

LECTURES AND EXAMINATIONS.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

SOUTH WESTERN POLYTECHNIC.

The course of lectures on "Milk and Milk Products," to be delivered by Mr. Cecil Revis at the South-Western Polytechnic Institute, Manresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3, on Milk and Milk Products, begins on Thursday, January 17th at 7.30 p.m. The course is designed to be of use to nurses, who can hardly know too much about so important an article of diet for sick and well, young and old, as well as to Sanitary and Food Inspectors. The Syllabus includes: "The Chief Properties of Milk," "The Sources of Bacteria in Milk," "Milk Production," "The Farm," "Transport," "Distribution," "Pasteurisation," "Properties of Milk Products," "The Analysis of Milk and Its Products." Those wishing for further information should apply to the Secretary of the Institute (Room 83).

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

Nurses should note that the new courses of lectures followed by examinations arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute are beginning this month—that for Sanitary Officers on January 28th, for Health Visitors on January 30th, and for Maternity and Child Welfare Workers on February 4th, in each case at 6 p.m.

The fees are:—*Sanitary Officers' Course*, Part I, £2 12s. 6d.; Part II, £1 1s.; or the complete course, £3 3s. *Women Health Visitors, Tuberculosis Visitors, School Nurses and School Teachers*, £1 11s. 6d.; and *Maternity and Child Welfare Workers*, £1 11s. 6d.; or if taken as supplementary to the Health Visitors' Course of October 8th, £2 12s. 6d. Candidates for these examinations have to possess a nursing qualification before they can enter, and the certificates granted to successful candidates are valuable additions to those in general nursing, and proof of the knowledge they imply is necessary for those applying for public health appointments in many instances. The Institute's certificate is named in the General Order of the Local Government Board of September, 1909, as one of the recognised qualifications for Women Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Further information can be obtained from the Director and Secretary, Mr. E. White Wallis, F.S.S., 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London.

COMING EVENTS.

January 10th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture: "A Trip to America and American Hospitals," by Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, F.R.C.S. Chair: His Excellency the American Ambassador. 1, Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, W. 2.45 p.m.

January 17th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting of Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, W. 4 p.m.

January 18th.—Meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. Council Chamber, British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

"THE TREE OF HEAVEN."*

"Frances Harrison was sitting out in the garden under the tree that her husband called an ash tree, and that the people in her part of the country called a tree of Heaven.

Anthony had said it was all right only the tree of Heaven wasn't a tree of Heaven at all, only a common ash. He was one of the biggest timber merchants in the country, so he ought to know.

Then she told him he had no poetry in his composition. She had always dreamed of having a tree of Heaven in her garden, and he was destroying her dream. He replied that he didn't want to destroy her dream, but the tree really was an ash. You could tell by the bark and the leaves. Anyhow, it was the first he had heard about her dream.

"You don't know," said Frances, "what goes on inside me."

Frances was the mother of three boys, of which fact she was most inordinately proud. From Frances's point of view nothing else apparently counted in life at all.

The book follows the history of Frances's four children, from their early childhood, which is detailed in a manner which brings out the individuality of each attractive personality, until the time of the present war. The period embraces the time of the Boer war, and also the era of militant suffragism. This latter movement is set forth in a conscientiously impartial manner, although the pages which deal with it read rather like ancient history in these times.

We suspect, however, that Miss Sinclair, *au fond*, is one of those women who view woman's life as impossible, if not ridiculous, from any other standpoint than that of maternity. Dorothea, Frances's only daughter, was carried away by the extreme section, and thereby became alienated from her lover. Then followed the outbreak of the present war and the consequent suffering of Frances.

"Nineteen years ago! Don-Don was a baby then, and Michael and Nicky were only little boys. And look at them now."

She fed her arrogance by gazing at the firmly knit, slender bodies of her sons, in white flannels, playing furiously and well.

She thought of their beauty that had passed from her, dying many deaths, each death hurting her—the tender mortal beauty of babyhood, of childhood, of boyhood; but this invulnerable beauty of manhood would be with her for a long time. John would have it. John was only a fairer Nicholas, but as yet his beauty had not hardened, his boyhood lingered in the fine tissues of his mouth, and in his eyelids, and in the soft corners of eyes.

Michael's body was quiescent; his beauty gave her a proud but austere and tranquil satisfaction.

* By May Sinclair. Cassell & Co., London.

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