

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

THE UPAS TREE.*

A new book by Mrs. Barclay, author of "The Rosary," will be welcomed by many of the book-loving public, for her stories are always clean, wholesome, and of well-sustained interest, added to which, in the present case the book ends with a Christmas setting, so that its publication at a time when wise people are beginning to select their Christmas gifts is particularly seasonable.

The story is one of Ronald and Helen West, a husband and wife loving each other devotedly. The husband, absorbed in his work, recognising his wife as "always kind, always understanding, altogether perfect," but unconsciously accepting all she has to bestow upon him. Helen, the wife, giving to the husband, whose genius she recognises, whose sterling qualities she appreciates, with all the generosity of a noble nature.

It follows that when the two meet each having something of great moment to tell the other, that the husband's news is told first, and in her unselfish devotion the wife leaves hers untold.

Ronald's information was astonishing enough. "Helen," he said, "I want to go to Central Africa. . . . I have a new plot; a quite wonderful love story, better than anything I have done yet. But the scene is laid in Central Africa, and I must go out there to get the setting correct. . . . I must be steeped in the wonderful African atmosphere before I can subconsciously work it into my book. . . . Helen—I must go to Central Africa."

Of course, Ronald goes. Equally, of course, Helen's momentous news, the news that the long-desired child was at length to be expected, remained untold.

On his return seven months later, Ronald, who goes to Leipzig to see his publisher, stays the night with a cousin of Helen's, who, unknown to him, was at one time engaged to his wife, who broke off the engagement. The revenge this man takes, professing at the same time friendship for Ronald, who is far from well, "with bright eyes and flushed face—the feverish blood showing even through the tan of Africa," is mean in the extreme, and he manages for a time to create a misunderstanding between husband and wife, which leads to much unhappiness for both.

Ronald, who is a born musician, is full of delight at his latest acquisition, a violoncello which he has just purchased, and named "The Infant of Prague." He can talk of nothing else.

Aubrey Treherne intercepts Helen's letter telling her husband of the birth of his little son, and when he arrives at home, full of delight at his reunion with his wife, talking of nothing but "The Infant of Prague," Helen's young motherhood arose and took her by the throat.

"Ronald," she said, "you are utterly, preposterously, altogether selfish! I am ashamed of you."

The shock to Ronald precipitates the brain trouble which his doctor and friend, "Dr. Dick," is endeavouring to avert. But all is well that ends well, and this story ends to the sound of the Christmas chimes, and with perfect understanding between husband and wife.

P. G. Y.

AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF
AMBULANCE.

Messrs. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., of Bristol, have published opportunely "An Historical Outline of Ambulance from the Earliest Times," by Mr. Charles H. Miles. Mr. Miles tells us that from Homer we learn that a certain knowledge of bandaging and rough surgery was among the accomplishments of at least the better class of warriors who fought at the siege of Troy. Thus when Ulysses—upon the occasion of a boar hunt—was wounded by the tusks of the infuriated swine, his companions with skill bound up the lacerated part of his body. Women as well as men are spoken of as learned in the use of simples and medicinal herbs, and capable of treating wounds in a proper and efficient manner, and most of us know of Agamemnon, the fair-haired, "who knew all drugs, as many as the wide earth nourished." So the author traces the history of the ambulance movement to the present day.

COMING EVENTS.

November 15th.—Miller General Hospital for South East London, Greenwich. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, opens the new wing. 3 p.m.

November 19th.—The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Lectures on Babies. "The Chemistry of Milk," by Dr. Ralph Vincent. 3.30 p.m.

November 20th.—Irish Nurses' Association, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. "The Health of the Child," illustrated by lantern slides, by Dr. McVittie.

November 20th.—National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. Extraordinary Meeting "To Consider the Position of Women under the Franchise and Registration Bill now before Parliament." Central Hall, Westminster, 10.30 a.m.

November 23rd.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, Annual Meeting of Grand Council. Tea, 4 p.m. Meeting, 4.30 p.m., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

November 28th.—Association for Promoting and Training and Supply of Midwives. Meeting of Council, Caxton Hall, S.W. 12 noon.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose.—Emerson.

* By Florence L. Barclay. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand.)

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