

Book of the Week.

THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD.*

The call of the East is always alluring, and one is grateful to the writer who can create its atmosphere, and flood the imagination with its subtle attraction. Such a power is possessed in no stinted measure by the author of "The Holy Mountain," Mount Carmel.

This remarkable book has two threads of interest running through it—the teaching of Abdul Baha, the Master, which, as we are told in the "Explanation" at the commencement, "may be described as a religious progressivism in which the most humanitarian and practical ideas of the West are wedded to devotional mysticism of a very high order," and—the mad infatuation of an English-woman, Mrs. Greville, for one of his converts, Schmidt Pasha.

In the opening chapter she has just come from England to see after some property belonging to her.

"It is very strange to be coming back to Syria after all these years," she was saying. "Yet I am glad somehow. They say if you are born in the East you have an unconquerable craving to go back, like a child who cries for its foster mother in the arms of its own mother. . . . How exquisitely clear the air is! I love Carmel on a day like this. Have you noticed how different the sunlight is here? It does not dazzle you as our July sunlight does; on the contrary, it is something so transparent, so lucid, so intense, you seem to be in another element. Our sunshine seems so muddy, and well, almost fat, beside this thin magical light. She smiled lazily at her own choice of words."

"We were talking of Carmel before you came," said Whitby.

"And of God," said Underwood mechanically.

"Of God? Then you are getting the infection. Everyone in Haifa talks of God, as if He lived in the next street."

We find unnecessary the information that "Sabra Greville" was not what the world calls a good woman, and her pursuit of the Oriental compels repugnance.

"She scarcely looked beyond the one fact; her intense need to see him, to hear his keen, cool, masterful voice, the touch of his lean fingers on her arm, to look into his eyes that so successfully masked his soul from her. She was no longer sane, and she knew it."

Apparently she has no scruples on account of her lover's little wife, Niguar Khantoum, whose child-like love and pride in her husband is always overflowing.

"He is very clever; everyone says that he is very learned—my husband."

"You are very fond of your husband?" Sabra Greville said with curiosity.

"Madame, I adore him. I am very happy to have such a husband." She said it with the fervour of a child. We are not like you," she continued with a smile. "We do not choose our hus-

bands. If Allah gives the woman a happy fate, she will be happy, and if He wills she must endure then she will marry sorrowfully if all the men of the world come before her that she might make her choice."

In the end Schmidt Pasha calmly discards his mistress.

"There has to be an end," he said.

"Why—if you love me?"

"I am going away."

"Ah!" The syllable was a sudden cry. "Then for God's sake take me with you."

Schmidt Pasha faced her.

"I cannot take you with me." Suddenly he took her in his arms. "My dear, my dear, you must forget. . . . It is good to love. I am not sorry we have loved each other. It was written. But the end is written too." H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 17th.—The British Institute of Social Service. Third Conference of the Season. Subject: School Clinics. Viscount Hill in the chair. 4, Tavistock Square, W.C., 5 p.m.

January 19th.—Monthly Meeting of Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W., 2.45 p.m.

January 24th.—The Women Writers' Suffrage League "At Home," Little Theatre, John Street, Adelphi. Musical and Dramatic Entertainment, "Before Sunrise," by Bessie Hatton. Admission, 2s. 3 to 5 p.m.

January 25th.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4.30 p.m.

February 6th.—Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, W. "Evolution of Trained Nursing" Dinner. 7.30 p.m.

February 8th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on "Anæsthesia from the Nursing Standpoint," by W. J. Stuart, Esq., F.R.C.S.E. All trained nurses cordially invited. Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m.

REGISTRATION REUNION.

February 18th.—A Reunion in support of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, under the authority of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, will take place in the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., 8 p.m. to 12. Reception, 8 p.m.

A Nursing Masque of the Evolution of Trained Nursing will be presented at 8.30 p.m.

Music and Refreshments.

Tickets on sale at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Reserved seats (limited), 10s. 6d. and 7s. 6d.; unreserved, 5s.; Nurses, 3s. 6d.; Performers, 2s. 6d. To be obtained from Pageant Secretary.

Nurses' Tickets, 3s. 6d., at the office, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING (first floor), 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.; and from Matrons who offer to have them on sale or return.

WORD FOR THE WEEK

The moment that the face is turned away from the dead past, and looks towards the living future, a new power comes. Hope is awake, hope is infinite.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

* By E. S. Stevens. (Mills and Boon, London.)

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