

in disguise, for by exercising a little imagination you can make the story end as you like, and spare yourself the pain of disappointment. I rarely read a book without reflecting how much better I could have finished it myself," remarked the young lady with an assurance which evoked a smile on the officer's impassive countenance.

"You don't look much like an authoress," he said, surveying the dainty little figure approvingly, and calling up a mental picture of the spectated and cadaverous female invariably associated with a literary career in the masculine mind. "I am afraid my imagination will hardly stand such a strain; but books are the only refuge for the destitute on a voyage, especially during the first few days, when you find yourself shut up with a herd of strangers whom you have never met before in the course of your life. There is only one thing to do under the circumstances, and that is to lie low, and speak to no one until you have found your bearings and discovered who is who. If you go about talking to strangers, you can never tell in what sort of a set you may land yourself."

"You can't, indeed! It's appalling to think of!" agreed the young lady, with a dramatic gesture of dismay which brought her little ringed hands together in emphatic emphasis. "For my own

part I get on well enough," she proceeded, contradicting herself with unruffled composure, "for I can find something interesting in all of my fellow-creatures; but I feel it for my maid. The couriers and valets are so *very* exclusive that she has been snubbed more than once because of our inferior station. Naturally she feels it keenly. I observe that those people are most sensitive about their position who have the least claim to distinction; but as she does my hair better than anyone else, and is an admirable dressmaker, I am, of course, anxious to keep her happy."

The big man looked down with a suspicious glance. Through his not very keen sensibilities there had penetrated the suspicion that the small person in the white frock was daring to smile at him and amuse herself at his expense; but his suspicion died at once before the glance of infantile sweetness which met his own. Pretty little thing! there was something marvellously taking in her appearance. For one moment, as she had spoken of inferior station, he had had an uneasy fear lest he had made the acquaintance of some vulgar upstart, with whom he could not possibly associate. But no! If ever the signs of race and breeding were distinguishable in personal appearance, they were so in the case of the girl before

him. A glance at the head in its graceful setting, the delicate features, the dainty hands and feet were sufficient to settle the question in the mind of a man who prided himself on being an adept in such matters. To his own surprise he found himself floundering through a complimentary denial of her own estimate of herself, and being rescued from a breakdown by a gracious acknowledgment.

"Praise," murmured the young lady sweetly—"praise from Major Darcy is praise indeed! When 'Haughty Hector' deigns to approve—"

The big man jumped as if he had been shot, and turned a flushed, excited face upon her.

"Wh-at?" he gasped. "What do you say? You know me—you know my old home name! Who are you then? Who can you be?"

The girl rose to her feet and stood before him. The top of her smooth little head barely reached his shoulder; but she held herself with an air of dignity which gave an appearance of far greater height. For one long minute they stared at one another in silence; then she stretched out her hand and laid it frankly in his own.

"Why, I'm Peggy!" she cried. "Don't you remember me? I'm Peggy Saville!"

(To be continued.)

PHARMACY AS AN EMPLOYMENT FOR GIRLS.



HE employment of girls as dispensers becoming much more general both in hospitals and pharmacies, a few words on the subject may be useful to any who seriously contemplate

adopting the occupation. In the first place, only girls of education, of average health, and who can afford to give the necessary expenditure of time and money should take up the profession of pharmacy. Lack of means at the onset has caused many girls to give up the occupation who otherwise were well adapted to a pharmaceutical career, for, unless a girl intends learning pharmacy thoroughly, taking the qualifying examination, it is unwise to enter the calling at all; because not only can the unqualified command but very low salaries, even if they obtain appointments at all, but it is positively dangerous to the public that any but experienced persons should dispense medicines.

The necessary requirements being forthcoming, a girl should turn her attention to the examinations required to be passed. Two only are essential. First, the preliminary examination of the Pharmaceutical Society, which is held four times in the year, and at the present time comprises three subjects, Latin, English, and Arithmetic (including Metric System); fee, two guineas. This examination can be worked

up alone now by any girl of average ability, but after August, 1900, will be more stringent, having the addition of Euclid, Algebra, and one modern foreign language.

Various other examinations, such as the Matriculation or Cambridge (with Latin), exempt from it, a list of which can be obtained from the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C. It is distinctly advisable to pass the preliminary or its substitute before commencing apprenticeship; frequently a pupil is not accepted until this examination is passed, and under any circumstances to revert to school subjects after having commenced other studies is a great hindrance. The other essential examination is the minor or qualifying examination, which carries with it the title of "Chemist and Druggist," and admits to membership of the Pharmaceutical Society. This examination is held four times in the year; fee, five guineas (after August, 1900, ten guineas). To be admitted, candidates must have attained the age of twenty-one, and, besides having passed the preliminary or its equivalent, must furnish a form proving having been engaged three years in practical dispensing either with a registered chemist, a medical practitioner, or in the dispensary of some institution. The subjects comprise pharmacy (practical and theoretical), chemistry (practical and theoretical), materia medica, botany (including microscopy), and physics.

It is usually necessary to attend classes at some school of pharmacy. The society's school at Bloomsbury is generally recognised to give the most advanced teaching, and requires for a full course nine months' attendance; fee, thirty guineas, exclusive of books and apparatus. Girls who have worked diligently during the three years' apprenticeship,

and who have attended classes in chemistry and botany at a science school, do not always require quite so long a period of study, and frequently six months has been found to be sufficient. Very many other pharmaceutical schools, both London and provincial, receive lady pupils for long or short periods of study, the fees averaging ten guineas for three months' full time course. This qualification having been obtained enables anyone to be mistress of her own pharmacy, or to act as manager or assistant to a chemist, as head of a dispensary, and various other positions connected with chemistry and pharmacy, this being the legal qualification both to dispense and sell poisons.

These two above-mentioned examinations are necessary to be passed by every pharmacist; but two other examinations it is sometimes desirable to pass, though not essential:—

I. The major examination, which is the highest qualification obtainable in pharmacy, to pass which is a desideratum to any girl who eventually intends owning a pharmacy, and carries with it the title of "Pharmaceutical Chemist"; fee, three guineas; subjects, advanced chemistry and physics, botany and materia medica.

II. The assistants' examination of the Apothecaries' Society. Much confusion appears to exist respecting this examination, which it may be well to state has no connection with the pharmaceutical examinations. It is held four times in the year at the Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars, E.C.; fee, three guineas. This examination carries with it no title, nor does it qualify to sell poisons, but only to act as assistant in the compounding and dispensing of medicines.

The subjects comprise pharmacy (practical and theoretical), theoretical chemistry, and a slight knowledge of materia medica; fee, three

guineas. Very many girls take this examination on account of its not being so stringent as the minor, therefore not requiring so long a period of study, nor necessitating a three years' apprenticeship as with the latter; but, unfortunately, very many are content to remain with this qualification only, instead of using it as a stepping-stone to the minor. This qualification is, however, accepted by many of the smaller provincial hospitals, by some doctors, and is necessary to be admitted as a pupil in one of our largest provincial hospitals; but with this one exception it is advisable to have twelve or eighteen months' experience in practical pharmacy before attempting to obtain this qualification, since it is a very mistaken idea some girls hold that, after a few months' study at a pharmacy school to enable them to pass this examination, they can, without any real practical experience, obtain appointments. If they do so, by their inexperience they bring the whole question of the employment of ladies in pharmacy into disrepute.

It is then very essential to obtain practical experience, either by serving a pupilage of twelve or eighteen months in the dispensary of an institution, the fee for which averages about

ten guineas, or by apprenticeship to a chemist: this latter course is the better one unless desiring a hospital career. A few ladies having pharmacies of their own receive pupils; doubtless the number of these former will be augmented in a few years. Also, some gentlemen take lady apprentices; the fee for a three years' apprenticeship to a chemist varies greatly according to the amount of instruction given, etc. Now for a few remarks concerning appointments available after qualification.

Hospital Appointments.—Very many of these are open to female dispensers; and it speaks well for lady dispensers that those hospitals once opened to women invariably appoint a lady on any successive vacancy occurring. The larger institutions require the minor qualification, salaries varying from forty pounds to eighty pounds indoors and from sixty pounds to one hundred and fifty pounds outdoors. In smaller hospitals, for which the apothecaries' qualification is sometimes considered sufficient, the remuneration seldom exceeds fifty pounds outdoors.

Doctors' Dispensers.—These appointments, very many of which are open to ladies, are

often the most sought after, in spite of the fact that the remuneration is usually not great. Some medical men require the minor qualification; by others the Apothecaries' Hall certificate is accepted.

Wholesale Chemists.—A few openings present themselves in the laboratories for lady pharmacists; also, ladies are employed in superintending female labour in the packing of drugs, perfumery, etc.: these posts are often very lucrative; where poisons are concerned, qualification is essential, otherwise it is not so, though preferred, and these engagements usually leave the evening at one's own disposal, and afford a good opportunity for study.

Lastly, in chemists' shops, either as mistress of their own pharmacy—suitable for those possessed of business capabilities and capital—or as manager or assistant to a pharmacist. But few ladies hold either of the two latter positions: those who do, find the work congenial and fairly remunerative, and being usually well received by the public. This field is likely to further open up for really experienced women.

R. KATHLEEN SPENCER.

THE PICTURE POST-CARD CRAZE.

HINTS TO COLLECTORS.

By DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.

PART II.



THE page of forty-three picture post-cards comprises some from both England and the East, the Continent of Europe and America, and opens with one of the most lovely views in Europe, that of Chillon, as seen from Territet, with the Dent du Midi and its

seven heads, as a background. On the right, too, we see one of those beautiful boats with their picturesque sails, which make a complete picture of themselves, even without their background of snowy peaks.

We have not many examples of portraiture amongst our cards, so we are naturally pleased to have the two (9 and 11) with the portraits on them, respectively of Longfellow and Lord Byron, with their several homes in the background, *i.e.*, the house at Concord and Newstead Abbey. These two form part of a set of Eminent-Writer cards, in colours; and which comprise Dickens, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Scott, and Burns. The card between (10) is a Jubilee commemoration of 1897, a pretty, though rather garish card, with very gay colouring, and much gilding about it, and portraits of the Queen, and the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Damascus is the next (12) example, and I hope you will see that there is a cab-stand in the great square, a fact which is commented upon at once by everyone, because they have no idea that Damascus is so civilised. The sole legend imprinted on this by the sender is "Broiling," and the date was last April. Number 13 is a coloured card from Jerusalem, and represents the Jews' Wailing-place—of which you have often heard—beneath the

great Wall of the Temple. This was posted at Jerusalem, and purchased there. The next three (14, 15, 16), are respectively Brighton, and the Pavilion, Guernsey, St. Peter's Port, and Oban; all of them are specimens of the cheap printed card, this being the earliest form of card which usually appears, to be succeeded by something better later on. The next card (17) perhaps you will recognise at once as the large basin-fountain in the Pincian Gardens, under the trees. In the distance St. Peter's is seen and the Vatican. This card, like 38, the other Roman, is a colotype. The latter represents the Forum, at the back of the Capitol; showing the whole length of the Via Sacra to the Arch of Titus, and the Colosseum in the distance. At the extreme left are the three columns of the Temple of Peace; then comes the Arch of Septimus Severus, and then, in the centre, the range of columns of the Temple of Vespasian.

Flying over the waters to Washington (18) we reach the New World, and see on the card the Capitol, which is the most celebrated and beautiful building in America. Next to this comes (19) a view of the gardens at Baden, and then comes (20) a view of the Houses of Parliament from the Thames by moonlight, on blue-toned paper. The next (21) is more interesting, as it gives us a glimpse of Innsbruck, the capital of the Tyrol, and two of its castles, Weyerburg and Schloss Ambras. The first is associated with the Emperor Maximilian I., who lived there. Both are inhabited and are in excellent condition. Two cards (22 and 28) represent Baltimore, the capital of Maryland, one of the finest of American cities. The card shows the entrance gates of the celebrated Greenmount Cemetery, and the richly-endowed Johns Hopkins University and Hospital. In (28) we see the Battle Monument, one of those which give to Baltimore its soubriquet of "Monumental City." Baltimore derives its name from Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. The original Baltimore is a tiny village, near Skibbereen, co. Cork, in Ireland. Baltimore

received a million dollars from the famous George Peabody, and built a fine institute with it. This is also shown on the card.

Niagara Falls (23) is the next picture, a general view of it, showing the Canadian shore part of the rapids, and, lower down, the Canadian Fall only. These views are taken in summer. The Norwegian (24) "*ski*" may be seen in the next card, and as both a man and a woman are shown, you may see how the Norwegians look in winter, striding over the snow. The University at Vienna (25) comes next; a photo-print, and a general view (26) of Naples, from Pasillipo, with the smoking cone of Vesuvius in the distance. We are still in Italy when at Brindisi (27); this is the point of embarkation for the P. and O. steamers; and here Virgil died, B.C. 19. It was also the great port of embarkation for the Crusaders, in the eleventh century; and was the chief Roman naval station in the Adriatic. Paris appears in the next (29), the column of the Place Vendôme is given; and (30) our column, the Egyptian Obelisk, which we call Cleopatra's Needle, a pretty little coloured picture. Next to it is a view of the far-off land of its making, (31) Egypt, and a dromedary in the foreground. From thence we take an abrupt flight to (32), the monument on the field of Waterloo, and the Belgian lion. This card was posted on the spot, and is a photograph.

The Pyramids in the (33) distance, from the Nile, a group of date-palms and an obelisk, bring us back to Egypt again; and the next two (34 and 35) are of Cannes and San Remo—a very frequently sketched subject is the latter. In fact, the practice of throwing arches across from house to house, in those narrow streets, makes any Italian town or village look picturesque. Niagara (36) again on the Canadian side, and (37) Dresden, that beautiful Saxon capital, where so many of our compatriots reside for education and economy.

The next picture-card (39) is one that I found full of interest. It is a view of Milkveh Israel ("the Hope of Israel"), one of the