

## Book of the Week.

## ACCOUNT RENDERED.\*

"Mrs. Winthrop was stout where she should have been spare, and spare where she had better have been well furnished. Her face looked rather as if hens had trampled over it, and it had subsequently been raked over. She talked rapidly even in her sleep, and was never in the least tired."

She was the mother of quite a nice young man named Frank, and her husband was of a placid temperament, and given to playing Patience. From the Frank point of view the extreme good looks of her governess were most undesirable.

"He had been in England now for a couple of months, and next week, on the expiration of his leave, he would have to go back to Cairo, where his regiment was quartered. And then, with extreme distinctness, he became aware that he did not want to go back in the least. . . . Without being in any sense a prudent or calculating youth, it was clear to him beyond need of argument or discussion—if ever he was in love with her—anything serious, and love-making with a definite end in view was out of the question."

So good-looking Frank returns to Cairo without any apparent harm being done, and pretty Miss Allenby becomes a millionairess and marries Lord Tenby, who apparently has no scruples about proposing to her under the altered conditions of her life.

The dowager Lady Tenby had previously prepared the path for her son by falsely informing Violet that Frank was engaged in Cairo, thus effectually removing any lingering tenderness in the girl's mind towards him, and then Frank returns and the inevitable happens.

"There was no word of truth in it, you see," he said, with quivering mouth. "Don't you understand? You must! It was all a lie. As if there was anybody but you. You mustn't mind my saying that. There's no harm. I'm going away to-morrow. I love you, you see. It's not my fault. I never meant to tell you."

"Oh, Frank! I thought you didn't care. I thought it was only I who cared—"

And Ted, Lord Tenby, when he learns about it all, wonders how he is to do what has got to be done. Did he fear death? Yes, a little; but it was an evil incomparably less than living.

"He stepped forward two steps only, and stood between the poppy and the cliff's edge. It was quite sheer; it even overhung a little. He heard himself say quietly:—

"Now be steady—keep still. Not more than a mashie-shot down. Don't be frightened." The ground on which he stood quivered and shook, and he was shot outwards and forwards like a diver.

"Free!" he said aloud.

"Account Rendered," as a whole, is thin and unconvincing, and for Mr. Benson quite commonplace. One at least expects always to be amused by him.

H. H.

\* By E. F. Benson. (William Heinemann, London.)

## COMING EVENTS.

*March 30th.*—Society of Women Journalists. Mrs. Herbert Cohen "At-Home" to the President, Council, and members of the Society, 2, Orme Court, W. Music, 9 p.m.

*March 31st.*—Public Meeting at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor presiding, in support of a memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, 3 p.m.

## THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE.

*April 4th.*—Opening Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W., 12 o'clock. Conference: Massage, 2.30 to 4.30. Paper by a representative of the Association of Inspectors of Midwives, 6 p.m. Concert, 7.30 p.m.

*April 5th.*—Mental Nursing, 2.30 to 5. Longevity, 7.30 p.m.

*April 6th.*—District Nursing and Midwifery; The Midwives' Act and what it means to Midwives, 2.30 to 5.

The Present Condition of Midwives in England and Elsewhere, 6 p.m.

*April 7th.*—Can Race Degeneration be Arrested by Eugenics. The Care of the Nervous, 2.30 to 5.

The Teeth in Relation to General Health, 7 p.m.

## RECEPTIONS.

*Wednesday, April 5th.*—Through the courtesy of the Matron, Nurses and Midwives attending the Conference are invited to visit the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, between 3 and 4 p.m.

*Thursday, April 6th.*—By kind permission of the Treasurer and House Committee the Matron of Guy's Hospital has kindly invited Nurses and Midwives attending the Conference to visit the Hospital at 3.30 p.m. Permission has also been obtained from the Dean of the Medical School to visit the Museum, and the Matron will also endeavour to arrange to have the Finsen Lamp working.

*Friday, April 7th.*—The President, Treasurer, and Organising Secretary, "At-Home," at the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, from 4 to 7 p.m., and will welcome Midwives and Nurses.

## UNION OF MIDWIVES.

Messrs. Glaxo have placed at the disposal of Mrs. Edith Robinson, President of the Union of Midwives, the spacious lounge at the back of their stall, No. Half Annexe B, during Exhibition week.

*April 5th.*—Annual Meeting, East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, 394, Commercial Road, E., 4 p.m.

*April 5th.*—Trained Maternity Nurses' Association. Inaugural Meeting, 33, Strand, W.C. 2 p.m.

*April 12th.*—Irish Nurses' Association, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Lecture on "Medical Electricity," by Dr. Haughton, 7.30 p.m.

*April 20th.*—Meeting Executive Committee, the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, W., 4.30 p.m.

## WORD FOR THE WEEK

People were apt to think that man received woman from God solely in order that he might make a cook of her.

Mons. M. C. Bouvier in his Lecture on "La Femme."

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