

Equal rights of parents regarding children.  
 Institution of Juvenile Courts.  
 The civil capacity of married women in relation to personal rights of property.  
 Suppression of houses of ill-fame.  
 Instruction of girls in laws affecting women and children.

As founder of the International Council of Nurses we are strongly in favour of the rotation of the Presidency, only by such a policy can the true spirit of internationalism be fostered and maintained. In every country in these days there are women who stand out as leaders, of every section of the women's movement, and the Nurses have proved that the greatest impetus to progress has been given by availing themselves of the genius of individual organisers in each country. The acquisitive faculty must be fostered in every federation if the individuals are to learn and in their turn be worthy teachers.

### BOOK OF THE WEEK.

#### "AN UNFINISHED SONG."\*

The Preface and the Introduction to this book give the key to its interest.

In the former we are told that "this is a story of life among the Reformed Party of Bengal, the members of which have to some extent adopted Western customs. It shows the change that touch with Europe has brought upon the people of India, but in their inner nature the Hindus are still quite different from Western races."

The Introduction gives us a further and still more interesting claim to our attention.

"The author of this book, a high caste Indian lady, is one of the pioneers of the Woman Movement in Bengal, although brought up strictly on Zenana lines, educated behind the purdah, and married at a very youthful age."

Mrs. Ghosal was encouraged both by her father and her husband to develop her unusual powers of mind and character.

At an early age she had published an anonymous novel, the authorship of which caused a great sensation, as it was the first time that an Indian woman had attempted such a feat. Shortly after she took over from her brother the *Bharoti*, thus becoming the first woman editor in India.

Besides her literary and editorial work, she interests herself in every movement that is set on foot to educate and raise her countrywomen. Only a short time ago she lost her beloved husband, who shared her convictions, and encouraged her in her work. Since then, although she does not adhere to the strict rules of the Hindoo widow, she has withdrawn from Society.

She has laid aside her wonderfully embroidered saris with their gold borders, her magnificent

necklaces and bracelets, and the splendid jewels that used to fasten her saris on shoulder and breast and in her dark hair, and she now appears clad in flowing garments of soft white silk. She is tall and stately, a veritable "grande dame." Her face is noble and expressive of the highest intelligence, and her manner calm and perfectly dignified.

Of her spiritual life we are told that "she recites her morning prayer as the sun rises," endeavouring "to merge her small entity into the great ocean of entities." She prays to the Almighty All Beneficent Power that good may befall every creature, that wisdom and happiness may be the lot of every soul on its journey up from ignorance to light. She is described as a "forerunner, a type of the future woman of India, but as there are still many relatives who would be grievously hurt by total emancipation, with them she still keeps purdah. Emancipation is not all gain, Mrs. Ghosal thinks. Women behind the purdah lived such peaceful sheltered lives, anxieties passed them by, there was time for everything, no striving to be economically independent. With all her progressive ideas, she still preserves the tranquillity of the purdah nashin lady.

This is the first time that a book of hers has been brought before the English public, and it should be of deep interest to all those who are concerned with the Woman Question, for it presents a careful study of the Indian girl at this intensely interesting stage in the history of her development, and particularly of her attitude towards love and marriage. All that is best in the old traditions of her race is holding her fast, but she is "reaching out eager hands for the freedom that will some day be hers."

We deem that these extracts from the Introduction will be the most powerful inducement we can offer to our readers to procure the work of this fascinating author, whose beautiful name signifies the "Maiden of Gold."

H. H.

### COMING EVENTS.

May 18th to 23rd.—General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, S.W. Post-Graduate Week.

May 20th.—Asylum Workers' Association. Annual General Meeting. Chair, Sir John Jardine, K.C.I.E., M.P., President. 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 3 p.m.

May 20th.—East End Mothers' Lying-in Home.—Annual Meeting. 8, Little College Street, Westminster, S.W. The Hon. Mrs. F. W. S. McLaren will preside. 4 p.m.

June 9th to 12th.—National Council of Trained Nurses. Annual Conference and Nursing Exhibition, New Central Hall, Birmingham.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Strew gladness on the path of men,  
 You will not pass this way again.

\* By Mrs. Ghosal (Scrimati Svarna Kumari Devi). Werner Laurie, Ltd., Clifford's Inn.

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