

## Book of the Week.

## THE GIRL FROM NOWHERE\*

A book from the pen of Mrs. Baillie Reynolds is always sure of a warm welcome from a wide circle of readers, and "The Girl From Nowhere" will go far towards increasing the popularity of this authoress.

The reader is introduced to the leading characters of this story under tragic conditions.

Felix Vanston, an immature anarchist, disowned by his brother, Denzil, already having suffered imprisonment for his opinions, and at the end of his tether, decides to take the short cut out of his troubles. "With hunger comes depression. Moreover, Felix, when he donned his prison garb, had lost his self-respect. There was nothing to hold him back from the thing he contemplated. He had nothing to lose. . . . Pouring the brown fluid into a mug he raised it to his lips.

"A health to Denzil Vanston of Normansgrave!" he cried aloud. And then, just as the rim of the mug touched his mouth, a shadow fell before his eyes, some dark thing passed swiftly across the window, there was a heavy thud and a muffled shriek."

This interruption of his purpose proved to be a young girl, having in common with himself the opinion that it were better to "take arms against a sea of troubles."

Having effected the safety of the girl, and incidentally his own, he asks her:

"How far did you fall?"

"Only from the room just above this. He locked me in."

"Who did?"

"The man who calls himself my uncle. . . . If he comes back," she sobbed, "he'll—he said he'd do worse than kill me."

The result of her fall leads to her admittance to a cottage hospital, from which the brother of Felix, unacquainted with his share in the transaction, takes her to the shelter of his home, under the chaperonage of his aunt, Miss Rawson.

"Aunt Bee," said Denzil Vanston, "I want you to do something for me."

"What is it?"

"They have got scarlet fever down to Dunhythe. They want us to lend the Cottage Hospital to the County Council. They want to turn out Miss Smith to-day, and I want to bring her here for the final week of her convalescence."

Which he does.

Though she is pledged to Felix it is only when her benefactor tells her of his love that she owns:

"I am engaged already. I have been secretly engaged ever since I first came into your house." . . . To which Denzil replies:—

"Rona, the man who saved you is not called David Smith at all. He is my younger brother, Felix Vanston."

Rona in reality loves neither the one nor the other of the brothers at this period, but propinquity for the time wins the day, and until she hears of the illness of the ex-anarchist in Siberia it

\* Mrs. Baillie Reynolds. (Hodder and Stoughton, London.)

appears as though she would settle down as the mistress of Normansgrave.

"Siberia! There it lay outspread at her feet; the minute section of that huge land which her finite human vision could embrace."

In that wide setting, she and Felix.

Denzil, the correct, the irreproachable, who had preceded her to Siberia, completely loses his heart (already offered to Rona) to Nadia, a beautiful Russian girl, daughter of the Governor of the province, and his host. When Felix arrives on the scene it is to find them in one another's arms. When Denzil at last lifted his burning face "he saw standing before him his brother Felix. There stood the scapegrace, and there before him sat the virtuous elder brother, caught in the treacherous act." So the engagement of Denzil and Rona is at an end, and the course of true love runs smoothly at last for Felix, for whom Rona is the one and only woman in the world.

This book is sure to give pleasure to many readers whose tastes lie in the direction of thoroughly wholesome literature, in which there is plenty of incident and plot which holds the attention from start to finish.

H. H.

## COMING EVENTS.

February 2nd.—Women's Freedom League. Speech by Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., on Florence Nightingale. Caxton Hall, 3 p.m.

February 3rd and 4th.—Provincial Sessional Meeting of Royal Sanitary Institute, at Bradford.

February 4th.—Annual Meeting of Subscribers to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the Duke of Portland presiding. 58, Victoria Street, S.W., 12 noon.

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

February 6th.—Meeting of Municipal and Sanitary Authorities, the Lord Mayor presiding. Discussion, "Rats and the Plague," Guildhall, 4 p.m.

February 8th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on "Food and Feeding," by Dr. Chalmers Watson. All trained nurses cordially invited. Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m.

February 10th.—Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein opens the new Nurses' Home, 283, Harrow Road, 12.30 mid-day.

## 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.; Matrons' and Nurses' tickets, 3s. 6d.; Performers, 2s. 6d. To be obtained from Pageant Secretary.

Matrons' and 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.

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