

lent officials in their own departments, had had a few words, with the consequence that the Matron was suffering from a black eye. It was not always the highest type of officers who were available for these dual posts, but this was not the only consideration. How could a Matron with a family of children take proper control of a place often as large as an hotel?

The Local Government Board were averse to separate appointments. In the case of a married Master and Matron who recently resigned, the Assistant Master and Matron were admirable people for the post, and the Guardians, not often unanimous, were unanimous in their desire to appoint them. Owing to the number of male officials who had enlisted, it was most important to appoint a Master and Matron conversant with the work and the complicated system of book-keeping, but the Local Government Board would not sanction the appointment of people who were not man and wife, and it was only when at last the President of the L.G.B. consented to receive some of the Guardians, and they represented to him their position in the absence of fifteen men at the front, that he consented to try the appointment of the separate officers for three years. A Master should be paid a living wage, on which he could keep his wife as well as himself, that was one of the intricate problems the Departmental Committee had to find its way through. One drawback of the dual appointment was that the Master and Matron could never take their holidays together.

The Cardington Branch of the Shropshire Nursing Federation has received a bequest of £500 under the will of Captain Stephen Henry Christy, D.S.O. (20th Hussars), of Plaish Hall, Cardington, Salop, who was killed in action at Ussy-sur-Marne, for the benefit of the Nurses' Home at Cardington, recently erected by him.

At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the report for the past three months was submitted. Since the outbreak of hostilities forty-six nurses had been called up for Army or Territorial nursing service, and in a considerable number of districts the Queen's Nurses were assisting with Red Cross and Voluntary Aid Detachment work. Ninety-five visits of inspection had been made, and reports thereon submitted to the Executive Committee; 1,459 cases had been nursed in Edinburgh by the nurses from the Training Home, involving a total of 31,197 visits. Donations received during the quarter amounted to £80 4s. 6d.; subscriptions to £116 5s.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"HIS ENGLISH WIFE."*

This is a book of peculiar interest at the present time. It is a translation from the German, and its explanation is to be found in the Publisher's Note, which says that its special interest is in its showing "how our English character and way of living appear when seen 'through German eyes.' The book is carefully constructed to bring out the contrast, at as many points as possible, between the decadence attributed by the author to the English nation, and the patriotic idealism which he claims for the Germans. The book won a wide popularity among his countrymen before the war broke out."

"It is a spy!" said the old country squire to his two girls. "A German spy. . . ."

Lieutenant Helmut Merker was in England for the worthy purpose of visiting some hitherto unknown relatives, who had long ago forgotten their German ancestry, and were so far as possible British.

Young Merker was in Dover writing poetry in a note book where he had full view of the harbour. This is our first introduction to him. In the confusion that led to his arrest as a spy, he comes across his pretty cousin Edith Wilding, who drives up in an opulent car and satisfactorily explains matters. He is really the cousin of the wealthy Mr. Wilding as he has claimed, and has no ulterior motives whatever. And from henceforth he was her lover, lover to this beautiful enigmatic English maiden, who lived for sport and pleasure, in fact whose idea of life was to have a good time.

He could not comprehend her account of her family: "Bill whose place called the Bungalow at Bonchurch was too delicious." "What does he do there." She didn't quite understand. "He lives there?" "Fred is much more of a sportsman—at the moment he is at a cricket match at Lord's."

Lieutenant Merker was silent and thought to himself: "What an odd family. Like a handful of fleas—here, there, and everywhere."

Edith at the Boat Race to-day, rushing off to-morrow to Scotland for a few days. Different indeed to the women he had hitherto known.

And when she suspects that he is about to lay his heart and his poverty at her feet, she asks him angrily, "Where do you keep your wives? At home? Mending the washing." He, boiling with rage, retorts: "A woman's place is her home." Miss Wilding looks her German cousin straight in the face, "An Englishwoman's place is wherever she chooses to be."

Still, after a brief interval, she marries him because she loves him. After the honeymoon his leaves expires and he takes up his military duties at Alsheim. From the first his English wife sets

* By Rudolph Stratz. Translated by A. C. Curtis. Edward Arnold, London.

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