

With a joyous, airy laugh, Toc leaned her elbow on the side of the carriage, and, lifting her head high, sat, half angrily, half contemptuously surveying the conqueror and his suite, every man of whom to her eyes look a *roturier*, a "ranker."

Was it to see this that she had, that morning, annoyed and perhaps estranged Count Johann for ever?

The attempt to assassinate Napoleon by the young Thuringian, Friedrich Staps, and the subsequent incidents connected with his examination and finally of his execution form a large portion of this powerful romance. As the introductory paragraph states, the book is psychological in treatment throughout, and the circumstances and upbringing of Staps are related, as showing the bearing they had upon his final fanatical act.

His examination by Napoleon in person reveals to the young student that the professors of his university and Goethe had accepted from his enemy the Legion of Honour.

He saw again Goethe's figure, erect, majestic. Could that lofty spirit indeed have accepted a decoration from the dwarf there, who had barked unmeaning words at him? He was too tired to think. He had not slept for three nights, nerving himself for his great task, his sacrifice, the deed which God had laid upon him, the ordeal against which he had struggled, resisting the angel of God. For he was young and loved his life and loved beautiful things, poetry and the song of birds and the long day's dreaming, and the vistas that his *wandervahre* opened up before him. He had obeyed the high command; he had failed, and now he had only to die.

The chapter relating the execution of this young student is moving and inspiring: There came to the boy's brain, pell-mell, the verses, the hero-maxims Wolfram's, Schiller's, Uhland's; above all, those words from the death-song of a German warrior, "The gods will welcome me. See! They are come to call me home. The hours of my life are gone past. Laughing, I die." Visibly to his guards, Staps' figure seemed to gain in stature. He stood more erect; a light was on his brow, in his bearing there was the unconcern which is born of the last valour passing into defiance as his glances met their glances, alone, death-doomed but undefeated.

"Fire!"

His boyhood in the Thuringian woods, his ardour for great poetry and heroic actions, his loves, his resentments, his ambitions, his wrongs, his passion for freedom, and for the greatness of his race—to this they had brought him; here, they all were ended.

This book, if it does not appeal to the majority will certainly claim the admiration of those whose literary taste soars above the average novel.

H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

June 7th.—Irish Nurses' Association Executive Committee Meeting 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 8 p.m.

June 24th-27th.—National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. Annual meeting. De Montfort Hall, Leicester.

June 27th.—Nurses' Registration Bill (Central Committee) Report Stage, House of Commons.

July 1st to 3rd.—National Conference on Infant Welfare as part of National Baby Week Celebrations. The Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, W.C. President, the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., M.D., President of the Local Government Board. Apply for information to the Secretary, 4 and 5, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

#### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to a letter from a correspondent in your last issue, in regard to the new Royal Warrant for better gratuities to the nursing service, a point your correspondent seems to have missed is that one of the regulations we came under when joining the Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve was that our pay and allowances were to be the same as those of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., which we were reinforcing, and that the Reserve, the T.F.N.S. and the V.A.D.s are the only Services which do not double the amount *per mensem* allowed for home service, when serving overseas. They, no less than the members of the Regular Service, bore the toil and anxieties of the campaign on every front. Another point is that the allowances of the Regular Service, as is usual, are on the same scale as those given to officers, while a new scale has been devised for the Reserve and T.F.N.S. The members of the Reserve and T.F.N.S. are in the same position as the members of the Regular Service while serving, as the temporary Army officer is with his Regular confrère. So why this difference?

But had the authorities for any reason for our advantage desired a different rate of gratuity, it would have been fairer to have had an increase under the old scale, *i.e.*, the same amount for every year of service. The present scale is a premium on short service. The longer you serve the less you get in proportion; in fact a Matron of four years' service loses £2 and a Sister and Staff Nurse benefit only to the extent of £8 respectively.

Yours faithfully,

OLD CAMPAIGNER.

#### "THE DEVIL OF A MATRON."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue of above paper of 17th ult., under the heading of "The Latest," an Army Sister expresses her disgust at the picture "Cheerio" on the cover of the book issued by the

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