

THE KING REWARDS COURAGE.

On Tuesday morning the King, at Buckingham Palace, presented the Albert and the Edward medals to a number of recipients, for gallantry in saving life.

Miss Hilda Elizabeth Wolsey, a nurse at Hanwell Asylum, was decorated with the Albert Medal (second class) for saving the life of a patient who had escaped on to the roof, by following her along the narrow guttering 25 feet above the ground, and holding her at great personal risk until assistance was rendered.

Miss Amy Madeline Jacques was similarly honoured for going to the assistance of her brother when he was suddenly attacked and knocked to the ground by a savage bull. His father, who went to his assistance, was tossed, and then the animal again attacked the son. Miss Jacques, seizing the bull by the horns, pulled its head away, but was unable to release her brother. Summoning the help of the cowman, she again held the bull while the man dragged her brother, who was insensible, and severely injured, into safety.

Book of the Week.

MRS. THOMPSON.*

The title of this work is comprehensive. From cover to cover Mrs. Thompson looms large. Withdraw Mrs. Thompson and there is nothing left. But she is as admirably capable of sustaining our interest as she was of running "Thompson's established 1813." Outwardly it was an old-fashioned shop, but inwardly its structure had been almost entirely modernised. The mirrors were perhaps overdone. So as Mrs. Thompson ascended the short flight of stairs out of "Bedding, etc.," a pleasant middle-aged woman in stately black, with pendant chatelaine, climbed opposing steps to meet her on every landing. A procession of Mrs. Thompsons advancing from "Woollens," another converging column of Mrs. Thompsons from "Crettonnes and Chintzes," innumerable Mrs. Thompsons shown by the glasses, some looking bigger, some slighter, but all the glasses showing a large bosomed, broad hipped woman of forty-five, with florid colouring and robust deportment, a valiant solid creature, seeming, as indeed she was, well able to carry the burden of the whole shop on her firm shoulders.

As she disappears through the door of communication, we get a picture of her in her private life. Really it was a pity that she had a private life. It was hardly a success, and she was great otherwise. She worshipped her daughter, a decent-looking, fairly attractive young woman, not likely to obtain from the world at large the gaze of admiring satisfaction with which an adoring mother regarded her.

Mrs. Thompson made the mistake of her life when she promoted young Marsden to "Household Crockery," from which exalted position he dared to aspire to her hand and an equal partnership in the business.

* By W. B. Maxwell. (Hutchinson and Co., London.)

We are surprised and disappointed at Mrs. Thompson's easy capitulation to the coarse, vulgar wooing of a man twenty years her junior, whose ambition was patent to everyone but herself. As Mrs. Marsden, her glory as a successful, nay triumphant, business woman gradually departs.

"Thompson's established 1813" declines, and its rival, Bence's, once on the verge of bankruptcy, eclipses it. During these twelve slow months, the visible, unmistakable prosperity of Bence had been stupendous.

When her vicious, dissolute husband has brought her to apparent ruin, he accepts that which he believes to be the remnant of her fortune in exchange for her freedom.

It is at this moment that she declares "I am Bence's."

She had seen the only means by which she could successfully extricate herself from an impossible situation. Only she could have turned an overwhelming defeat into a transcendent victory.

"Talk about giving women the vote," cried Mr. Prentice noisily. "That woman ought to be Prime Minister."

We should have had no quarrel with Mr. Maxwell if he had chronicled Mrs. Thompson merely as a business woman, but if the humiliation of her married life was necessary for the development of her genius, it could surely have been presented in a less sordid manner. H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

May 24th to June 7th.—Women's National Health Association of Ireland Health Exhibition, Balls Bridge, Dublin.

May 25th.—The Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Ninth Annual Meeting. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair. Mrs. Klosz will speak on the need for Registration in India. The Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 4.30 p.m. Tea by kind invitation of Mrs. Spencer, 2, Portland Place, W., after the meeting.

May 26th.—Meeting of Chelsea Infirmity Nurses' League, the Infirmity, Chelsea. Lecture on District Nursing, illustrated by lantern slides by the Lady Hermione Blackwood.

May 29th.—Meeting of Nurses' Social Union, Aubrey House, Kensington. Address on Nursing in Australia by Miss Amy Hughes.

May 30th.—Catholic Nurses' Guild. Lecture on "Spiritualistic Phenomena and Their Interpretation." Convent of the Visitation, Harrow. Nurse members may bring a friend. 5 p.m.

May 30th.—Central Midwives' Board. Special Meeting. Penal Cases. 1.30.

May 30th.—Women Writers' Suffrage League. Annual General Meeting, New Reform Club, 10, Adelphi Terrace, W.C. Chair, Miss Evelyn Sharp, 3.30 p.m.

May 31st and June 1st.—Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association. Sale of Work, 80, Nichols Square, Hackney Road, N.E.

June 14th.—Central Midwives' Board. Examination, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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