

In agony of soul he lifted the window-sash and prayed, with a mixture of boyish faith and of a cynic's gamble, until the mists melted away and the stone symbol of God's pain stood clearly out in the crisp light. Simply and reverently he tried to bargain with God for a good place at Eton. There was no early school on Saturday, and Peter crept down to breakfast amid the extravagantly condescending and contemptuous looks of boys who had been in his position a few months previously. However, they kindly gave him an interesting outline of the normal week.

A detailed account is given of *swishing*, a Duke coming under that experience twice in one day. "Your Grace is unfortunate to-day," but the *swishing* was administered all the same.

A realistic description is given of the Eton and Harrow match. Between Eton and Harrow there was neither peace nor generosity. Defeat entailed smouldering hate, and victory savage exultation. Partisans sometimes needed the stern disinterestedness of the Metropolitan police to prevent open conflict.

Very delightful is the episode of the bright-eyed but nervous scion of the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, a Lower boy, who had the honour of being selected by his fag-master to intercede with his royal relative as to a matter of trespass in the park for purpose of horse-racing.

Half an hour later the Lower boy was breathlessly explaining to the Ranger what had happened, and how the bloods at Munfort's were going to be hauled up by the Head, and how they included several choices for the Eleven, and how unpopular the Royal Family would be if the Ranger insisted on having them *sacked*, and how they were decent enough to send him with an apology, and what an honour it was to be fagged with such bloods anyhow. The Ranger had had trouble with the boys before, and on the complaint of the royal keepers a Duke's son had been flogged, but this was the first he had heard of this escapade, and he was both amused and interested. He thoroughly agreed with his small relative's estimate of the smallness of the offence and the greatness of the offenders.

It would, of course, be disastrous if the Royal Family were involved in the punishment of such great men as the Captain of Munfort's House, or in spoiling the chances of Lord's cricket ground. He would do nothing to press for punishment; in fact he would ask the Head to overlook the matter as a personal favour to himself.

It was a very happy Lower boy who skipped homewards.

A few minutes after lock-up he knocked at the fag-master's door.

"Thanks! You are excused mess-fagging for a week," was the gracious reply to his news.

There are many charming pen-drawings of the ancient foundation and its environs, much subtle wit, and pathos.

It is a wonderful book, crammed full of interest, and one lays it down with regret. It has taken us into the confidence of Eton.

H. H.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT—THE AGE OF CONSENT.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons without a division on July 6th, but not without strong opposition, which centred round the clause which provided that reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over sixteen should no longer be a defence. Arguments for and against were advanced, but considering that for the past thirty-five years there has been no legislation on the matter, we think it high time further safeguards for the young of both sexes were enacted. This Bill adds nothing to the crime of violating young children—ghastly cases which are constantly up in the police-courts—and we should have hoped the time was ripe to add to the punishment of such bestial criminals. Two years' "hard" is, we believe, the maximum punishment for these horrible crimes, and as often as not the criminal is let off with a minimum sentence of a few weeks—if any. To plead that he was drunk at the time appears to be a sufficient excuse with some magistrates. It is this *very common* crime that women should stand up against much more publicly than they do, and it is this aspect of defilement which is treated in "Little Cuckoo Flower," a reading from which will be given by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on Saturday, July 22nd, at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Invitations will be sent upon application, to those interested, by the Secretary of the R.B.N.A.

The Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects have appointed a committee for the purpose of drafting a Bill for the statutory registration of architects. It will be interesting to see if the Governing Body of this profession is largely composed of unprofessional, socially influential male and female persons, like the G.N.C. or whether it will follow the example of the medical and legal professions and manage its own affairs.

The London County Council has adopted the recommendation of its Parks and Open Spaces Committee that Sunday games shall be permitted in all parks and open spaces under the control of the Council.

Very wise decision. At present we sometimes walk right up to Primrose Hill on Sunday afternoon and only meet half-a-dozen pedestrians.

On Saturday, July 29th, there is to be a great No More War Demonstration in Hyde Park. The peoples of Europe and America will simultaneously express their will against war. The churches, Labour, women, ex-Service men, and all sections of the people are joining, and trained nurses are invited to take part in the procession. The London Secretary can be found at Norway House, Norway Place, E.14.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)