

Nature is trying to cover with her carpet of green the hideous ravages of man.

And of Ypres, with its once magnificent cathedral and beautiful Cloth Hall, what can one say? It is past description, and the whole country round is desolation. We went along the famous Menin Road, where we saw much of the actual details of the fighting, tanks embedded in mud or in shell holes full of water; dug-outs, trenches, miles of wire entanglements, camouflage, unending cemeteries, and mile after mile of devastated country. During this we passed through Dickebusch Loere, Neuve Eglise, Kemmel, Messines, Ploegsteert, Sanctuary Wood—names always to be remembered. How often have we not heard our men at Endell Street giving the account of the day they were wounded at such and such a place. These places, vaguely outlined in one's imagination and heard about with all sympathy, have now become real pictures, speaking with redoubled meaning of the heroism, courage and suffering of the battle-fields.

On our return journey we motored from Lille to Boulogne, and after passing Arques, the last place taken by the Germans before their retreat, it was a refreshing change to come into beautiful undulating country undestroyed by man, with woods covered with cowslips and trees clad in their new spring foliage—a healing sight indeed.

I returned from my visit feeling an overwhelming sympathy for the French people in their sad plight, and great thankfulness that a like fate had not overtaken us and our country, at least immune from the ravages of war.

G. R. HALE.

## LEGAL MATTERS.

### PROBATIONERS CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING COLLEAGUE.

Six probationary nurses at the Bermondsey Infirmary—Misses Emily Cox, Florence Couchman, Mabel Bookman, Hilda Lawrence, Mary Martin, and Esther Piercy—were summoned at the Tower Bridge Police Court, on Saturday, May 17th, on a charge of assaulting Emily Russell (also a probationer) by ducking her in a bath.

Mr. Percy Robinson, who defended, offered an apology, which the plaintiff refused to accept. The summons against Miss Cox was dismissed, and the others, adjourned.

### FINED AS BOGUS NURSE.

Charged with falsely representing herself to be a trained nurse, Gretna McNeil was recently fined at Colchester £30, or two months' imprisonment.

The evidence showed that by means of forged characters, in which she described herself as specially trained to safeguard children, she was engaged at £60 a year by Mrs. Holt, wife of a commander in the Navy. She slapped the baby severely and proved to have no knowledge of nursing. When her incompetence was discovered she feigned illness, but recovered directly a doctor was sent for.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

### "HER MOTHER'S BLOOD."\*

The opening incidents of this story relate how Lady Garleston, on what was supposed to be her death-bed, tells Lady June, the eldest daughter of the house, of her illegitimacy.

"You are not really my daughter. You know that, do you not, darling? You have extraordinary intuitive powers. You inherit that from your own dear mother. She was a Japanese, June, and she died when you were born."

The sick woman goes on to tell Lady June of the circumstances of her birth.

In the early years of her married life, she and Lord Garleston had been estranged for some years, and during part of this period he had lived in Japan with a young Japanese girl, O'Také-San, whose daughter June was.

The authoress has written a previous book to the one under consideration, entitled "The Twin Soul of O'Také-San," which probably deals with this period, though we do not recollect having read it.

Strangely enough, June at once feels the call of Japan and her own mother's people to be paramount, and it outweighs her attachment to her very desirable lover, Jack Ashmount. The two reasons she gives him for the rupture of the engagement are the facts of her illegitimacy and Japanese mother, and her strong persuasion that the East was drawing her to return to her own environment.

Some months later, June and her half-sister, Lady Vera, find themselves established in the British Embassy, under the care of Lady Garleston's old friend, the wife of the British Ambassador.

The authoress is evidently quite at home in Japan, and it is her descriptions of the country and characteristics of the people that lend the book its greatest attraction.

The Japanese belief in reincarnation takes a great hold on June's imagination. During the visit to her mother's grave, Lady Greenwood relates to the girl, in the words of her dead little Japanese mother, the story of the love of which June was the offspring.

They had together come to the cemetery.

"There, framed between the trunks of two great over-reaching pines, and with the faint, distant view of the coast, and of the sacred peak she had loved so well visible in the soft evening shades, was the tranquil spot where O'Také-San slept her last long sleep."

The quaint Japanese custom of leaving food for the dead, is described.

"Auntie," said June. "Someone has been to visit the grave quite lately; here before the grave, is a little lacquer tray holding bowls of rice, and small dishes of Japanese food. See, the cup of tea is still quite warm. See, Auntie,

\*By Baroness Albert D'Anethan. London: Skeffington & Son, Ltd.

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