

have neither civic enfranchisement nor professional enfranchisement through State Registration, and their position is therefore very precarious. If Canada desires the assistance of English women it should pass a Women Enfranchisement Bill without delay; but in our opinion Englishwomen are not well advised to emigrate to any country where they have not the security afforded by the Parliamentary franchise. The suggestion made by Mrs. Cran, that the only way to get at the lonely farms is through bands of itinerant midwives, a sort of mobile corps unattached to any town or building, but working under efficient direction, is a very practical one, evidently the outcome of a personal knowledge of the requirements of the country.

Book of the Week.

DAISY'S AUNT.*

"Daisy's Aunt" is a very slight story, but, told by Mr. Benson, it is, of course, readable. But, truth to tell, the interest lags a little, and the shuttlecock of conversation, in which he usually excels, does not fly with the same light certainty of return as usual.

The people of these pages are of the leisured class, with for the most part pleasant dispositions, whose motto, "*il faut s'amuser*," is accompanied by a determination to marry if possible wisely but certainly well.

Daisy says, "I am hard and worldly and disgusting, but I want to be right at the top of the tree, and if I married Willie I should just be Mrs. Carton. . . . I want such a lot of things to make me happy—all there is, in fact—and poor, darling Willie hasn't got all there is. He's the sort of man I should like to marry when I'm forty-three. He would be quite charming if one were forty-three. He's quite charming now, if it comes to that, . . . but he's too devoted. That's one reason for not marrying him."

"I don't think it's a good one, though," remarked Gladys.

"Yes, it is. Because a man always expects from his wife what he gives her. He would be absolutely happy living with me on a desert island, but he would tacitly require that I should be absolutely happy living with him on a desert island. Well, I shouldn't—I shouldn't—I shouldn't—I should not! Is that clear?" Daisy gave a great sigh, and leant over the folded door of the hansom.

"I'm not sure if I want to marry Lord Londfield or not," she said, "but I'm perfectly certain I don't want him to marry anyone else. I think I should like him to remain wanting to marry me, while I did not want to marry him. . . . Oh, don't look shocked; it's so silly to look shocked, and so easy."

But then Daisy's Aunt Jeannie returns after a year's absence, and discovers insuperable difficulties in the way of the fulfilment of Daisy's ambitions. She, still being a young and charming woman, con-

ceives the idea of attracting Lord Londfield to herself in order to save Daisy the pain that disclosure of the truth would give her.

"It is an intolerable rôle," said Lady Nottingham. "You cannot play with love like that. It is playing heads and tails with a man's life, or, worse, you are playing with his very soul."

"And a month afterwards it will be he who will be playing with another woman's soul," said Jeannie quietly. . . . "I am only making myself the chance woman with whom he happens to think himself in love at the time when he proposes to settle down and marry. He shall propose marriage therefore to me. . . . I will do my best that Daisy shall never know. . . . I cannot measure his possible suffering against Daisy's. It is through him that the need for doing this has come."

We learn the reason for this when, her tactics having succeeded, Lord Londfield passionately reproaches her.

"I am here to tell you that you have done an infernally cruel thing, for I take it that it was to separate Miss Daisy and me that you did it; it is only just I should know. By my love for you . . . I bid you tell me."

Then Jeannie commanded her voice again.

"You were in Paris two years ago," she said. "There was a woman there who lived on the Rue Chalgron. She called herself Madame Rougierre."

"Well?" he said.

"Daisy's sister," said Jeannie with a sob.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

June 6th to 11th.—Japan-British Exhibition. Great Hall, Cascade Café. 3 to 5 p.m.

June 10th.—"National Health."

June 11th.—"Nursing." Chair, Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose. Territorial Nursing and Red Cross Organisation: Miss E. S. Haldane. Japanese Red Cross Work: Miss Ethel McCaul. The Trained Nurse's Sphere in Red Cross Work: Mrs. Netterville Barron. Nursing as a Profession: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. District Nursing: The Lady Hermione Blackwood. Social Service Nursing: Miss H. L. Pearse.

June 12th.—Hospital Sunday.

June 15th.—Meeting for Nurses on Women's Suffrage, 49, Norfolk Square, W. Chair, Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. Speaker, Mrs. Pankhurst. 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

June 18th (postponed from May 28th).—Procession of Women Suffragists from the Embankment to Albert Hall, organised by the Women's National Social and Political Union.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Queen Elizabeth was said to be the exception which proved the rule that women were unfit to rule, but Queen Victoria proved that Queen Elizabeth was no fluke."

SIR GEORGE REID,
Congress of Women, Japan-British
Exhibition.

* E. F. Benson. (Thomas Nelson and Sons, London.)

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