

M.A.B.

MAINLY ABOUT BOOKS.

The Christmas number of *M. A. B.*, compiled by T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., 1, Adelphi Terrace, London, is a most enlightening pamphlet, which tells one in concise form all the news about coming books. From it we learn that many admirers and readers of the late Olive Schreiner will be interested to hear that there is to be at least two further volumes from her pen. The first, a companion to "Dreams"; but it is through "A Story of an African Farm" that Olive Schreiner expressed her genius—an incomparable book. Mrs. Cameron's new book, "Two Years in the Southern Seas," depicts the beauties and perils of the fascinating South Seas. It is a vivacious description of a remarkable 100,000 mile journey, beautifully illustrated with photographs. From it we get a glimpse of the leper settlement at Molokai. She writes:

"A piece of rare good fortune gave me the unique opportunity to inspect, with the legislators of the Hawaiian Territory, U.S.A., the Leper Settlement at Molokai. Only once in two years do the Senators and Representatives of the Government pay a visit to the martyred lepers, to inquire as to their condition, listen to their complaints if they have any, and assist the sufferers. A delegation of fifty legislators embarked on the s.s. *Mikayala*, leaving Honolulu at 11 p.m.

"The only women of the party were the Rev. Mother Superior, a nun and myself.

"At present there are 512 lepers on the island, and 90 clean people, whilst 175 lepers are now taking regular chaulmoogra oil treatment, but the supply of oil has been difficult to obtain. With tears in their eyes, the lepers plead to be given the oil, some have it injected in their arms, and they flock immediately at the signal to get into line. Others take the oil in capsules three times a day. The delegates of the Government have promised that they shall have as much of this healing agent as they require.

"At the Kalihi Hospital, Honolulu, 145 leprosy patients have been paroled from that Institution without a single one showing a recurrence of the disease. The doctors are confident that positive cures are proved with the use of this oil, and the formerly afflicted resume their normal health. "The only bad features," added one of the senators 'is that the restored invalids cannot grow new parts.' Nature is not equal to the job of repairing the damages wrought by leprosy. I ventured to speak of the wonderfully natural hands, fingers, and limbs which England and France have turned out for our men crippled by the war. These almost perfect members might be a great help to discharged lepers. Dr. Goodhue admitted the truth of this suggestion, and went on to remark that leprosy is not hereditary. For example, out of a batch of twenty-four children of leper parents, not one has developed the disease. Leprosy is infectious by inoculation—a slight cut

—touch—close association, and there are cases where people have lived for years with lepers and never been afflicted.

"A judge at Molokai has a leper wife with whom he lives—yet *he* remains without a blemish. It is a mystery why some people are liable to the disease and others not. The doctors claim that tuberculosis is much more contagious than leprosy, and much more dangerous to humanity. As a matter of fact, ten times as many people are suffering and dying from tuberculosis, yet they are at large. The use of the chaulmoogra oil goes back to antiquity; for years it was used internally in the crude state, but it is obnoxious to the stomach, even when taken in capsules. For those who cannot retain the oil, the injections are resorted to, to achieve the same effect. The Dean specific, says Dr. Goodhue, in addition to other advantages, has been of untold benefit in cases of chronic eye trouble—and the sight of the patients so afflicted is improving steadily. The seeds of the real chaulmoogra-tree (*Taraktogenous Kurzii*) are found in Burma, and many have been sent to the Hawaiian Islands."

COMING EVENTS.

December 31st.—Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Early members of the Association to be entertained at the Club. 3.45 p.m.

January 1st.—New Year's Day, 1923.

January 10th to 24th, 1923.—Issue of and return of Ballot Papers in the Election of the Registered Nurses' Representatives, General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

LAST WORDS FOR 1922.

Old Carol.

King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flow'rs,
Where I go culling posies gay, all times and hours.
There naught is heard but Paradise bird,
Harp, dulcimer, lute.
With cymbal, Trump and tymbal,
And the tender, soothing flute.

Science and the Frontiers of Life.

"Two opposing laws seem to me now in contest. The one a law of blood and death opening out each day new modes of destruction, forces the nations to be always ready for battle. The other, a law of peace, work, and health, whose only aim is to deliver man from the calamities which beset him. The one seeks violent conquests, the other the relief of mankind. The one places a single life above all victories, the other sacrifices hundreds of thousands of lives to the ambition of a single individual. The law of which we are the instruments strives even through carnage to cure the wounds due to the law of war. Treatment by our antiseptic methods may preserve the lives of thousands of soldiers. Which of the two will prevail? God only knows. But of this we may be sure, that science, in obeying the laws of humanity, will always labour to enlarge the frontiers of life."

—Louis Pasteur.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)