

JOHN CLIFFORD, President; C. FLEMING WILLIAMS, Hon. Sec., Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.

GULIELMA CROSFIELD, President; ROGER CLARK, Hon. Sec., Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.

MORRIS JOSEPH, Vice-President, JENNIE COHEN, Treasurer, Jewish League for Women's Suffrage.

FRANCES BALFOUR, President; ANNIE G. FERRIER, Hon. Sec., Scottish Churches' League for Women's Suffrage."

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage (non-party and constitutional) has been formed from the nucleus of the Scottish deputation which Mr. Asquith lately declined to receive. The policy of the federation will be to oppose any Government—Unionist or Coalition—whose leader declines to make women's suffrage a Government measure.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

### "THE JUDGMENT HOUSE."\*

This exceedingly clever novel takes for its period and subject the Jameson Raid and subsequent war. The facts connected with these are the basis on which a complicated structure is raised, dealing with both primitive and artificial humanity, with political intrigue, with joy, sorrow, and temptation of men and women of varying temperaments. It is, without doubt, a book that should be read with close attention, for it delves deep down.

Jessamine—beautiful, brilliant—was as scores of women are, the creature of circumstances; loving softness, prominence, desiring the best setting purchasable for her loveliness, and to obtain these she bartered love for gain.

It was a tacit understanding between them that she should marry Ian Stafford, the one more year of freedom she had pleaded for was to end in avowed betrothal. In her own words she wished for this year to walk "the primrose path untrammelled and alone, save for my dear friend Mrs. Grundy." It was at the opera that she first met Rudyard Byng. "Something in the rough power of his head arrested her attention, and the thought flashed through her mind, 'How wonderful to have got through so much at thirty-three! Three millions at thirty-three—and millions beget millions!' Power—millions meant power, millions made ready the stage for the display and use of every gift, gave opportunity for the full occupation of all the personal qualities." Later, when her purpose became apparent to herself, "she threw herself on the bed in a passion

of tears. 'Oh, Ian, Ian, I hate myself!'" But she married Rudyard Byng in spite of it all.

To know all is to excuse all, and the insight we are allowed into this woman's nature makes us understand, if we must condemn.

It was not till three years later that Ian and Jessamine meet again. Ian is cured of his hurt, by the tinge of contempt that he feels for her. Woman-like, Jessamine is not pleased that it should be so, and lays her toils for him afresh. "Pique and pride were in her heart, and she meant Ian Stafford to remember."

She had not been unhappy with her husband, but both felt that something was lacking. In spite of his wealth his was a simple and primitive nature. "Even in his faults he had ever been primitively simple and obvious. She had been energetic helping in great charities, and yet—yet it was all so soulless, so general." She turned by instinct to the other man who had scorched her soul with his irony, when she cheated him of her love. So gently cold, so incisive, so final—so final."

Rudyard is a fine character, but his wife's love of admiration, and desire of dominance lead her into tight corners, and the furious flogging of his native servant, who makes known to him her indiscretion, is a sickening proof of his latent brutality.

We have at the close of the book an example, which is common enough, of the attitude of the lay mind towards nursing methods.

Jessamine, separated from Rudyard, Al'mah, the great singer, and Lady Tynemouth, take upon themselves to organise a field hospital. They don nurses' uniforms and, apparently undismayed, go on, with nevertheless the best intentions in the world.

"Jessamine, with Lady Tynemouth, had purchased a ship and turned it into a hospital at a day's notice." It was all so simple to the born nurse.

Al'mah, the singer, now in nurse's garb, who says to Jessamine, "I am Nurse Gratton here," a page or two further on confesses the murder of her lover just before leaving England for the front.

Apart from this, the book is a fine one, and will be warmly welcomed by readers who want something really good.

H. H.

## COMING EVENTS.

October 15th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Lecture, "Some of the Difficulties in the Training of Native Nurses," by Miss K. Moore. Chairman, Miss J. Macfee, B.A.

October 23rd.—Central Midwives Board Examination, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

October 23rd.—Meeting Executive Committee Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4.30 p.m. Tea.

November 3rd and 10th.—Medico-Psychological Association Examinations for Mental Nurses.

\* By Gilbert Parker. London: Methuen & Co.

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