

viously educated at Manchester High School for Girls and Manchester University. She entered Girton in October, 1908.

The Annual Meeting of the National Union of Women Workers is to be held in Glasgow from the 9th to 13th October inclusive. The general subject chosen for the Conference is "Public Opinion, its Formation, Influence, and Effect." Former meetings of the National Union in Glasgow have been most enthusiastic and successful.

### Book of the Week.

#### AILSA PAIGE.\*

The love story of Ailsa Paige took place in the early sixties, during the troublous time of the American Civil War, and it is well worth reading. It is full of interest, and to nurses especially on account of the chapters describing the voluntary service of the devoted women who undertook the nursing of the sick and wounded, amongst whom was our heroine. From a volume that is all good (and which should on no account be missed) it is only possible to give disconnected extracts, as the story has two distinct threads of interest, the old, old love story and the stirring, thrilling episodes of the war.

The marching of the Zouaves through New York caused a "pandemonium that broke loose as the matchless regiment swung into sight. They wore their familiar grey and black uniforms, forage caps, and blue overcoats, and carried knapsacks with heavy blankets rolled on the top. And New York went mad. Down from window, balcony, and roof, sifting among the bayonets fluttered an unbroken shower of tokens—gloves, flowers, handkerchiefs, tricoloured bunches of ribbon; and here and there a bracelet or some gem set chain fell flashing through the sun. Ailsa Paige, like thousands of her sisters, tore the red, white, and blue rosette from her breast, and flung it down among the bayonets with a tremulous little cheer. The attraction of unworthy, cynical Berkley for Ailsa troubles her whilst she cannot resist it.

"To what in him was she responsive? What intellectual charm had he revealed? What latent spiritual excellence did she suspect? What were his lesser qualities, the simpler moral virtues? Nay, where even were the nobler failings, the forgivable faults, the promise of future things? Her uplifted, questioning eyes searched and fell. Only the clear cut beauty of his head answered her, only the body's grace."

Yet he enlists, and the hardships of war serve to bring out the best in him, and in the little kitchen of the Farm Hospital she asks:

"What has wrought this celestial change in you, Phil? For the first time since ever I saw you, I feel I am safe in the world. It may annoy me—"

He laughed.

\* By Robert W. Chambers. (D. Appleton and Co., London and New York.)

"I may grow tired of it," she insisted, watching him.

"I may behave like a naughty perverse, ungrateful urchin, and kick and scream and bite. But you won't let me be hurt, will you? Nothing can harm me, now, can it?"

"Nothing, Ailsa."

She regarded him for a moment, then laughed hysterically.

"I beg your pardon, Phil, but somehow this reminds me of our cook feeding her policeman—just for one tiny second, darling."

Old Dr. Benton's send-off to Ailsa and Letty is worth quoting.

"If those ungrateful dogs of soldiers don't appreciate you two young ladies, come home on the next train. Anyway, God bless you both, and don't drink dirty water. And keep your patients clean. Keep 'em clean! clean! clean! I've a notion that cleanness is nine-tenths of surgery, and it's all there is to nursing, but few agree with me."

In their many difficulties they consult the lovely Superieure, a lady of rare culture and great ability.

"Men's prejudices are hard to meet," she said.

"The social structure of the world is built on them. But men's prejudices vanish when those same men fall sick."

H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

June 29th.—Summer Meeting, Hendon Branch, Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League. The Infirmary, Hendon, 4 p.m.

July 1st.—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. General Meeting, 2.30 p.m., Clinical Lecture Theatre. Social Gathering, 4 p.m., Nurses' Home.

July 1st.—Annual Meeting of Governors, Lady Margaret Hospital, Bromley, Kent, 3 p.m. Garden Party, 4-7 p.m.

July 4th.—Annual Garden Party, Guy's Hospital. Distribution of prizes to students by Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P.

July 6th.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual Gathering of Midwives at 23, Cromwell Road, S.W., by kind permission of Mrs. S. Bruce. The Badges to Midwives will be presented by H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. 3 p.m.

July 10th.—Mr. D. F. Pennant, Hon. Secretary, and Member of Council, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, will address a public meeting of nurses in London on the National Insurance Bill. We hope to give details next week.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

I will look straight out—  
See things—not try to evade them.  
Fact shall be fact for me, and the truth the truth  
for ever.

A. H. CLOUGH.

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