

to know just where you are to be found. We shall meet again; and perhaps, when we meet, it will be Rissik who dictates the terms of our encounter."

The picture is drawn of the Turk, after his loss, sitting, a crouching, sinister figure, realising that for the future, he would have to see richer fellows acquire coveted treasure for which he would give his very soul. He sat until the shadows of evening began to fill the vast treasure rooms—until the call to evening prayer floated softly from the minarets of the neighbouring mosque, and the Faithful hearing, turned their faces towards Mecca and praised Allah, the All-Merciful.

Two years subsequently, Sylvia and Lee Eliot married.

Young Eliot had taken over the mortgage of an oasis of El-Denar, known to the Arabs as the City of Palms, and it was here that Sylvia came as a bride.

Not the least part of the fascination of this book are the realistic descriptions, and pretty Sylvia in her alluring surroundings is portrayed with vivid touches.

"So this," said Sylvia, "is the City of Palms." Here, out at El-Denar in the heart of the desert, the full splendour of the firmament burst upon her with a glory that held her dumb.

Ideally happy in her life, there, with her husband and his friend Roy, there was yet a substantial "fly in the ointment."

A succession of drawbacks to the productiveness of the oasis had reduced Eliot's resources, and when Kissik with true Oriental revenge and scheming, took up the mortgage from its original owner, he threatened to foreclose at a short notice.

The oasis had become the breath of life to Eliot, and his despair at the prospect of losing it was very sweet to the revengeful Turk.

Sylvia's wonderful discovery in the tombs, however, saved the situation, and once more the Turk was baulked.

But he continued his self-imposed visit to them with diabolical suavity, and succeeded in entrapping Sylvia to what was nearly a horrible death.

There is no lack of colour or interest in this book, and we can heartily recommend it to our readers. There is much to be learned from the local colouring, for Miss Rhodes evidently knows her East very thoroughly.

H. H.

#### COMING EVENTS.

October 1st.—Nurses' Missionary League Valedictory Meetings, University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C. Morning, 10.15 to 12.30; Afternoon, 2.30 to 5; Evening, 7 to 9.30.

October 2nd, 3rd, 4th.—Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses. Members' Conference.

October 9th.—Central Midwives' Board: Penal Cases.

#### 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.*

##### TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry if anything in my previous letter should convey the impression that I undervalue the service of trained nurses in Public Health work.

However, we must face the fact that in the near future there is likely to be such an increase in the demand for P.H. nurses, that the supply of trained nurses will not be able to meet it; and this glaring probability has roused many societies and would-be colleges to submit schemes for the "training" of future candidates in a haphazard fashion, founded on commercial interests. Therefore, I need not hesitate to repeat that P.H. nurses should welcome the scheme promoted by Dr. Addison, which will doubtless save us a long weary struggle in the future to free ourselves from complications which would otherwise arise; a struggle, by the way, similar to that still waging after thirty years to gain standardisation for the three years' hospital trained nurse.

It is not the Ministry of Health which "ignores the claims" of "trained nurses at present out of work." Indeed, they have an open door for at least two years. It is the people who are trying to gain recognition for schemes that would turn out candidates in six months' time who ignore our claims.

I can't agree with Miss Alderman's statement that the Ministry of Health propose to put the girl of twenty after the two years' course "on a level" with the experienced nurse, and there is nothing in the regulations to account for the supposition. In paragraph 8, I find that "such students will, however, often desire to take a further course of training such as that for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, or they may in the first instance take posts of limited responsibility in infant welfare centres or elsewhere."

Since we have reason to hope for the steady growth of the Ministry in all directions, even to the ultimate control of State hospitals, it seems to me there will be plenty of room for the younger element as time goes on, and much scope for further developments in the scheme. To quote paragraph 9. It is recognised that all proposals will be experimental to begin with, and that some considerable variation may reasonably be allowed.

If the students were to be immediately placed as Health Visitors, &c., I could understand the attitude of Miss Alderman, but "posts of limited responsibility" given to well-educated girls after two years' theoretical study should not be a danger to mothers, babies, or any other patients; especially as they will, no doubt, replace the raw probationers who may not even possess the rudiment of physiology.

Miss Alderman seems to have entirely overlooked this suggestion of practical work, the extent

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