

The Woman's Point of View

By "Verity"

"Favourite Novels"

THE following entries for the "Favourite Novels" Competition were chosen for publication in last week's issue, but were unavoidably held over through lack of space.—Verity.

"The Forsyte Saga."

(By John Galsworthy.)

OF the making of books there is no end—but the end of most books made, what is it? Stories of strange happenings, improbable situations, vague personalities—they charm or amuse for a while perhaps, but soon sink into oblivion. Now and again, however, from amongst the stream of books poured forth from the world's printing presses, there emerges some work which, in its appeal to both heart and mind, is destined to outlive popular fancy. Such is John Galsworthy's "Forsyte Saga."

Upon the literary style I make no comment. Galsworthy is a master of composition. To me, the appeal of the book lies in its faithful portrayal of life. The innermost beings, the very heart-throbs of the men and women within its pages (and they are many), lie bare before the reader. Not only the principal characters—Soames, Irene, Old Jolyon, Jolyon, June, Bosinney, Fleur, Jon—but the minor characters, too, are well and truly drawn. Their "humanness" tugs at our heart-strings. They are us—we them! Around all these characters, and with much wealth of detail, is woven an absorbing story.

The "Forsyte Saga" should find a place in the library of every lover of good literature.—M. Phin.

"The Cloister and the Hearth."

(By Charles Reade.)

MY favourite book is "The Cloister and the Hearth," by Charles Reade. I have read many love stories, but always I return to the charm of that old world romance, and find it most absorbing, from the time Gerard and Margaret met on the road to Rotterdam till their untimely deaths.

Was there ever a more ill-fated pair? Their love thwarted, their marriage ceremony twice interrupted, poor Gerard forced to leave Margaret and his home, his adventures in other countries—perilous, gruesome, gay, but always interesting. The description of the country through which he passed, its people and customs. The good and evil fortune that befell him, the crushing blow of the false report of Margaret's death, when he enters the church and in time returns to his own country, where he becomes a hermit and afterwards the vicar of Gonda.

And Margaret—what a brave, sweet and gracious character! is in her depicted! With what various devices to support her dear ones her loving devotion inspired her! Her grief at poor Gerard's plight when she finds he is the new hermit; the manner in which she makes known his son to him! Her cleverness in coaxing him to the vicar-

age. The woman's wit that inspired her to destroy the cave and lure Gerard's birds with their gilded feet to the vicarage. Lastly, their deaths—Margaret's first, then Gerard's so soon to follow.—"Mifanwy."

"An Introduction to Sally."

(By Countess M. A. von Arnheim.)

I THINK the really perfect novel needs to contain a good plot, a certain amount of laughter, charm, and romance, and I also like the character studies to be cleverly drawn out. For these reasons I am particularly fond of the book entitled "An Introduction to Sally". Although the author of this book has written many brilliant novels, she has always retained her nom-de-plume, "The Author of 'Elizabeth

while the best that is in human nature is extolled.

The heroine is a study of womanhood at her best. Not only does she have an uplifting influence upon her associates in the book, but also on the readers of the book.

Her heart is large enough to mother all who are in distress of any kind. The young folk all feel that in her they have a wise counsellor, a loving and trustworthy friend. True to womanhood, she revels in having a finger in the making of other people's matrimonial pies. The beauty of her character is enhanced by her sordid surroundings, like the water-lily is which grows in a filthy pond. All the minor characters are just as cleverly and skillfully portrayed as is the heroine, and one puts the book down with real regret that it is ended.—Mrs. H. Gedge.

"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.

An Artistic Concert

IN the Wellington Cesaroni Studio, where surroundings and atmosphere are instinct with the love and study of musical art, last Saturday evening was presented another of the recurring and artistic pupils' concerts. Dramatic and musicianly excerpts from opera were contributed by Signor Cesaroni, and were warmly applauded, as was to be expected by those who have appreciated over the air his noble voice and ardent temperament; the fact that there are delightful voices in New Zealand being demonstrated by his students, "Caro mio ben" and the delightful "Gavotte" from "Mignon" especially delighting the audience. Two youthful, talented pianoforte soloists gave skilful interpretation of Sinding and Rachmaninoff; and the general camaraderie between performers and audience was intensified by the presence of a member of the Grand Opera Company (at present enchanting the Capital City) in the person of Signor Izal, whose magnificent performance in "Rigoletto" during the past week was eulogised by Signor Cesaroni in his few and graceful words of welcome to the distinguished visitor.

Books.

Last Post.—Ford Madox Ford.

THIS remarkable addition to the notable series of war and post-war sketches by a brilliant writer of fiction, essays, and verse, is worthy of the close attention of students of the scope and trend of the modern novel.

Extraordinarily interesting is the presentment of Mark Tietgens, typical British Conservative, condemned in his last years to paralysed speechlessness, although following affairs with a deadly clarity and making vitriolic mental comment on men and women—the latter in particular—who pass before his vision. Much of the story is revealed through the medium of this acute consciousness of the passing show; also as it presents itself to the eyes of his French light-o'-love, Marie Leonie, ultimately Lady Tietgens, who nurses her man with sacrificial devotion, and whose naive and startlingly frank comments on Briton and Gaul make illuminating reading. Then there is Christopher, another and widely-differing Tietgen, with his devotion to old furniture and the family home; and entire lack of it for Sylvia, his lawful spouse, that corrupt, lovely, and unscrupulous liar, surely the most hateful female in fiction.

The literary style is episodic and asmodic in the mode of the moment, events being visualised through the minds of the protagonists; all allied with allusions to the beauty of the English countryside, and unerring insight into various aspects of the social upheaval of post-war Britain, with the disastrous tragical reactions upon a helpless humanity.

"Last Post" will make strong appeal to the intelligentsia, but is not for the squeamish, the narrow-visioned, or those whose taste is moulded by the works of Edgar Wallace or Mr. Oppenheim.—R.U.R.

"Home, Health, and Garden."

Several inquiries have come to hand regarding a book entitled "Home, Health, and Garden," mentioned in this column on July 27. It is being published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (publication department), Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2. We are not aware that any advanced copies have yet reached New Zealand.

Lotion for Chapped Hands.

WOMEN whose hands have to be constantly in and out of water make a mistake in using creams and lotions that tend to over-soften the skin and render it more liable to chapping. For preventing roughness and chapping this lotion is excellent: Take equal quantities of glycerine, methylated spirits and lemon juice, and put in a bottle. Shake well before use. The glycerine heals, the methylated spirit hardens, and the lemon juice cleanses and whitens the skin.

and Her German Garden', " the title of the book which first brought her fame. This, no doubt, is the reason why the name of Countess M. A. von Arnheim as a novelist is not more widely known.

The theme of the story is delightfully unusual, at the same time quite within the realms of possibility. The heroine, Sally, is possessed of almost startling loveliness, and yet she has had a gutter upbringing, the beauty being as impossible to hide as the gutter—in fact, it is strange how completely Sally doesn't match. Some of the situations which arise—for instance, when Sally marries and enters society—are exquisite. Withal, Sally has a sweet and charming nature, which endears her to all readers.—"Fountain Pen."

"No. 7, Brick Row."

(By M. Riley.)

"NO. 7, Brick Row," by M. Riley, has a special charm for me because the author has such a good understanding of human nature, and the characters in it are so realistically portrayed that one does not read many pages before one feels that they are beloved and intimate friends. Every page is vitally interesting.

Humour and pathos are interwoven from beginning to end. Every emotion is skilfully portrayed and true to life,