

THE CENTENARY OF JOSEPHINE BUTLER.

The celebration of the centenary of Josephine Butler with all honour, not only in Great Britain, but all over the world, is one more proof that good work is ultimately recognised.

Literary, charming and cultured, an artist and lover of beauty of form and colour, she devoted her life to a great crusade against a social injustice which necessitated a continual contact with ugliness and sin. To one of her temperament it must have been a greater martyrdom than the physical dangers to which she was subjected in her fight for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. Listen to the story related in a cameo life sketch of her by Marion Holmes, published by the Women's Freedom League, to which we are indebted for our illustration:—

"In the autumn of 1872 there was a by-election in Pontefract. In a large hay loft over an empty room a woman was speaking to a deeply interested gathering of her own sex. Suddenly great clouds of smoke rolled up from the room below, and sounds of anger came in ever-increasing volume. Then through the trap-door appeared face after face, full of fury. The speaker herself says of the scene:—

"The bundles of straw beneath had been set on fire . . . man after man came in until they crowded the place. There was no possible exit for us, the windows being too high above the ground, and we women were gathered into one end of the room like a flock of sheep surrounded by wolves. . . . It is difficult to describe in words what followed. It was a time which required strong faith and calm courage. Mrs. Wilson and I stood in front of the company of women side by side. It was not personal violence that we feared so much as the mental pain inflicted by the rage, profanity and obscenity of the men, of their words and their threats. They shook their fists in our faces with volleys of oaths. We understood by their language that certain among them had a personal and vested interest in the evil thing we were opposing. It was clear they understood that their 'craft was in danger.' The new teaching and revolt of women had stirred up the very depths of hell. We said nothing—simply waited and endured."

Now at the celebration of her centenary the world acclaims her saint and heroine. Dignitaries of Church and State assembled on April 24th in Westminster Abbey to honour her in a Centenary Celebration, and the following evening in the Central Hall near by, men and women of all shades of opinion took part in a Great Public Meeting of Commemoration, when Lord Balfour of Burleigh occupied the chair. One of the finest tributes then paid to her was that by Sir Michael Sadler, K.C.S.I., C.B., Master of University College, Oxford, who described her as a great international figure as well as a great patriot, and said she displayed the finest English political instinct, "the sense of how far you can go and the determination not to take less than you ought to be given."



MRS. JOSEPHINE BUTLER.

WHAT TO READ.

A book by Mrs. Flora Annie Steel with India for its theme cannot fail to be worth reading, and "The Builder" (The Story of Shahjahan, Builder of the Taj Mahal) is a fascinating subject.

Everyone who keeps an eye on literary novels—as apart from pot-boilers—will have ere this read "The Little Karoo," by Pauline Smith—and longed for more, and now has been issued a novel by the same author, "The Beadle," which must not be missed.

Marvellous things "come out of Africa," and not the least entrancing are the works of its women writers. Who will ever forget Olive Schreiner's "The Story of an African Farm"? and now Pauline Smith just pierces the very heart of us in giving to the world the love story of little Andrina. Read "The Beadle," it will bring understanding: of how to the pure all things are pure.

We fear the majority of nurses have not time to study the graphic historical biographies by Emil Ludwig, translated from the German. "Napoleon," "Bismarck," "Kaiser William II," but if possible, as a matter of world education, these fine works should be read—and now that girls are soon to be full citizens of the widest Empire of the world, one of their most essential duties is to study history—past and present—and widen minds and hearts. We wonder if "little Wilhelm" had not suffered from an agony of contempt for that withered arm if his heart would not have beaten with more human sympathy!

COMING EVENTS.

May 8th.—Conference on "Women in the Service of Hospitals," convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Mary Sumner House, 24, Tufton Street, S.W.1. 2.30-6.0 p.m.

May 14th-19th.—Post-Graduate Week at the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffreys Road, London, S.W. 9.

May 15th.—Chadwick Public lecture, "Sunlight—Natural and Manufactured, and its use in Modern Medicine." By Major Walter Elliot, M.P., M.B., Ch.B., D.Sc., Under-Secretary of the Board of Health, Agriculture and Education (Scotland), Hastings Hall, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C. Admission free. 8 p.m.

May 18th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

May 19th.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 3 p.m.

May 22nd.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Executive Committee, Board Room of Registered Nurses' Association, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Tea, 4.30. Meeting, 5 p.m.

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