

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE TURNSTILE.*

This interesting and clever book is a departure from Mr. A. E. W. Mason's ordinary style. It is the story of an explorer, who became a politician with less aptitude for the latter than for the former. While his enthusiasm for travel and adventure was perfectly genuine, his parliamentary career was embarked upon from ambition alone, and as such, failed.

Cynthia, the girl he ultimately married, foresaw that such would be the case. "I don't think," she said, "that I believe very much in any work which—I don't express what I mean very well—which hasn't a great dream at the heart of it."

Rames looked up into her face quickly and grew suddenly serious.

Cynthia's history is romantic and well-conceived. She is the adopted daughter of a wealthy Argentine settler and his wife, they having no children of their own. The nostalgia for the greenery of Warwickshire caught at his throat, and he proposes to return.

"I find it lonely here, Joan," and he struck the table with his hand.

"Oh, my dear, and what of me?" The wistfulness of his wife's voice struck him to silence—a remorseful silence. After all, his days were full.

"There is our other plan," she suggested gently. "The other plan," to mitigate the loneliness, was to go to Buenos Ayres, and there to select for adoption a little child from the foundling institution. At the same moment that Daventry and his wife are discussing these plans, a terrific earthquake occurs in Valparaiso. Among the terrible death roll was reckoned the long-suffering young wife of worthless James Granville, who himself escapes with the little child, who is the heroine of this story. Becoming soon wearied of his little charge, he took the train, and in a night and a day came to Buenos Ayres. In the train he tied an old bootlace round his daughter's arm. Some way up the hill, he stopped in front of one of these houses, noticeable because of a small turnstile let into the garden wall. He placed his child upon the platform, rang the bell, and turned the stile. Years after we meet her again as the idolized adopted child of the Daventrys. It is not hard to imagine that a very thrilling romance could be constructed out of this material, and Mr. Mason may be trusted to make the most of it. The turnstile always remains in Cynthia's mind in an indefinite form. And in after life she makes a sort of allegory of it in the stirring events of her experience. Always romantically inclined, she is enamoured with the accounts of the explorer Rames, and in the far Argentine we have a charming account of the young girl sending off her telegram of congratulation to her unknown hero. "She wrote it without alteration, for her thoughts

* By A. E. W. Mason. Hodder & Stoughton, London.

had run fastidiously on the wording of it all through breakfast time. She handed it to the operator with a certain trepidation like one who has done some daring or irrevocable deed."

After the death of her kind foster parents, who had amply provided for her, she lives in England, where she meets the hero of her dreams. Marriage and a certain disillusionment follow, but not, happily, disaster; for his failure as a politician revives in him his old enthusiasm, and with it, Cynthia's love. "I went into the House of Commons without ideas; now I have a big one, and it has mastered me." The only quarrel we can possibly have with this book, is the rather disproportionate share that politics have in it. But it must be read.

H. H.

VERSE.

One ship drives east and another west,
While the self-same breezes blow,
It's the set of the sails and not the gales
That bids them where to go.
Like the winds of the sea are the ways of the fates . .
As we voyage on through life;
It's the set of the soul that decides the goal,
And not the storms and the strife.

COMING EVENTS.

September 30th to October 4th.—Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland. Masonic Buildings, Oxford. Meetings of the National Council of Women, October 2nd and 3rd, 10.30 to 1 and 2 to 4.

October 2nd.—Meeting at the Mansion House in support of the Nurses' Missionary League.

October 3rd.—Conference and Farewell Meetings to bid Godspeed to members of the Nurses' Missionary League leaving for the foreign field, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

October 11th.—Meeting Executive Committee Society for State Registration of Nurses. 431, Oxford Street. 4.30 p.m.

October 19th.—British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Streatham. Lord Strathcona will lay the foundation stone of the Alexandra wing.

October 22nd.—Central Midwives' Board Examination, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

October 23rd.—Mansion House, City of London. Public Meeting in support of the memorial to Lord Lister.

October 26th.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council. Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

October 29th–November 2nd.—Cookery and Food Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, S.W.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The man who will succeed must seek, and he must see; he must strike; and above all things, he must believe! Nature does nothing for doubters.

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