

The German Society for the Prophylaxis of Venereal Diseases holds its annual meeting on June 9th, and both Professor Enlenberg, of Berlin, and Dr. Lowenfeld, of Munich, will introduce the subject of "Sexual Abstinence and its Influence on Health."

It is with painful interest, says *The Shield*, that we read that at this Exhibition of Hygiene the Berlin Police will have a special exhibit of the methods employed by them for the examination of prostitutes. The actual methods are, of course, similar to those in use—though for a very different purpose, and under different circumstances—in every woman's hospital. This public exhibition before curious crowds who can have no scientific understanding of them is an extraordinary illustration of the way in which the regulation system destroys all sense of decency in those connected with it. It will have two opposite effects on different sections of the public; in some it may be feared that it will strengthen the erroneous belief in the "necessity" of prostitution; but in others, and let us hope this may be the larger number, it will arouse disgust and indignation against the outrageous system.

Book of the Week.

LADY FANNY.*

Lady Fanny Benning felt just at present that the seven years of her married life were rather foolish and wasted years. She was, in fact, intolerably bored by her husband, of whom at the same time she was quite fond. She contrives to make the fashionable physician order her a prolonged change.

"I want you now," he eyed her fixedly, "to go away—you live in Leicestershire, I think? To go abroad. Alone. I mean without your own relations."

Lady Fanny looked down. "Thank you," she said almost inaudibly.

"Go," Sir Benjamin eyed her swiftly, "for three months, six if you can."

Back in her own home she wonders "how she could have thought of leaving Harry alone at Dolsey—alone in this big light room looking over the big empty park. No. She would not go. He would miss her—she knew he would." But poor Harry contrives the same evening to say and do the wrong things, and she conveys to him that Sir Benjamin had ordered her away alone for a rest cure.

"Harry Benning looked rather grimly out into the park. Women were strange beings. Rest cure. What could Fanny want to rest from?" She goes to cousins at Lucerne where she has a most unrestful time, in consequence of her cousin's husband falling desperately in love with her. This episode in the story seems quite unnecessary, and in no way adds to its attraction.

The real romance follows later, when she bids farewell to her relatives, and alone with her maid proceeds to Vulpera.

* By Mrs. George Norman. (Methuen and Co., Ltd., London.)

"Fanny had made a friend—she who had made so few friends," and her friend was a fellow traveller, Prince Felsenberg, a man of striking personality and charm. From the first they are strongly attracted to each other, the Prince believing Fanny to be a young widow.

"Fanny and Prince Felsenberg had been climbing the woods to Avrona up through the clear, warm air, drowsy with the buzz and hum of insects.

"I am too happy to talk," he murmured presently.

"Too lazy. We do lead a lazy life," Fanny paused. It had begun to dawn on her how strange was the life she was leading. From morning until fairly late at night she was in this young man's company.

The crisis comes when they are overtaken by a terrific thunderstorm while they are on an excursion among the mountains.

"An extraordinary red glow lingered after the disappearance of the sun, while over the Schellenberg a curious leaden greyness was stealing." They seek shelter in a hut which is struck by lightning.

"Fanny lost her head. 'Maurice,' she cried wildly, 'Maurice, save me.'"

"She flung herself demented into his arms, hiding her face against his heart."

Distressed at the situation her imprudence has brought about, she writes to her husband asking him to come out to her.

"Fanny was to start next morning—for home and England. . . She got silently into the open carriage. She glanced round for one moment—was this Vulpera? this early rain-washed, coldly gleaming hotel close shuttered, irresponsible."

At the rise of the road Harry turned and raised his hat to the fading group on the Wildness steps.

But Fanny did not turn.

Far up on the gorge above the Inn, Maurice, who had started at seven, stood watching for the carriage.

It came in sight. He saw it cross the bridge below, turn heavily along the lovely, lonely way towards Süs, then he, too, slowly, and with the frown that Fanny knew, turned, and took his way in the opposite direction.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

May 11th.—Norfolk Square Nurses' Club. Meeting. Address by Miss Macdonald on "Private Nursing." 3.30. Tea and music.

May 15th.—Annual Meeting, Church of England Temperance Society (Central Women's Union), Caxton Hall, 2.30 p.m.

May 22nd.—The Rural Midwives' Association. Eighth Annual Meeting. Lord Clifford of Chudleigh will preside. 3, Grosvenor Place, S.W.

May 24th.—Asylum Workers' Association. Annual General Meeting, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Sir William J. Collins, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.L., in the chair. 2 p.m.

May 25th.—The Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Ninth Annual Meeting. The Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 4.30 p.m.

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