

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

A MANUAL OF NURSING, MEDICAL AND SURGICAL.*

A copy of the thirty-eighth edition of "A Manual of Nursing" (medical and surgical), by Dr. Laurence Humphry, is before us as we write, and has all the fascination of a portrait of a familiar friend. The author's intimate knowledge of what a nurse needs to know in her profession enabled him to draft his book upon durable lines, and the publishers have with equal skill kept the book constantly in evidence so that its merits are recognised and valued throughout the Empire. This is no time to be critical, as revision just now must be out of the question with a book that has established its reputation with tens of thousands of nurses, and we congratulate the publishers upon issuing it at the old popular price notwithstanding enormous increase in cost of production.

The scope of the book is very comprehensive. The first chapter deals with the general management of the sick room in private houses. In connection with the observation of the sick the author points out that, "as the result of experience, a watchful nurse will acquire some instinctive knowledge of her patients, and of the course of special diseases. She will be able to tell whether progress is being made, or whether her patient is getting worse, and to recognise some of the more important symptoms which denote the development of complications in the disease, and the peculiar effects of some remedies on susceptible patients. Lastly she may gain a very valuable instinct which warns her that her patient is in danger, when this is not obvious to an inexperienced person, an instinct only gained after long practice and constant attendance on the sick."

This valuable faculty is won by close and intimate study of the sick, for nature does not yield her secrets easily. It is one of great value, and enables the nurse to take precautions which would not occur to the inexperienced person, however superficially smart. Just as at an operation the mind of the good nurse works just in advance of the operator, so that she knows and forestalls his needs, so in the medical wards her instinct warns her of impending danger, and forewarned is forearmed. She acquires, in fact, a sixth sense. It is this sense, for instance, which leads her to send for absent relatives, when to those less experienced there is no ground for urgency or alarm.

One chapter is devoted to elementary anatomy, a necessary foundation for a stable superstructure and seven deal with medical nursing, while fevers, diseases in children, the management of child bed, appliances and their application, antiseptic treatment and bandaging, the application of electricity and massage, and cooking for invalids all have

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their allotted space. Three chapters deal with wounds and their complications, fractures, and operations and special surgical cases.

Space does not permit us to go into further detail. We wish the latest edition of this very popular manual the success which has attended the issue of its predecessors.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"MARSHDYKES."*

"This is Marshdykes," said Celia.

He beheld a farmhouse, red and golden under its hillside. The two poplars were beyond it, and the green-grey levels of the marsh; a milestone called it four miles to the city.

The place was perfectly quiet and very beautiful. Harland thought, "No wonder she is happy. This is what Michael has given her. She chose wisely." And she might five years before have chosen him if the Fates had been kind. But Celia was evidently well content with her mate, for she exclaimed on her return home after a fortnight's absence: "Oh, dear! life isn't long enough for all the nice things there are to do in it."

Harland remembered with sudden and startling distinctness that long ago, at a dance, she had said to him: "I've never yet found anything worth doing. I'm tired of life, it's so dull."

Celia and her husband, Michael, were both literary people, and they worked and lived on somewhat original lines. "He turns out his plays in one room, and I write my stories in another. We don't interrupt each other. It's a solemn vow you see, that we won't either of us go into the other's den unless we're asked."

"You see," Michael took up the account, "we both find the peculiar damnableness of being married is that you can't be alone when you like. So we made up our minds to be more sensible than the rest of the world. It's a great plan. You should try it when your time comes." He described Celia's holiday as her liking "to have her evening out with the other servants."

Once having loved Celia, Harland could not easily be put off with anyone else, though Celia and Michael, and indeed Letty herself, did their best to ensure his engagement to Letty.

Letty was decidedly go-a-head and up-to-date, but Francis was an admirer of the more domestic virtues.

Celia, trying to arrange his life for him, asks him to let Letty brighten it.

"He began to laugh ruefully and gently.

"Will she paint over my oak panels and give me a Louis Seize drawing-room? I've never had a drawing-room yet. But all good things come to an end. I can see Letty as a political hostess. She'll fill my house with people who talk for their living. Think of Letty receiving the Labour Party in a diamond tiara! I like her so much better playing golf."

*By Helen Ashton. (T. Fisher Unwin.)

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