

GOSSIP ABOUT SOME CURRENT BOOKS

"Light literature," says Book News, "is a vicious term and should be expelled from books and conversation. Various as are its moods, from grave to gay, from lively to severe, literature is never 'light.'"

Books which are "light"—meaning we append the silly bubbles of a shallow mind—are not literature. In order that a book should be classed as literature it must have a certain high quality of thought and style which will satisfy those whose experience has been wide enough and their capacity great enough to fix the standard of excellence. The importance of a high standard cannot be too much insisted upon. It will not do to call anything great but the best.

The difference may be seen in the writings of one who uses the pen to serve the purposes of the day, and one whose works come to us year after year, in new holiday garb, but singing the same sweet, old songs, be they prose or poetry. Such are the Thackerays. It is a fact almost unknown, that Mrs. Thackeray was also a writer, and in her time had some reputation. But what she wrote has almost vanished. Among her writings were "Reminiscences of an American Visit" and like several other English writers of her time who visited America, found little congenial to her mining fastidiousness, and vented her spleen through her book, which, from cover to cover, mentions but two people she met in America, in a complimentary way. We know of but one copy of this book in America, and that is owned by the editor of the Philadelphia Record. By contrast we make mention of the magnificent edition of her genial, warm-hearted husband's works, fresh from the press of Harper & Brothers. Each year brings fresh new editions, but in this one the art of the book-binder has excelled itself and given one of the most perfect editions ever published.

"Liber and Ingrais," by Warwick Deening, is one of the very best of the new books. The principal characters are exceptionally strong and well portrayed. The author has written with a style truly his own and tells his story with such beauty and simplicity that he holds his reader from the first to the last page. The book is full of thrilling scenes and the inspiring honor and bravery of the knights of long ago. The story deals with the supposed father and mother of King Arthur of "Round Table" fame. The book is daintily bound in brown linen with conventional designs of gold and colors and illustrated. We predict it will hold its place among the most popular Christmas books, and will later be considered a valuable addition to the library. Outlook Publishing company. Price \$1.50.

"The Forest," by Steward Edward White, comes to us freighted with the recollections of one summer vacation and full of valuable information for our next year's outings. It can hardly be called a story, for it is just the wanderings of "Billy and I." Two lovers of nature who have learned to "go light" and enjoy life, and is based on a trip through the wilds of Northern Michigan and Canada, made afoot and by canoe. The charm of the book lies in the happy way the author presents the most familiar things of nature, exposing a beauty never dreamed of before. The book is written, as one can readily see,

from actual experience, for the practical manner in which Mr. White deals with the things of nature and bends them to his use and service, could be learned in no other way, hence furnishes valuable information, even to the most experienced camper. For the student of botany "The Forest" would be a treat, and for the scientist the words of the wisest of Roman emperors would be confirmed. "Everything harmonizes with me which is harmonious to thee, O Universe. Nothing is too early for me which is in due time for thee. Everything is fruit to me which thy seasons bring, O Nature; from thee are all things; in thee are all things; to thee all things return." The book is handsomely bound in the tones of Christmas, holly and embellished with 15 illustrations, the work of Mr. White's companion on the trip. Outlook Publishing company. Price, \$1.50.

"The Lorch," by Herbert M. Hopkins, may be said to be rather a story of today than an up-to-date book, while the latter would not be an improper appellation.

An available widow is introduced, to make a romance of the story, but without the widow the book might furnish material for our modern educators to cogitate upon. It represents indisputable conditions in some of the great universities of today, but would be a sad commentary, if it represented the up-to-date ideas of education. We use the words "indisputable conditions" advisedly, for some of the leading characters are so thinly veiled we almost feel we are reading some university sensations of a year or two ago, with the irrefragable "lady reporter" and the "yellow journal" thrown in. The story deals almost wholly with the faculty, except as it brings in the student body as an influencing force, and those, whose lives have been cast near a university town, will find familiar friends in Lee, the genial, affable professor; Tyne, the nimble, resourceful sycophant; Everett, the wise old owl; or Stuart, the Scotchman, who has nothing but criticism for American slipshod methods, to say nothing of Plover, the real hero of the book, and Habington, the suave, pompous and well-dressed president, whose blandishments bring money from a rich old woman, at the cost of higher and more thorough education at the university. Bobbs-Merrill company, publishers. Price, \$1.50.

"The Circle in the Square," by Baldwin Sears, is a most interesting novel, dealing with the social and political side of Southern life and bringing forward in the strongest, if not altogether newest, light the color question. The story is well written and the strong, sweet romance running through it would, in itself, recommend the book, but added to this the simple, forceful way Mr. Sears puts the important issues of the day, brings out the character of the Southern gentleman as well as the negro and leaves the reader to solve the problems for himself. The personality of the author is exciting to little attention, as the publishers, at the request of Mr. Sears, have absolutely refused to give any information except to say that he desires to be known only through his book. A. S. Barnes & Co., publishers. Price, \$1.50.

"English Composition," by Miss Lucia Clay Carson, comes nearer meeting the present day demand for knowledge in

a nut shell than any publication of recent date. Eminent fitted for the work by years of experience, as professor of rhetoric and English literature at the University of Oregon, Miss Carson has given to the public, in compact form, standard rules for correct English, written or spoken. Comprehensive as Collett or Alfred Ayers, but of such simple form and phrasing that neither study nor reference is required to comprehend the writer's meaning. The rules have been, in the main, taken from standard authors in the reference library of the university, but bound together under headings, and in such a systematic manner, that it is alike a book of ready reference for the pupil or the busy writer. The book contains a number of blank pages, scattered throughout, for pencil annotations, and is in neat binding and convenient size for carrying. Price 40 cents. Book trade generally. J. K. Gill company, publishers.

BOOK NOTES.

The Frederick Stokes company has announced for publication about the middle of November a little book by "Ruth Ogden" (Mrs. Charles W. Ide), entitled, "Friendship; The Good and Perfect Gift; A Christmas Message." It will be in charming cover design and intended for an inexpensive gift. Price not yet announced.

It will be pleasing to note that Quentin MacDonald, a critic of more than ordinary ability and discernment, has recently said that Mr. Edwin Markham easily takes the lead in the small group we now have of American poets. Edwin Markham was born in Oregon City and made his reputation when he wrote "The Man With the Hoe," while teaching in California.

MAGAZINES.

Almost before the advent of the month for which the magazines are issued, the "issues" which they have taken for their "cover" numbers, and their opinions on their field for future usefulness, as prophesied, destroyed. Noticeably in this fact in Review of Reviews for November, which gave so much space to "What if Panama Would Revolt?" Scarcely had the ink grown cold before Panama had settled the question and left Dr. Albert Shaw to handle the "youngest republic" in the December number.

McClure, as usual, is devoting much space in the current number to the labor question. The Labor Box, by the redoubtable Ray Stannard Baker, takes the lead. "New York," by Lincoln Steffens, has a fair place. "My Friend Prospero" still drags its weary length along, but this may be forgiven in view of the fact that six bright little stories are given place.

Harper's Monthly is practically strong this month. Mary Johnston's new story, "Sir Mortimer," promises well. "Scientists and Food Problems" is a strong article. Quaint old pictures of Quebec and a beautiful colored frontispiece are among the attractions.

"Captains of Industry" is still running in the Cosmopolitan. Sir William Van Horn, with his salary of \$80,000, received attention from W. R. Stewart and Matthew C. D. Borden, president of the Falls River mills, and also the American Printing company, by Robert N. Burnett. "Jerusalem As It Is Today" is an interesting article. Among the lighter reading is a pretty New Zealand love story.

COAL FIELDS ARE OF GREAT EXTENT

DEPOSITS NEAR HEPPNER PROBABLY THE LARGEST DISCOVERED IN RECENT YEARS—PRODUCT CAN BE BROUGHT TO PORTLAND AT MINIMUM EXPENSE.

G. Y. Harry, organizer of the American Federation of Labor, has returned from a trip to Heppner, where he effected the permanent organization of a federal labor union. It has a membership of 45. Mr. Harry says that the coal deposits which have been discovered near Heppner give evidence of being the most extensive fields that have been discovered in recent years. "It might be of interest to know," he continued, "that a car of coal can be loaded at the mines and sent down to Portland by gravitation, there being an easy down grade the entire distance. I found the people of Eastern Oregon intensely interested in the prospect of the early building of the Cello canal, and am satisfied that if the proper effort should be made there would be no difficulty in securing a sufficient amount of money with which to provide the right of way as requested by a board of United States engineers. The building of this canal, these people understand, would mean the enhancement of the value of every acre of land east of The Dalles. The engineers should not be permitted to longer delay the construction of this important work, and the last obstacle in the way should be removed by providing the means for securing the route free of cost to the government. With the completion of this canal and the development of the coal fields in Morrow county it would be possible to erect bunkers at the bluff about one-quarter of a mile below Heppner junction, where the coal could be dumped on barges and floated down stream to Portland. To make the mining company independent of present railroad facilities an electric line could be constructed from the mines to the bunkers at Heppner junction, which would be a down-grade haul all the way. The necessary power would be provided at the mines by using the cheap product for fuel. This would insure cheap coal to the whole state and Portland in particular would reap the benefit of it."

PHYSICIAN FAILS TO COLLECT BILL

Because he said that the physician in charge of the case did not give his wife the best of care, Dr. J. S. Hickman refused to pay the bill of Dr. J. S. Hickman for \$18. The latter assigned the claim to the Ames Mercantile agency and this corporation brought suit in the East Side court for the amount. The case came up before a jury yesterday. The evidence showed that Dr. Hickman was called to attend Mrs. Newman and a short time afterward she was taken violently ill and had to be removed to a hospital and an operation performed. Her condition was such that Dr. Hickman attended Mrs. Newman up and sent in a bill for \$14 and of this amount the sum of \$26 was paid—the balance being refused on the ground that the physician did not attend the patient properly. Expert testimony by Drs. Parker, Pettit and Royal showed that Mrs. Newman died of septic peritonitis. The jury was out about 10 minutes and brought in a verdict for the defendant.

CROSSED WIRES RING FIRE ALARM

The numerous toots of the fire whistles yesterday were caused by crossed wires in East Portland. The trouble was caused by the crossing of many wires and when the wind blew the wires touched, forming a circuit. This caused the gongs in the engine houses to ring and the whistles to blow. The trouble was soon remedied by the electricians.

A TEST EXPERIMENT. Peculiar Power Possessed By a New Medicine.

Of new discoveries there is no end, but one of the most recent and most remarkable and one which will prove invaluable to thousands of people, is a discovery which it is believed will take the place of all other remedies for the cure of those common and obstinate diseases, dyspepsia and stomach troubles. This discovery is not a loud advertised secret patent medicine, but is a scientific combination of wholesome, perfectly harmless vegetable substances, fruit salts, pure pepsin and bismuth.

These remedies are combined in lozenge form, pleasant to take, and will preserve the good qualities indefinitely, whereas all liquid medicines rapidly lose whatever good qualities they may have when they are uncorked and exposed to the air.

This preparation is called Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, and it is claimed that one of these Tablets dissolved in water will digest from 300 to 3,000 times its own weight of meat, eggs and other food. The good quality of these Tablets has been proven by actual experiments in the following manner: A hard-boiled egg cut into small pieces was placed in a bottle containing warm water heated to ninety-eight degrees (or blood heat), one of these Tablets was then placed in the bottle and the proper temperature maintained for three hours and a half, at the end of which time the egg was completely dissolved. This experiment has been in a healthy stomach. This experiment was undertaken to demonstrate that what it would do in the bottle it would also do in the stomach, hence its unquestionable value in the cure of dyspepsia and weak digestion. The few people who are free from some form of indigestion, but scarcely two will have the same symptoms. Some will vomit, some will have distress after eating, bloating from gas in the stomach and bowels, others have acid dyspepsia or heartburn, others palpitation or headache, sleeplessness at night, and under shoulder blades, extreme nervousness as in nervous dyspepsia, but they have the same nature and if they do not properly digest what is eaten. The stomach must have rest and assistance, and Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets give it both, by digesting the food for it and in a short time it is restored to its normal action and vigor. At the same time the food is digested and the stomach can take them with benefit. This new preparation has already made many astonishing cures, as for instance, the following:

After using only one package of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets I have received such great and unexpected relief that I wish to express my sincere gratitude. In fact, it has been six months since I took the package and I have not had one particle of distress or difficulty since. And all this in the face of the fact that the doctor I consulted told me my case was Chronic Dyspepsia and absolutely incurable, as I had suffered twenty-five years. I distributed but a dozen packages among my friends here, who are very anxious to try this remedy.

MRS. SARAH A. SKEEL, Lynnville, Jaeger Co. Mo. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by all druggists. Write for full-sized packages. A little book on Stomach Diseases mailed free by Messrs. F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

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HIGHWAYMEN CAUGHT HIM PENILESS

Peter McLean of 668 Front street, was the victim of a holdup at Fourth and Lincoln streets about 2 o'clock yesterday morning. He claims that he met two armed highwaymen who compelled him to stop and hold up his hands while they searched his pockets. The robbery was a failure, as McLean happened to have no money. The matter was reported to the police late last night.

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