

The Woman's Point of View

By "VERITY"

Result of "Favourite Novels" Competition

THE result of our first Literary Competition has been extremely gratifying, the general level of the entries being high, many competitors revealing an attractive faculty for expression in this form. Two first prizes have been awarded, one to "Isabel Emm" and the other to "Olive," the entries of these competitors having been judged equal in the merits of terseness of explanation and appreciation of the salient characteristics of the chosen book. The choice was a difficult one, as the literary standard was excellent; several of the other contributions appear in this issue, and will receive payment at space rates.

—VERITY

"THE STORY OF AN AFRICAN FARM."

(By Olive Schreiner.)

THIS is the age of realism in literature, but unfortunately much that is necessarily crude hides the beauty of that exacting truth, whose garments writers of to-day are striving to grasp. This does not happen in the case of the little governess, Olive Schreiner, very young, abjectly poor, lonely, and uneducated, who yet could write that wonderful masterpiece, "The Story of An African Farm." There we have the untrammelled ideas, two decades before her time, but tempered with most idealistic thought, which makes this work remembered when much modern fiction is forgotten.

It is just a record of the lives of simple souls on a farm in old-time South Africa, but it has a breadth of vision which is an inspiration to those who read, and shows a perfect conception of truth and profound humanity.

The book has an added charm. During the course of its stirring narrative the authoress was inspired to insert an allegory which surely must be one of the finest pieces of prose we possess—yet so appealing in its simplicity that a child might read with understanding and profit.

This small gem of uplifting thought, with its imaginative grasp of all the poetry of life, love, and endeavour, is the very essence of genius. May there follow more writers like Olive Schreiner.

—"Isabel Emm."

OUR monthly competitions for women readers cover literary and domestic activities. By this means we hope to exchange many useful secrets of good housekeeping, and also to bring to light considerable literary talent. The competition for this month is the "Better Way" No. 3, closing on August 24. The rules will be found on this page.

"Penny Plain."

(By O. Douglas.)

SOME years ago, on my birthday, among other attractive-looking parcels waiting for me, I espied one which (from its unmistakable shape) I cleverly decided was a book! "Aa!" I cried in glee, pounced on it, and, on opening it, I saw the title "Penny Plain," by O. Douglas.

The name itself intrigued me, and as soon as possible I delved within. I do not know how many times I have turned to it, enjoying it with always the same sense of refreshment. Its crisp humour, its delightfully human element, and the clear atmosphere of

and surely of such is our own life!—
Eira G. Moore.

"Alice For Short."

(By William de Morgan.)

WILLIAM DE MORGAN'S whimsical literary style will always have for me an especial appeal, and I think it is manifested at its best in "Alice for Short." The author so thoroughly knows and so tenderly loves his Alice that I perforce must hold them both in my heart.

The story is a very human one, and Alice's varying fortunes are recounted with—to me—a satisfying wealth of detail. Never once does the gently hu-

"BETTER WAY" COMPETITION No. 3. MONTHLY PRIZES.

ALL women whose homes are to them a source of abiding interest and delight have their own treasured secrets of housekeeping. It may be an unusual recipe, a scheme for brightening an uninteresting room, a labour-saving notion, an idea for decorative work, a dress or toilet hint, or a pet economy. There is always a special method of performing various household tasks—the "better way." The "Radio Record" offers a prize of half-a-guinea each month until further notice for "Better Ways" from our women readers. The right is reserved to publish any entry not awarded a prize on payment of space rates.

Entries must be written in ink, on ONE side of the paper only, and the name and address of the competitor should be written on the back of each entry.

When more than one "Better Way" is submitted by the same competitor, each entry must be written on a separate sheet of paper.

The decision of the Editor is final and binding. A nom-de-plume may be used if desired.

The August "Better Way" Competition closes on August 24, and the result will be announced on the women's page on Friday, August 31.

All entries to be addressed: "Verity," c/o "Radio Record," Box 1032, Wellington.

the little Scots community, make it like a draught of spring water on a stifling day.

It is a novel that receives you as a friend, and so natural and real are the characters that you are one with them, and appreciate comfortable "Mrs. McCosh"—glory in "The Mhor's" originality—sympathise with bluff Jock, love the Macdonalds, share David's enthusiasms, and rejoice in "Penny Plain's" slice of twopence coloured in charming "Pamela" and her brother.

Tears and laughter, hopes and fears, love and kindness—of such is this book

morous style fail, nor the readers—this reader's—interest flag. I have always appreciated a real literary style apart from the subject-matter of the story, which may not in itself be of absorbing interest, but when one meets with William de Morgan's characteristic style combined with his gift of story-telling, a find indeed is "Alice for Short" and her creator, so old and wise with his smiling ironical philosophy of life. And, lastly, I like the volume because it is "different," and so far removed from the usual light fiction of these modern days of ours.—D.F.W.

"Beau Geste."

(By P. C. Wren.)

OBLIVIOUS of everything else, still with a sigh of complete satisfaction, I turned the last page at 2 a.m. I am now an ardent admirer of P. C. Wren as the author of "Beau Geste."

The supreme artistry of that prologue! How many authors would dare open their story with its climax? But then it took a master mind to create such an uncanny, baffling series of mysteries—that grim watch of dead men, the missing trumpeter, the bayonet, the vanished corpses, the "Blue Water," and then—the fire! Who could put down the book at this stage, until one knew the answer? And the tantalising interesting part about it is, that the suspense is sustained up to the very last page.

Wren's characters are human. The Foreign Legion, hitherto a mere name, becomes terribly realistic. Of course, loveable "Beau" claims my hero-worship, but loyal Digby and John are both "stout fellas," too—and how wholeheartedly I hate their enemies.

Here, at last, is a really "different" book. The "love-interest," that all-pervasive theme of the modern novel,

"IN A SHANTUNG GARDEN."

(By Louise Jordan Miln.)

IN delightful language this book offers an insight into the ordinary everyday life of a foreign country, and the beautiful Old World traditions that have gone to the building of the complex, yet apparently simple, characters so cleverly drawn.

It fully discloses the almost unbelievable respect and homage paid to the mothers of men, and the ancient customs and ceremonies which go to make up the daily life of the people. Apart from the entertainment provided by a perusal of its pages, the book proves a wonderful fount of knowledge to dwellers in more civilised countries.

The unselfishness and power of renunciation exhibited by the heroine, a beautiful high-born girl, whose life of simple purity is blessed with all that parental love can bestow, surprising as it is, compels unbounded admiration. The power of her fascination is shown by the profound devotion of the hero.

A consideration of the natural description of the intensely cultivated gardens, of the almost superstitious faith attached to certain flowers and plants, of the personal affection lavished on many blooms makes entrancing reading. The volume is all the more satisfying because of its portrayal of novel and unique surroundings.

—"Olive."

Tonking's Linseed Emulsion
is a Certain Cure for Coughs and Colds