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Literary Notes

MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT has written a good novel, "Through One Administration," and a charming chronicle of child life—not "Little Lord Fauntelroy" but "The One I Knew the Best of All." During the last year the "Century Magazine" has indulged in a serial story, "The Shuttle," by the well-known writer of multi-millionaire romance. The book has recently been published in book form and is likely to be as popular as anything which Miss Corelli has done.

"The Shuttle" is intended to be a metaphor and, after reading the book, one comes to the conclusion that it relates to the Anglo-American marriage, which, in some mysterious way, is going to work international wonders. The Vanderpoels are a New York family possessed of that marvellous United States wealth which, like the heart of the Tennysonian hero, "blossoms in purple and red." There are two daughters of the house, the elder of whom, Miss Rosalie, becomes the bride of Sir Nigel Anstruther who is brutal and had to a degree attained only by the British aristocrat who weds the innocent Yankee maiden. Rosalie is a deadly dull and cowardly person who can call neither her soul nor her cheques her own and Sir Nigel hits her on the jaw in a perfectly disgusting style. Rosalie's mother-in-law is also a dreadful person who encourages her son in these pugilistic extravaganzas. However, the dowager dies and Betty Vanderpoel, who has grown up in the twelve years since Rosalie's marriage, comes to England to rescue her distressed relative, who has been "cut off" from her family since the fatal wedding. Betty is the stock heroine for cheap "Laura-Jean-Libbey" romance. She is so beautiful that advertisers long to have her head on a soap-box and she is so 'normously rich that she could buy up an English castle as an afternoon's shopping. Betty is also an intensely active young person, whose eternal going-to-and-fro reminds one of President Roosevelt or a Chinese gong or anything else which arrests the camera or the gramophone. Her eyelashes and her energy are insisted upon in nearly every chapter until the reader wishes that Betty would go to a rest cure.

In the meantime, a red-haired "lord," very much out-at-elbows and of decidedly sulky tendencies, appears upon the scene and begins to show an interest in the heiress whom he had first seen on the steamer, although the poor aristocrat was a second-cabin passenger. The latter's ancestors were a thoroughly bad lot but he is as good as if his parents had been born in Pittsburgh. The tale of Betty's dealings with her down-trodden sister and with the impecunious nobleman is not by any means without entertainment, but the narrative may be described in the words used by the author concerning Betty's first school: "It considered itself especially refined and select, but was in fact interestingly vulgar."

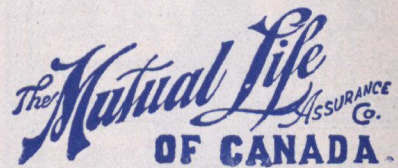
The prevailing fault of the book is over-emphasis. It fairly reeks of dollars and cents, to say nothing of lace and diamonds. It will be dramatised, we fear, and Sir Nigel in the act of smiting the fair Rosalie will drive the matinee girl to tears. But, alas for the novelist who wrote "Through One Administration." Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company, Limited.

In last week's issue the "Courier" credited Dr. MacPhail with a poetical contribution to the "University Magazine." As the quotation showed, this term was a mistake, since "The Patience of England" is written in excellent prose style.

A movement is now being made, the purpose of which is to acquire Coleridge's house at Nether Stowey for the English nation. The King has expressed his sympathy with the object in view and the subscribers include the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, Mr. Balfour, Miss Ellen Terry and Mr. George Meredith. It is said that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised the last two hundred pounds. The Pittsburgh plutocrat again!

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