

started, such as carpentry, toy making, gardening, dairy and poultry farming, and fish and bee culture, the purpose being not only to make the Hostel self-supporting, but to train those who may require it, in the knowledge and skill necessary for earning their livelihood. Other Hostels will be established in different parts of the country, and these will offer facilities for instruction in farming and agriculture to the men when they leave the clearing house at Hampstead, and are sufficiently recovered to enable them to do more arduous work. No finer scheme could have been devised for the benefit of these poor victims of the war than the present one. For the past three weeks the *Daily Graphic* has been appealing for funds to set the machinery in motion, which has met with a ready and generous response from the public. A soldier's mother, in sending a donation, remarks that, to her mind, "these institutions are the most honourable shrines that could be raised to the memory of those who have fallen in the war." The outcome of the successful working of this admirable scheme might conceivably be greater knowledge and more enlightened treatment of many classes of patients.

Success to the Recuperative Hostels!
BEATRICE KENT.

IN AID OF STATE REGISTRATION FOR NURSES.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with thanks a donation of £2 2s. "In aid of State Registration for Nurses. In Memory of my dear Sister, Isla Stewart, from Janet M. Stewart." Every year, on the anniversary of her death, a similar gift has come, the best memorial to a noble and generous-hearted woman, who, in her lifetime, without thought of self, endeavoured to secure a just Act for the State Registration of Nurses.

"SHELL" BRAND FLOOR POLISH.

All members of the nursing staffs in hospitals, infirmaries and kindred institutions, from the Matron to the newest pro., take pride in a well polished floor. To achieve success it is necessary to select with care the floor polish used, and it is well to remember, in this connection, the "Shell" Brand polish, supplied by Messrs. Archibald H. Hamilton & Co., of Possilpark, Glasgow, who were many years ahead in placing a scientifically prepared polish on the market. This polish has stood the test of time and competition so satisfactorily that it still holds the premier position. Weighted brushes, which have many excellencies, are also supplied by this pioneer firm.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"IN THE WILDERNESS."*

In a volume of nearly 600 closely written pages, Mr. Hichens takes us step by step through the first five years of the married life of a young and desirable couple. The setting of his romance and tragedy, for it is both, is varied and full of contrasts as are also the various personages to whom we are introduced. Readers of Mr. Hichens' works will remember the spell of the East which he can cast over us,—its languorous and sensuous atmosphere. Again, in this story we meet it, and in contrast he takes us into the pure radiant peace of Greece. "The sense of peace, the long sweet silence—this is Greece." Again, the setting is in a cathedral town, with its old-world, religious, and somewhat stagnant atmosphere. Correspondingly the characters are types of these varied settings. Rosamond, whose response to Greece and cathedral life expressed her complex character; and on the other hand, Cynthia Clarke, whose personality makes the book on the whole a dangerous one. Her surroundings in the East fit her like a glove. While we rightly regard Mr. Hichens as a leader in fiction and an artist of high merit, he is not for indiscriminate readers, and while it is true that he does not call evil good—on the contrary—yet evil is portrayed in undesirable prominence.

Dion and Rosamond, in the first months of their marriage, are an arresting pair, albeit Rosamond had not given herself to him whole-heartedly. There was something virginal and aloof about her, that made her by nature a nun. Later on she was all mother and last of all was she wife. But in Dion's eyes she was peerless. He himself was the best type of man, who had kept himself from all the lower vices. It was this that Rosamond loved in him and which she recognised from the first. When their little son, Robin, was born Dion's really fine character forebore to be jealous of the absorbing mother-love that Rosamond evinced. It was about this time that he was brought into contact with Mrs. Clarke, who was undergoing the unenviable notoriety of a *cause célèbre*, but was undeservedly acquitted. We protest against the proceedings being entered into in detail, as both unsavoury and inartistic.

Cynthia Clarke at once recognises the want in Rosamond, and proceeds to spin her toils around Dion, without effect.

It was at the period of the South African war and Dion volunteers for active service. Rosamond and her little son retreat to the cathedral town to await his return.

She is perfectly and ideally happy there, the two most insistent needs of her nature being satisfied. She comes to almost dread Dion's return, which will take her from these congenial surroundings. Dion on his return at once recognises her reluctance to leave Welsley, and gener-

* By Robert Hichens. London: Methuen & Co.

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