

And yet I've not begun to tell
 The sweet delights of those who dwell
 Within the lotus-charmed spell
 Of this fair land.

Anonymous.

BABIES.

What are little babies for ?
 Say, say, say !
 Are they good-for-nothing things ?
 Nay, nay, nay !

Can they speak a single word ?
 Say, say, say !
 Can they help their mother sew ?
 Nay, nay, nay !

Can they walk upon their feet ?
 Say, say, say !
 Can they even hold themselves ?
 Nay, nay, nay !

What are little babies for ?
 Say, say, say !
 Are they made for us to love ?
 Yea, yea, yea !

SOME THINGS TO READ.

BY MRS. W. H. KLOSZ.

"**M**ARY, Mary, Quite Contrary", of Misselthwaite Manor, will probably never enjoy the widespread popularity of "Little Lord Fauntleroy", but readers of "The Secret Garden" will find in it the same love of depicting childish emotions that Frances Hodgson Burnett displays in the earlier book.

The story begins in a sufficiently unpromising manner to compel attention at once. "When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It was true too." The whole tale covers only a few months in the lives of three children, two ten—and one twelve years of age. It includes a very interesting study of the effects of fresh air and Springtime and healthy companionship on a spoiled child who is a helpless hysterical invalid. This is Colin, Mary's cousin, who is more spoiled and more "contrary" than Mary herself. His cure, though almost too speedy to be credible, proceeds quite naturally. Mary's complete transformation of character is the outcome of an awakened love for people and creatures outside herself.

To residents in India the opening chapter of the book may seem a bit unreal, as it is hardly conceivable that a little white child, however disagreeable, should be so neglected as Mary appears to have been; and should have been left forgotten in the house when all the servants fled from cholera, Mary's father and mother and Ayah having died of it.

Mrs. Burnett seems much more at home on the Yorkshire Moors and there is a great deal of quaintness and fascination in the language of Dickon, Martha the Maid and their mother, while her pictures of the budding life of an English Spring will have a real charm for dwellers in the Tropics to whom Spring does not come.

Among the papers for War Time which are being published by the Oxford University Press is one called "The Woman's Part", by Elma K. Paget. In beautiful language, Mrs. Paget makes a strong appeal to the women of Great Britain, of the Empire, to help the Nation at this time by a special display of the virtues of Courage, Prudence, Simplicity, Faith and Love. In the beginning she says, "The Nation has called upon its manhood, setting before it a plain duty, asking for a plain answer. The claim that war makes upon womanhood is more hidden, and often more difficult; for it is easier to be active than passive, easier to place oneself under obedience at a crisis than to serve by silent anxiety, or to desire service with no clear indication as to what our work should be. But it has been wisely said that warfare depends largely for its ultimate success on the spirit of the people left behind, and we know that in an ever-increasing proportion this will mean the women. Therefore we must look to our own character and conduct as a necessary part of the great war".

In speaking of the duty of giving up loved ones Mrs. Paget says, "Our giving must not be in resignation only, but with courageous faith that God will make a new and better world out of the mistakes and disasters of man's disputes. We had hoped that God would give a lasting peace in our generation, without the cruel arbitrament of the sword. It is not so. Because of some hardness in our hearts, it was impossible. The world is not yet ready. But we give our men as warriors against war. We are fighting that it may die".

Every paragraph of this really stirring appeal would be worthy to be quoted in full, and those which I have given do not suggest the practical ways in which women are called upon to help. Every woman would be the better for taking to heart the teachings of this pamphlet, whether she is personally concerned in the European war or not, and what woman is not concerned in it? The price of the paper is two-pence, and it will take only about half an hour of a busy Nurse's time to read it.