

"coloured gentleman"; pretty, vital Cissie Cornel, whom he at once fell in love with, and her sister, Letty, married to Teddie and the owner of the erect and attentive baby sitting up in a perambulator. There was also the young German, Herr Heinrich, the tutor of the younger boys.

And this pleasant rally in these pleasant surroundings was Mr. Direck's first introduction to English society just before there was any talk of war in the summer of 1914.

And then the progress of the war and its effect on these individuals each and singly are described in a way that for sheer cleverness and understanding insight can only be described as marvellous. It is in reality a cameo of what has been enacted in thousands of happy homes and in hundreds of pleasant villages since war was declared.

It is a gradual unfolding of the deep and terrible issues which are involved in the strife of nations, and the unwilling conviction of a powerful mind like that of Mr. Britling, who was the most cheerful of optimists, that the unbridled passions of men are neither more nor less than hell let loose.

The recall of Herr Heinrich for military duty was the first personal note of the Britling household.

The German boy, who had been happy in this pleasant home, had to leave much of his personal belongings behind.

"He hasn't packed at all," said Mrs. Britling to her husband. "Just come and peep at his room, it's—touching."

"It was more than touching; in its minute and absurd way it was symbolical and prophetic; it was the miniature of one small life uprooted."

Then came the enlisting of young Hugh, who wrote such delightfully interesting descriptions of his little Cockney cad friend, and other most human things, and then the dread telegram that told of his death.

Mr. Britling started at the telegram. He had an absurd conviction that it ought to be a sixpenny one.

Then came the news of Letty's adored young husband, Teddy, being wounded and missing, and the girl's determination in some way to wreak vengeance on the hated enemy. In her case there also came the joy of his safe return.

There also came the news of the death of Herr Heinrich, and the necessity of sending home his violin. "I must write a letter to the old father and mother," said Mr. Britling. "In all this pitiful storm of witless hate—surely there may be one greeting—not hateful."

"From my blackness to yours," said Mr. Britling aloud.

It is with the fruitless attempt to write this letter that the book closes.

"Perhaps I had better just send the fiddle," said Mr. Britling.

"No, I must write to them plainly. About God as I have found Him. As He has found me."

"Far away towards the church came the sound of some early worker whetting a scythe." H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

December 12th.—New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, W.C., Celebration of Jubilee. Chair, Lady Hall. 2.45 p.m.

December 13th.—Central Midwives Board Examination. London, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool.

December 15th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee. 4 p.m.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"Remove from us arrogance and feebleness; give us courage and loyalty, tranquility and self-control, that we may accomplish that which Thou givest us to do, and endure that which Thou givest us to bear."

—From the Form of Intercession.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

#### AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL PROTEST.]

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING:

The Royal British Nurses' Association,  
10A, Orchard Street,  
London, W.

27th November, 1916.

MADAM,—The Royal British Nurses' Association desires to state publicly that it is not in agreement with several of the statements published in the communication of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, concerning the negotiations between that Committee and the College of Nursing, Ltd. As the Royal British Nurses' Association is one of the constituent societies of the Central Committee, it deems it necessary to make its protest public.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee, called to consider the communication referred to, the representatives of the Royal British Nurses' Association protested against its being sent to the press, on the ground that it is inexpedient that negotiations be broken off between the Central Committee and the College of Nursing, Ltd., and that it is contrary to the best interests of trained nurses that the communication should be published.

We are, Madam,

Yours very truly,

W. BEZLY THORNE, M.D.,  
Vice-Chairman and Chairman of  
Committees.

COMYNS BERKELEY, M.C. (Cantab.).  
Honorary Treasurer.

CONSTANCE CAMPBELL THOMSON,  
Nurse Honorary Secretary.

HERBERT J. PATERSON, M.C. (Cantab.).  
Medical Honorary Secretary.

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