

Our Southern Highlanders, by Horace Kephart. Illustrated. \$2.50. Grafton Publishing Co., New York City.

Mr. Kephart felt in his heart that "the chair" which he had set out for folks who live in the Appalachian Mountains, so he went and lived among them for years. The result of this sojourn in the region remote to this in his native, well-written, attractively-presented book, one of the best on this subject. Indeed, outside of fiction, the only one that we are somewhat ignorant of reliable information concerning our Southern mountaineers.

"I do the very best I know how—the very best I can, and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out all wrong, ten angels swearing I was right make no difference."—Abraham Lincoln.



It is shown that these mountaineers are the descendants of the Scotch, Scotch-Irish, Irish and Pennsylvania Dutch who drove the Indians from the Allegheny border, formed our rear guard in the American Revolution, followed the mountains southward, settled Western Virginia and Carolina, and formed the vanguard westward into Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and so onward till there was no longer a West to conquer. Some of their descendants are still holding the fastnesses of the Alleghenies, the Blue Ridge, and the Unakas, and became, in turn, the progenitors of that singular race which we call the mountaineers. It is now commonly known as "the mountain whites" but properly Southern Highlanders.

The virtues and faults of such people are frankly discussed. It is shown that, largely speaking, these mountaineers are temperate as regards the use of strong liquor, although they drink whisky, often as medicine, and in a region where medicine and physicians are not much known. The practice of "moonshining" or illicit distilling is shown to be a survival of the whisky-smuggling days of their ancestors in far-away Scotland and Ireland. Mr. Kephart thinks that the mountaineers would better their condition if they would terrace their hills to prevent the erosion of soil and procure arable soil on clear lands.

Another help would be the emigration of Swiss dairymen and others to the Appalachian Mountains. Mr. Kephart tells this story, showing the dry humor of these mountain-Americans: "Oh, shuck! Bill Cope," put in "Doc" Jones, "but about wind storms? Now, I've had some experience up here that'll do to tell about. You remember the big storm that came down when the cattle all huddled up a-top of each other and fit in one pile, solid?" "Fit in?" "Well, it was a-boridin' over at the Spencer place, and the wind sprang up, and the wind sprang up. That come out terrible yeg-rows blow that just nacherally tilted the roof down, and I went a-sailin' end-over-end."

number 235, the eight full-page illustrations are in fine color, and the series consists of "Strange Stories of a Nervous Gentleman," "The Million Bandit" and "The Money-Diggers." Any boy who can read easily will appreciate this volume, which measures, on the outside, nine and one-half inches by seven inches.

The Railway Library and Statistics for 1912, compiled and edited by Gustav Thom, 50 cents. Stromberg, Allen & Co., New York City.

Twenty-seven selected addresses and papers, mostly delivered and published during the year 1912, on railroads, and containing many interesting and not attacking railroad interests, but a fair presentation of facts. Two of the papers are by James H. Hill, and the other by Justice Hughes, of the United States Supreme Court. The pages are 470, and the book is valuable for reference purposes.

Fascination, by Cecil Chapman Lewis, \$1.25. John Lane Company, New York City.

Mr. Lewis has written a readable and entertaining novel about life and femininity in Burma. The characters of the professor, his wife and a snake charmer are ably drawn.

A Fool and His Money, by George Barr McCutcheon, \$1.50. Illustrated. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York City.

A Mr. Smart, a New Yorker, who has been left a fortune by his uncle, gets off to a bad start, but by the aid of an agent, and buys a feudal castle on the banks of the Danube. Here are under-

ground dungeons, a buried treasure, a mysterious Countess, her little child, and lots of romance. Out of the wealth of this beautiful Mr. McCutcheon has created a splendid novel, where his imagination runs riot.

Patina, by Rowland Thomas, \$1.55. Illustrations by J. Duncan Gleason. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

The moral of this attractive novel of Egypt—and that vicinity—is that a woman should always pick a fool for her husband. Patina, the heroine, did it, and has a surprising and amusing adventure. She began making a fool of herself by marrying All the Fool, but left him, went to Mecca, became one of the most beautiful women in the East, fell in love with a man named Abdullah. Being a clever woman, she made other fools of many other men, and in the end actually wins out.

Jewels in Brass, by Jittie Horlick, \$1.85. Brentano's, New York City.

An English novel, with royalty in it and lots of romance and love. JOSEPH M. QUENTIN.

White Witch, by Meriel Buchanan, \$1.20. Brentano's, New York City.

A healthy, stirring story for boys. The pages are 213.

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POLK COUNTY LIGHTENS MONOTONY FOR PUPILS

Study of Dairying Introduced—Mechanical Work of Farm Made Easier. Monthly Spelling Contests Conducted Throughout County.



burdens of rural life by creating competition among the rural schools. In this way the students of each school take a pride in winning for their school a pennant, standing among the highest on the list. Since the plan was originated and put into practice, thousands of words have been spelled by Polk County pupils. Some rural schools have received as high as 100 per cent for several months.

Important in the work of keeping boys and girls on the farm is the "Home Credit System." This method is the allowance of a given number of credits for work done at home outside of school hours, such as milking cows, helping in the housework, general farm work, walking a long distance to school. The system has succeeded in making the pupils realize that the performance of the every-day duties of life is a real part of education.

Some other things in Polk's school system which are improving school life in the country are the "Teacher-Parent meetings" and standard school requirements in the "Teacher-Parent meetings" which are held in the homes of the teachers. A closer relationship between the teachers and patrons of the district is being established. The Cochran School, north of Monmouth, and the Elkins rural school, south of Monmouth, are the only two rural schools which are situated a short distance from Monmouth. In these two schools, especially, studies have been made practical and pleasant, while burdensome tasks have been eliminated.

By LUCIEN F. ABRAHAM. MONMOUTH, Ore., Nov. 22.—(Special.)—Rural school life no longer is one of dreariness and loneliness in Polk County. Innovations placed in the schools this year have awakened keen interest among the pupils.

Early in the summer plans were made by W. A. Barry, of the Oregon Agricultural College, and County Superintendent of Schools Seymour to adopt in the rural schools a new study. This was to be the study of dairying, which includes a thorough investigation of the county's possibilities for dairymen, monthly herd tests, and milk and cream analyses. A number of Babcock testers were ordered and have just been placed in operation. Not only do Polk County pupils study dairying conditions now, but many have cows of their own. An interest, never before in the history of Polk County, has been centered during the past month on this new study.

Early Memories, by Henry Cabot Lodge, \$2.50. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City.

In "Early Memories," Senator Lodge tells the eventful story of his busy life from the year of his birth, 1850, until the early '90s, and the record is a remarkably modest, luminous one. It is American in scope, with an intellectual cast.

The period described in Senator Lodge's growing one, before he began to be such a National figure in American politics and power in the United States Senate, in a word—before the Roosevelt regime. The volume, of 362 pages, has a wealth of historical references and anecdotes of quite considerable interest. It is a pity that Senator Lodge writes so often in its pages words in foreign languages without giving the translation.

The chapter heads are: Heredity; Earliest Memories, 1850-1860; "The Olympians," 1860-1865; Boyhood, 1860-1867; The War, 1860-65; Europe, 1866-67; Harvard, 1867-71; Retrospect and Contrast; Europe Again, 1871-72; Starting Life, 1873-1880; and Public Men and Letters. The record ends with a mention of Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Senator Lodge says in conclusion that the story of his public life may be written after it if his time and strength will permit.

Geutenen Rovers, by E. Alexander Powell, \$1.50. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City.

If you want a Christmas present for a man with plenty of red blood in his veins, a man fond of reading about "red war," get him this book, "Geutenen Rovers." It tells of bold rovers and fighters who by their own hands changed the map of the world. Peace-at-any-price men won't probably like this book, but their number in the world is small—thanks be! The chapters are: For Rent, An Army on Elephants; When We Captured an African King; The Last Fight of the "General Armstrong"; The Pirate Who Turned Patriot; The Man Who Dared to Cross the Kangas; The Flag of the Bear; The King of the Pilgrims; Cities Captured by Contract. All the heroes described are Americans.

The Story of Agatha Ann, by George Tillman Sneed, \$1. The John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia.

Amid the rush of books at this season of the year, "The Story of Agatha Ann" stands out in bold relief as one of pure gold. It tells of a little, neglected orphan girl named Agatha Ann of Virginia. Her father was a Confederate soldier who was killed in the Civil War, and her mother died at her birth. Agatha was what the world calls an ugly child, but she had a beautiful soul. She was reared by Aunt Sarah, a shrew who was no relation, and Aunt Sarah flogged her with a beautiful rod. She was reared by her, and Miss Piety Blotch plucked her arms. The world looks black to Agatha, when a great happiness comes to her.

The Custom of the Country, by Edith Wharton, \$1.35. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City.

Anything that this gifted authority writes is worth while. Her stories are uniformly excellent. Her new novel, "The Custom of the Country," is American in its text, is money, modern society and the social topics of the moment, its conversation is first-class and plot splendid.

Tales From Washington Irving's "Traveler," Illustrated, \$2.50. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

With illustrations by George Hood, this reprint of an old favorite book, an American classic, comes to us just in time to be included in one's list of possible Christmas presents. The pages

of "The Custom of the Country" are uniformly excellent. Her new novel, "The Custom of the Country," is American in its text, is money, modern society and the social topics of the moment, its conversation is first-class and plot splendid.

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