

Derrick considered the lady with the pearls. "Could she be——" but he put the idea from him. He simply could not imagine a woman of her type a pauper. She looked as if all the good things—the really distinguished things that make life a song instead of a street cry—must be hers by right. As he thought this, he saw the big black eyes looking at him. An agreeable thrill went through him. "After all, perhaps I am not too old," he said to himself. "She seems to feel some interest in me." There was something Eastern in the unwinking impersonal stare of her long eyes. Derrick felt as if they were fixed upon him, even when he could see them no longer.

"That woman intends to know me," he said. "Why?"

Derrick was a rich man, and by nature chivalrous and generous.

Ere long the Princess had confided in him and told of the immense estates in Russia that belonged to her before the war.

Derrick was by this time hopelessly in her toils. He felt inclined to say "Why not solve the question by marrying me?" but he realised that she had very cleverly refused him when she had said that she did not approve of middle-aged marriages. He wondered whether he regretted her prejudice or not. But at least he could offer to purchase the wonderful rope of pearls she wore.

The transaction, which cost him many thousands of pounds was cleverly engineered by the Princess. Derrick found himself shortly afterwards in Paris, interviewing Monsieur Isidore, the famous judge of jewels.

He closely examined them for two or three minutes, shifting the strings slowly through his cushioned white fingers. "May I venture to ask how much you paid for them?"

"Six thousand pounds."

"Six thousand pounds!" He moved his bald head slowly up and down. "Is it possible? These pearls are false," he said sharply observing his visitor.

Carelessly—almost contemptuously—he shoved, rather than insinuated the pearls into their case, and snapped the cover down, and handed it to Derrick.

"Good-bye, Monsieur! I am really very sorry."

Derrick felt sick and was incapable of walking steadily. "Good-bye," he said, and walked slowly down the shop and out into the traffic of Paris.

This book is quite a departure from Mr. Hichens' usual style, and if one regrets the Eastern setting, at least he has given us a very interesting study with an agreeable thrill in it. We recommend our readers to discover for themselves Derrick's ultimate attitude to the perfidious Princess.

H. H.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer to God in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

TEARS.

When I consider Life and its few years—
A wisp of fog betwixt us and the sun;
A call to battle and the battle done
Ere the last echo dies within our ears;
A rose choked in the grass; an hour of fears;
The gusts that past a darkening shore do beat;
The burst of music down an unlistening street—
I wonder at the idleness of tears.
Ye old, old dead, and ye of yesternight,
Chieftains and bards and keepers of the sheep,
By every cup of sorrow that you had,
Loose me from tears and make me see aright
How each hath back what once he stayed to weep;
Homer his sight, David his little lad!

—LIZETTE WOODWORTH REESE.

From *Johns Hopkins' Nurses Magazine*.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND.

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland will be held in Sheffield from 26th to 30th September, 1921, by invitation of the Sheffield Branch. Affiliated Societies must send in the names of their representatives before the end of June to the General Secretary, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

HEALTH OF OUR TROOPS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has convened a meeting on June 7th, at the Central Hall, Westminster, concerning "The Moral Environment of His Majesty's Forces," with special reference to British Troops in the Rhineland.

It is stated that official figures given in the House of Commons appear to indicate an alarming increase of venereal disease among the troops of the Occupied Rhineland Area, and the Committee of the above Association feels that the attention of the public should be directed to factors in the situation which are most unsatisfactory from the health and moral aspect.

The Prime Minister has not found time to receive a deputation on the matter, so the Committee will make certain proposals to improve both the moral and social environment of the Forces at home and on foreign service at the public meeting. Tickets 1s. 6d., can be procured from the Secretary, Orchard House, 2 and 4, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

May 28th.—The Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work, Dinner, Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., 7 p.m.

May 31st.—Constructive Birth Control. A meeting convened by Dr. Marie Stopes. Chair-

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