

promises to be so amusing, will probably be held in London early in December.

The *Englishwoman* will hold an Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts at the Maddox Street Galleries W., from November 6th to 16th. All the exhibits will be of a very high standard—and it is a good opportunity of seeing what women are doing in the region of applied art.

THE BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"DARNLEY PLACE."*

Full of engrossing incident is this work of Mr. Bagot, and when we find the *mise en scène* is divided between a charming Buckinghamshire villa and Rome, we need not fear tediousness or want of local colour. Moreover, we can be thankful that the controversial element which so often has precluded Mr. Bagot's works from universal popularity is almost if not quite absent in this book, though it is of course written from the standpoint of the Roman faith.

The old man, Mr. Darnley, who owns the Place, has lived for many years under the terror of the vendetta, and this little village is the retreat where he feels most at peace. Many years before he had carried off the legal wife of Baron Campofranco on the eve of the day on which the ecclesiastical ceremony was to have been performed, so that though legally she was a wife the Church had no power to annul her marriage, and therefore Darnley could never repair the wrong he had done her. The vengeance of the Negrini family shadowed him all his days, and eventually he fell a victim to a dagger thrust from their hand.

So much intrigue, mystery, and wheel within wheel is there in this book that it would not be possible in a limited space to do more than quote from some of its most striking passages, and readers cannot do better than unravel its complicated and clever plot for themselves.

Giovanni Rossono, of a noble Roman family, and who afterwards marries a grand-daughter of this illicit union, makes the acquaintance of Mr. Darnley in his Buckinghamshire home. "He had come to the place on the recommendation of a compatriot in London who had taken it as a subject for more than one of his rural pictures."

Dreaming along the country lanes, he first sees the man who was to play such an important part in his life. "A shabby vehicle crossed the bridge, and a figure suddenly leaned forward, and Giovanni saw a man's face gazing at him fixedly out of the window. The eyes were bent upon him with a look that had surprise and suspicion in it, and almost, he thought, something of fear." This was Darnley, who imagined he saw in the young Italian visitor one of the dreaded Negrini.

Not of the least interest is the fact that this Darnley, alias Wendover, alias Morley, is a

powerful and successful medium, and one of the most thrilling incidents is where he re-enacts for Giovanni's edification the scene of his mistress's death.

"Giovanni was conscious of drawing two or three long breaths, of shivering a little from a strange coldness, and then he realised that he was standing in Mr. Darnley's library, many paces away from the chair in which he had been sitting, and that the great dog was frantically licking his hands as they hung down by his side." Darnley tells him: "You assisted at the mental reproduction of a scene which happened many years ago. I confess I did not cause you to assist at it without having a good reason for doing so, without, indeed, being moved to do so." He rather quaintly tells Giovanni that the young girl he had conjured up was a relative of his, "but a much nearer one of Mr. Wendover—who was also related to me."

Shortly after, when Giovanni meets and marries the grand-daughter of this man, they both being in ignorance of the relationship, the plot becomes deeply interesting, and it is only when he has fallen a victim to the vendetta that Wendover, who years ago carried off Donna Adèle, Darnley, of Darnley Place, and Mr. Morley, guardian of Marcella, are discovered to be one and the same person.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

October 25th.—Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Lady Horsley, at 25, Cavendish Square, W. Dr. Anne L. Kann will speak on "The Work of the Baby Clinic." Chairman, Mrs. Hylton Dale. 3.30 p.m.

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

October 31st.—The Territorial Force Nursing Service (City and County of London). Reception at the Mansion House by the Lady Mayoress. 8 to 10.30 p.m.

November 2nd.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Quarterly Meeting, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan. 3.30 p.m. Tea. Open Meeting, 5 p.m. Discussion: "The Bill for the State Registration of Nurses."

November 2nd.—Sale of Work in aid of the Nurses' Missionary League, Sloane Gardens House, 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

November 6th and 13th.—Nurses' Missionary League. The Autumn programme. Lectures on Hinduism and Islam, University Hall, W.C., by Canon Weitbrecht. Lecture on Nov. 6th at 10.30 a.m.

November 7th.—Subscription Ball at the Mansion House in aid of the British Red Cross Balkan Fund.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Injustice is no less than high treason against heaven."—*Marcus Aurelius*.

* By Richard Bagot. (Methuen & Co.)

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