

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"WHEN GHOST MEETS GHOST."*

It would be a bold pen that attempted to epitomise this latest work of Mr. De Morgan's. Close on nine hundred closely printed pages, and every page worth studying, it is a book that all should read, but few have time to read it in the manner it deserves.

You have to get deep into the heart of the story before you discover the *raison d'être* of its title, and then it flashes upon you that it refers to the dear old twin sisters, Mrs. "Picture" and Granny Marrable; who weren't always old, but once were the sparkling, laughing, bonny daughters of the miller, so alike that they were obliged to dress dissimilarly, and for mischief, would often each don the other's clothes, to the confusion of their nearest friends. How they came to be parted and how they met in after years without recognising each other, Mr. De Morgan takes the whole volume to tell—which sounds tedious and isn't at all; but wholly delightful.

And then there is Lady "Gwen o' the Towers" and her blind fiancé, and how he became blind, and there is Dave and Dolly and Uncle Mo, and Michael Ragstroar and Sister Norah, the hospital nurse, all of whom deserve a special "Book of the Week" to themselves, so no one could expect a poor reviewer to do justice to them in a page.

Sister Norah was known to Sapps Court as "that party from the Hospital," but when it transpired that the lady's uncle was a "belted Earl and no mistake, it abated class prejudice. If he was belted what more could the most exacting ask?" The occasion that she became known to Sapps Court was when little Dave met with his accident. He and Dolly were playing with "New mud that men had sponged up with their sponges," when he was knocked down by a fire engine.

After agonies of suspense on the part of Uncle Mo and Aunt M'riar (we forgot to mention Aunt M'riar, who was no relation to Uncle Mo, which is all part of the story), Dave recovers and is sent into the country to convalesce with Granny Marrable. Mrs. "Picture" lodges above them in Sapps Court, so this forms the first link in the chain of re-union.

Hear Aunt M'riar with a visitor:

"There's more in the pot ma'am," said Aunt M'riar, looking into it to see, near the paraffin lamp which smelt: they all did in those days. But Mrs. Burr, the visitor had had three, and three does mostly. When Mickey Ragstroar visited Aunt Elizabeth Jane, she had a disposition to make him read the Psalms aloud. So early an allusion to this affliction disheartened Micky on this occasion, "Oh, 'ookey Arntey" he said dejectedly, "give us the 'oly Bible, where's where you was."

* By William De Morgan. William Heinemann, London.

"That's a good boy! Now you just set down and read on where I was—' To the chief musician, and the next's a hard word and you'll have to spell it." She kept her nephew to his unwelcome devotional exercise until the second "Selah"—a word which always seemed to exasperate him—provoked his restiveness beyond power of restraint. "I say, Aunt Betsy," said he "shan't I see about gettin' in the beer?" His practice was, as he went out of legal time, to whistle through the keyhole.

Miss Julia 'awkins—"Say your name through the keyhole, the key's took out. No you ain't Mrs. Treadwell next door, you're a boy."

"Ain't a party-next-door's grand nephew a boy," said Michael indignantly. "She's sent me with her own jug for a pint of arnarf."

It must not be forgotten that all these events took place more than fifty years ago. The courtship of Mr. Pellew and Aunt Constance, who at thirty-six is quite *passée*, is a delightful study of that period.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

April 11th to 30th.—Children's Welfare Exhibition. Nursing Section 82 in Woman's Kingdom.

April 22nd.—Central Midwives Board—Examination, London.

April 24th.—National Union of Trained Nurses, Leeds Branch Meeting. Discussions: "Are Nurses Underpaid?" and "State Registration of Nurses." District Nurses' Home, Lovell Street, Leeds, 7.30 p.m.

April 25th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, 3 p.m. Tea and visit to Hospital, 4 p.m. Address by Mr. Paul Matthews on "Dickens, Thackeray and George Eliot Contrasted," 4.45.

April 25th.—Cleveland Street Infirmary League "At Home," 42A, Cleveland Street, W. 4 p.m.

April 27th to May 1st.—Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster.

April 29th.—Association of Inspectors of Midwives. Annual Meeting, Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, S.W.

April 30th.—Central Midwives Board Meeting, Caxton House, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

May 2nd.—Society of Women Journalists. The President (Miss M. F. Billington) entertains the Members at an Evening Party, Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus, London, W. 8.30 to 11.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"All that have done good work with their whole hearts, have done good work, although they may die before they have time to sign it."—R. L. S.

"We deal with human life not with human bodies alone."—Richard C. Cabot, M.D.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)