

day, its attempt to forget the past, its meditation and its trances, furnish Sir Walter Besant with material for a kind of Psychical Society novel. Gilbert meets his fate in one of the sisters called Cicely, who had been born in the House, and was something like a daughter to the old Master. The hideous dress of the sisterhood cannot disguise the girl's beauty, and the growth of her love for Gilbert forms an interesting study. The attempt of Sister Phœbe to secure Gilbert for herself, and Brother Silas' pretensions to Cicely, give a touch of humour to the situation, and the way in which these two unattractive members of the community are finally linked together is really worthy of a Greek tragedy.

*The Grey Man.* By S. R. CROCKETT. T. F. Unwin. 6s.

This is the most powerful book that Mr. Crockett has produced. The scene is laid on the borders of Galloway and in Ayrshire, during the turbulent times before James I. became King of England as well as Scotland. The feuds between the Kennedies of Bargany and the Kennedies of Cassillis furnish as plentiful a crop of adventures, raids and murders, street fights, and pitched battles on the moors, as any mediæval romance. The hero of the book is young Lancelot Kennedy, who lives with his master, Sir Thomas Kennedy, of Culzean. Sir Thomas had been tutor to his nephew, the Earl of Cassillis, and his love of peace and delight in religion stand out in strange contrast to the spirit of his neighbours. Lancelot has to act the part of Providence to his venerable master, and he revels in blows and perils. His love for Nell Kennedy, his master's daughter, gives a flavour of peace and domesticity to the feuds and plots of the border. John Mure, the Grey Man, is the villain of the story, and his death on the scaffold at Edinburgh is a very powerful scene. The hideous shore cannibals, to whom we are introduced, are too repulsive and unnatural. We wish Mr. Crockett had kept them out of his book, but he has a strange liking for such things, and these monstrosities certainly add the touch of horror that some people claim in a story. The book is full of blood, but it is in its way a real masterpiece.

*Mrs. Cliff's Yacht.* By FRANK R. STOCKTON. Cassell & Co.

Mrs. Cliff, the widow of a village merchant at Plainton, Maine, returns to her old home as a millionaire, and is sorely troubled as to the best means of adjusting herself to her new conditions of life. Mr. Stockton gives an amusing description of the perplexities brought by her sudden wealth. When she is most troubled, Mr. Burke, a sailor friend, appears on the scene. He had shared in Mrs. Cliff's good fortune, and now makes himself her adviser and business man. He, too, has been sorely puzzled how to dispose of his more modest fortune, but,