being brought up by hand that ought to make people who are brought up that way better than other people? Because, whenever I was naughty Mrs. Thomas would ask how I could be such a bad girl when she had brought me up by hand—reproachful-like."

Poor Anne—tragedy befel the Thomas household, and, to continue her story in her own words, "Mrs. Hammond said she'd take me, seeing I was handy with children, and I went up the river to live with her in a little clearing among the stumps. It was a very lonesome place. I am sure I could never have lived there if I hadn't had an imagination. Mrs. Hammond had eight children. She had twins three times. I like babies in moderation, but twins three times in succession is *too much*. I told Mrs. Hammond so firmly, when the last pair came. I used to get so dreadfully tired carrying them about." But the Hammond house,

hold, too, was broken up, and Anne was sent to an orphan asylum in Nova Scotia, from whence she was adopted by Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, of the Green Gables, in Avonlea, Prince Edward's Island. Marilla, a woman of a somewhat stern exterior, but kindly heart, and Matthew, a man of few words, who, nevertheless, understood the imaginative and mercurial child from the first.

To a child of Anne's temperament everything was either an intense delight, or an overwhelming tragedy. Her beauty-loving nature was intoxicated by the loveliness of her surroundings at the Green Gables; it was correspondingly tried by the serviceable but ugly clothes in which Marilla dressed her, though she was a loyal little soul, and wore them uncomplainingly. But Matthew "suddenly became conscious that there was something about her different from her mates. And what worried Matthew was that the difference impressed him as being something that should not exist. Anne had a brighter face, and bigger, starrier eyes, and more delicate features than the others, but the difference that disturbed him did not consist in any of these respects. Then in what did it consist?"

"After two hours of smoking and hard reflection Matthew arrived at a solution of his problem. Anne was not dressed like other girls!" The result was a Christmas present of a becoming dress, which sent the child into the seventh heaven of delight.

Trouble and joy—they alternate in most lives, and in Anne's both were poignant.

As one closes the book, Anne seems not the dream child of fiction, but the friend one has known and loved. Read the book and she will be real to you too.

P. G. Y.

COMING EVENTS.

February 21st.—State Opening of Parliament by the King.

February 22nd.—Central Poor Law Conference, opened by the Lord Mayor, Lord R. Cavendish presiding, Guildhall (two days).

February 23rd.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Lecture on "Nursing in Ophthalmic Cases." By Dr. George Mackay, F.R.C.S.E. Extra Mural Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Nurses are cordially invited. We are asked to notify that the subjects of Lectures to be given on March 9th and 23rd are to be transposed.

February 24th.—Ladies' Guild of the London Homoeopathic Hospital. Annual General Meeting. Great Ormond Street, 3 p.m.

February 24th.—Central Midwives' Board. Monthly Meeting, Caxton House, 2.45 p.m.

February 25th.—Society for State Registration of Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, to receive a Report from the Delegates on the Central Committee for State Registration. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

March 1st.—Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London. Meeting of the Executive Committee, Mansion House, 3.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.
Je t'adore, Soleil!

EDMOND ROSTAND.

* By L. M. Montgomery. (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., 1, Amen Corner, E.C.)

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