

ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

A course of lectures to assist School Teachers and other Students entering for Examinations in School Hygiene, including Elementary Physiology, and for Women Health Visitors, Tuberculosis Visitors and School Nurses, to be given in the Royal Sanitary Institute and Parkes Museum, will commence on Monday, February 22nd, at 7 p.m.

The course will consist of lectures and practical demonstrations on Physiology, Personal Hygiene, and the Sanitation of School Buildings and Dwellings. The Hygiene of Child-Life and Educational Methods, and Tuberculosis.

Special arrangements will be made for each student to attend a Course of Six Infant Consultations, under the direction of Dr. G. Eric C. Pritchard, and in connection with these, opportunity will be afforded for students to follow up this instruction by visiting the infants in their homes.

A fee of £1 is. will be charged for the course.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE LURE OF ISLAM."*

The object of this book, as its title suggests, is to demonstrate the danger and the fascination of the Moslem religion to the Christians, especially the Christian girls in South Africa.

In the very interesting and instructive "Author's Note" at the commencement, he points out that the term "Malay" has a purely religious significance and simply means "Moslem." He says of the domestic life of the Malay: "nothing is known to the white citizen and very little to the coloured man who lives next door. He admits Europeans to his house, even to his religious services—is indeed flattered by their presence—but to his confidence, never."

The story tells how a young and beautiful Christian girl—the daughter of an English father and a slightly coloured mother—comes under the spell of Islam.

To the dismay of her parents, she is courted by Muhammed Shafiq.

Her mother in the last stages of decline makes her pathetic appeal to the girl:

"Ida-Ida," the voice was a wail, "tell me the truth, your mammie. You was my little baby, my heartlamb, and no one will ever love you like I do. Ida, my own child, tell me, don't let me die in fear. Is it true you are going about with this Malay. He means to have you. He'll make you marry him and turn Malay. I know them—oh, I know them—and the good God have mercy on me and you."

"Ida knew there was something inexplicably dreadful in her mother's words, but a feeling more like curiosity than fear or horror stirred in her. 'Mother, tell me what you mean.' 'Ah,' she said, 'they've dreadful ways. A Christian that turns Malay goes down, down—you've only to see one a long time afterwards, and you know. How can

* C. M. Prowse. Sampson Low, Marston & Co., London.

I tell you what it is—I never was one—but I've seen those that are and I'm frightened. They wasn't only bad, so bad but they was miserable too.' But in spite of her real love for her mother, and the entreaty of the good people at the Mission, she is unable to resist the fascination of her lover. He completes his wooing by the heavily drugged flowers which he offers her.

"She swayed, and he touched her, taking her by the elbow, 'Come,' he whispered. 'What have you done?' she answered, looking at him with dazed eyes, the dreadful sensation continuing. 'No,' he said still whispering, 'it is the *djinn* (evil spirit,) I must have you. But after we are married he will leave you. Come, and we will have the wedding quickly. 'No,' as she recoiled. 'If you come not he will not leave you. He will stay by you—it will be bad.' Then in shuddering horror of the thing he said had entered into her, she followed him."

The terror of her disillusion when she realises that the indissolubility of her marriage which she had taken for granted, was but a slack thing which Muhammed's fingers, though not hers—hers had no power—could loosen when he chose, made the position a thousand times more dreadful. The way of escape, should he so choose, was not merely closed, it was non-existent. Back to the Christians. Great God in heaven, no! Ten million times no! She knew the reason why: "The shame of Christians that fall away is worse than any other I've been told" her mother had said, and now with shuddering heart she acknowledged the truth of her words."

A striking proof of her demoralisation is that in order to retain the favour of Muhammed, whom she hates, she consents to lure Betty, the Christian servant in a house near by, to share her own fate, and to become her own rival. The horror of the wedding and all that it means, gives her back in a measure her moral force, and after an unsuccessful appeal to the new bride to escape before it is too late, she herself flies back to the Christians, and dies in the house of old coloured Hetty when her child is born.

It is a heart-breaking, we doubt not a realistic, account of what is happening at the present day in South Africa, and those who care how the other half live, will have to pause and think. H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

January 27th.—Women's Local Government Society. Drawing Room Meeting at 16, Carlton House Terrace, by permission of the Lady Cowdray. Addresses on "The Care of the Mentally Defective under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913" (Miss Evelyn Fox), and "Married Master and Matrons under the Poor Law" (Miss Lidgett, P.L.G.). 3 p.m.

January 29th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m. Tea after the business meeting. Discussion, opened by Miss Mollett, on "Women and their work during the War." 5 p.m.

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