

details of the arrangements for this demonstration will be found in this week's *Votes for Women*, the official organ of the Union, and after the wonderfully sympathetic reception given to the nurses' contingent on June 18th, we hope even a greater number will be present on the coming occasion. The people love caps and aprons; let them if possible be worn.

Book of the Week.

THE OTHER SIDE.*

This book presents to us the history of a young musician, David Archdale, and it is with his failure to carry out the high ideals with which he started his career that the story has to do. Under the pressure of poverty he yields to the temptation of vulgarising his art, and using it as a commercial asset. He is punished for this by losing to a great extent his spiritual vision, and on the death of his wife, whom he devotedly loves, he realises that the hopeless sense of separation which he gradually comes to feel is caused more by the inability of his soul to ascend to hers than by the mere dissolution of the flesh.

The prologue tells us how the boy David is adopted by the Abbey organist, Sebastian Fermor, and how his early promise of a great career consoles the older man to a great extent for his own failure to achieve fame. In the first chapter we read of an "audience gathered together to listen to David Archdale's first recital, after his appointment as organist of Sherborne Abbey. The townsmen knew that the young man was succeeding Sebastian Fermor, who had retired after twenty-five years of service. . . . Half way down the nave sat Fermor himself, and by his side a young woman. This was Mary Pigneron, David's future wife.

"The third movement began. Into the spaces of the nave a *miserere* quivered, as if from the ambulatory, where the Saxon kings, Ethelbert and Ethelbald lie at rest. The girl pressed Fermor's arm, and smiled. To her death meant the passing to an ampler life, a passage so easy, involving so little change, that apart from the pangs of dissolution it ought to be no more dreadful than falling asleep."

On their honeymoon she tells David that she has a conviction that she will die first, and that it will be soon. He answers her, "If you went it would be very dark," and makes her pledge herself "to come back at once if you go first. If I have the most shadowy glimpse of you I shall believe in a future life."

She answered after a pause, "I will come back if I can. I swear that."

"Then he kissed her, straining her to him in a passion of revolt against the law which binds husband and wife together with the knowledge and therefore with the intention of rending them asunder."

Little "Marionette" arrives on the scenes at the same time that his cantata is finished, and his san-

* By Horace Annesley Vachell. (Thomas Nelson and Sons, London.)

guine temperament is already dreaming "of a nurse and pony cart, and perhaps a parlour maid, and a gorgeous pram, and pelisse lined with the best white satin." But, alas! the ablest musicians agreed that the cost of its production would be enormous and prohibitive. Crushed by disappointment, he to a great extent yields to the suggestion of a great star of musical comedy that he should "chuck Church music, and concentrate on songs. Excuse me, Mrs. Archdale, this husband of yours can't realise that he has a little gold mine under his nose."

Wonderful financial success crowns this departure, but to Mary it is the breaking up of their old intimate, and to her satisfying, life. When their little girl is seven years old Mary dies of enteric fever at Spa.

"There was no parting, no last words. She died at two in the morning, passing easily to the other side."

Ten years afterwards, while motoring with Fermor abroad, they meet with a terrible accident, in which Fermor is killed, and David's disembodied spirit hovers for a while round the scene of the accident, calling vainly for Fermor, and unable to reach him or Mary. It is then that he realises that he has neglected his spiritual nature in seeking for mere success. These experiences are accounted for by suspended animation, and in the total blindness with which he is afflicted during the few remaining months of his life he recovers the heavenly vision and at last finds Mary after his long quest.

"Listen!" said David.

He had opened his eyes. They were still limpidly blue, the eyes of the boy who had sung anthems in the Abbey Church.

Then in a loud, clear, joyous tone he exclaimed: "Mary!"

He struggled to sit up, extending both arms and looking straight into the sun. Then his head fell back upon the pillow. H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

July 14th.—Annual Staff Tea, Royal Maternity Charity, Eustace Miles Restaurant, W.C., 3—5 p.m.

July 16th.—Meeting of the Matrons' Council, General Hospital, Birmingham, 3 p.m. Public Meeting on State Registration of Nurses, 4.30 p.m.

July 19th and 20th.—Penal Cases, Central Midwives' Board. Board Room, Caxton House, 2 p.m.

July 21st.—Annual Meeting, Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to receive the annual report and audited accounts. 5 p.m. Tea.

July 23rd.—The Women's Social and Political Union. Great Demonstration in support of the Conciliation Committee's Suffrage Bill. Hyde Park, London, W.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"From my point of view it is a matter of no importance whether a majority or a minority of women desire the change. If our laws are ever to become human and civilised the State requires it."

Mr. Cecil Chapman on Women's Suffrage.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)