

the negress displays on all occasions a devotion and a solicitude for the children and the weak of her race. And all that can be said of the ordinary negro woman applies in a still higher degree to the educated negress, who may be regarded as a model mother. Another distinctive trait of negro women is a spirit of co-operation and a desire to be mutually useful so that the advantages of education may be enjoyed by all of their race. All the negro women are working for their intellectual as well as social emancipation. The negro wife is no longer a mere woman in charge whose work is esteemed. It is recognized that she has the right to a home because she knows how to perform the duties with dignity. That equality of rights and duties which is so great a question at the present moment is observed in negro homes, and it is that which will contribute powerfully to solve the problem of the black race in the United States.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE NOTORIOUS MISS LISLE.*

Miss Lisle obtained an unenviable notoriety by being a party with the respondent in an infamous divorce case: an indiscreet but innocent party, nevertheless.

She is introduced to the reader, some months after the affair, in Brittany, whither had also come Peter Garstin, who had wished to see "if there yet remained in Brittany any old world retreat such as this; and here at last was what he had hoped to find. . . . When he heard the sound of his own language it was with feelings of profound distaste." On seeing for the first time the owners of the voices he could not help wondering "what brought them to such an out-of-the-way corner of the world. They were the kind of people you expect to find at Lucerne or Interlaken in a good hotel." However, he becomes quickly intimate with these people, especially with the daughter, who at once perplexes and interests him. "You see," she tells him, "I have been ill; my nerves broke down, and I can't get back my—pleasure in things."

Little by little, unsuspecting Peter loses his heart to the notorious Miss Lisle. It was singularly unfortunate that on a ramble together along the shore they should be cut off by the tide, and compelled to spend the night on a stone shelter used for a sentry-box. Thus for the second time the girl is placed in an invidious position. But Peter, never dreaming that there has been a "past," follows his inclination, and, indeed, his almost obligation, and their engagement is shortly announced.

Secretly, under all her hesitation, she knew that with Peter lay her only chance.

"Are you—are you quite sure you wish—that?" she asked. "Oh, be sure, please; be quite, quite sure! Make me sure, too!"

"Then look at me," he told her.

* By Mrs. Baillie Reynolds. (Hodder & Stoughton, London and New York.)

She was trembling like a leaf.
"In a minute," she gasped. "Wait! wait!"
"I shall always wait," he answered, steadily.
It was incredible that she should leave Peter to find out what inevitably he did.

After her marriage came a blessed sense of rest. Mr. and Mrs. Garstin would challenge comment on no hotel list. Miss Lisle was a creature of the past.

When the blow falls, she asks him:

"If you had known who I was, you would not have married me?"

He regarded her for a moment and his lip curled.

"I will ask you one question. *Why was I not told?* I think the one answers the other."

He went out.

Happily, Gaenor's innocence is established and Peter's love triumphed over her deception.

"The moment I saw your innocence clearly I saw the way to save you."

"Because you believed in me; because you loved me—love comes first."

"I think not. I loved you because I believed in you. Love comes last—which is the most important?"

"First and last, and all the time," whispered Gaenor.

"And after time as well," said Peter, gravely.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

September 28th & 29th.—The British Hospitals Association. Second Annual Conference. Lord Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Manchester. 10 a.m.

October 3rd.—Society of Women Journalists. House Warming. 10, St. Bride's Avenue, Fleet Street, E.C. 8-11 p.m.

October 4th.—Nurses' Union Meeting. 6, Grosvenor Square, W. (by invitation of Lady Blanche Smith). Cards of invitation, admitting nurse and one friend, may be obtained from Miss Dashwood, Nurses' Union, 5, Cambridge Gate, N.W.

October 4th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Farewell Meetings. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. 10.30 a.m.

October 5th.—Meeting, Central Midwives' Board. Caxton House, S.W. 2.45 p.m.

October 10th.—Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League. Caxton Hall, S.W. 4 p.m.

October 11th.—Matrons' Council Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, W. Tea.

October 12th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Executive Committee. 4 p.m. Tea.

READ.

"The Expiation of John Court." By D. Maud.
"The Surgeon's Log: Being Impressions of the Far East." By J. Johnston Abraham.

"The Linleys of Bath." By Clementina Black.

"More Letters to My Son." A Book for Mothers.

"A Weaver of Dreams." By Myrtle Reed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)