

In consequence of this escapade, Nance and her chosen companion, Dan, have to appear at the Juvenile Court, where she is interrogated by the missionary lady.

In answer to her question, Nance informs her—
"God is what made me, and a cuss word."

Mrs. Snawdor is asked by the Judge—

'What sort of woman are you to let a child go as ragged and dirty as this one?' and replies—

"Schools ain't what they wuz when you an' me wuz young. They no more than get a child there than they cut out their palate and put her into spectacles."

She was not mollified by the time that Nance requisitioned a spelling book.

"I ain't got a mite of use for the whole lay-out. They're for ever wantin' somethin'. It ain't no use beginnin' to humour them. Wasn't they after me to put Fidy into specs last week? An' here I been for years tryin' to have me own eye-teeth drawn and decent ones put in."

Mrs. Snawdor was of opinion that it was only the defects in her eye-teeth that had prevented her drawing greater prizes in the matrimonial market.

'Teacher says you oughtn't to leave the milk uncovered like that, it gits germans in it,' said Nance.

'I'd like to know whose milkcan this is,' cried Mrs. Snawdor indignantly. 'You tell her when she pays for my milk it'll be time enough to tell me what to do with it.'

We have no time to follow Nance through her various escapades, grave and gay, or through her vicissitudes as a factory girl, a variety dancer, ending up, of course, with her becoming a trained nurse! We cannot tell of the pathos and tragedy of her dawning girlhood, of her love affairs, nor of Dan's faithful love for her, to which there is no immediate prospect of a satisfactory sequel when the story closes. But Nance is a splendid character throughout, a girl who, in spite of dangerous situations, keeps herself sweet and pure and courageous. A faithful portrayal of life as it exists in any class must always be of interest to the student of human nature, but when it is set forth by a pen such as that of the authoress of Mrs. Wiggs, it becomes a delight.

H. H.

SNOWDROP TIME.

"Its rather dark in the Earth to-day,"
Said one little bulb to his brother,
"But I thought that I felt a sunbeam say,
We must strive and grow till we find the way,"
And they nestled close to each other.

Then they struggled and toiled by day and by night,

Till two little snowdrops in green and white
Rose out of the darkness and into the light
And softly kissed one another.

THE DANGERS OF CAMP LIFE.

Mrs. Wilson, wife of the President of the United States of America, and Dr. Anna Shaw, chairman of the Women's Committee of the Council of National Conference, have jointly addressed an open letter to the women of the Allied countries, which has been distributed through American diplomats. The letter says:—"Out of the mutual agony and love of mothers of America this message is sent to our Allied sisters in Europe, faithfully pledging our interest and that of the nation in the protection of our sons and daughters at a time of unequalled temptation and danger. In all our countries the mothers are willing and proud to give their sons to defend the ideals underlying the supreme sacrifice which their Government demands, and to accept with fortitude and calmness their death, but they shrink from the greater sorrow which comes from the loss of moral fibre that robs them of health and manly vigour." The letter emphasises the dangers of camp life, and urges the closest union of all women in the effort to conserve the moral forces of society.

RESULT OF THE VOTE.

The grille has gone and now enfranchised women are to be permitted the freedom of the Central Lobby of the House of Commons once again, from which, although taxpayers and, therefore, compelled to contribute to the Members' salaries, they have been excluded for some years! We hope trained nurses will make good use of it.

JUSTICE FOR CANADIAN WOMEN.

The Canadian Government will introduce a Woman Suffrage Bill in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

WORDS FOR THE WEEK:

AMERICA'S ENLIGHTENED CALL.

"In the name of American Labour, I say you cannot talk peace with us now; you cannot talk international conferences. Either you smash your autocracy or we will smash it for you. Get out of France, back from Belgium, back from Serbia, and back to Germany; then you can talk peace."—*Mr. Gompers, President, American Federation of Labour.*

"A VICTORY FOR POPULAR LIBERTY."

"The victory of the Allied Powers must be a victory for popular liberty, for unity, independence and autonomy of the nations in the peaceful Federation of the United States of Europe and the world."

COMING EVENT.

March 2nd.—Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, 429, Strand, London, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)