



# NEW BOOKS and their Publishers

**"TURKEY and the Turks,"** by W. S. Monroe.—Nothing could be more apropos than the arrival of this book just at this particular time, when at the leading

item of foreign news is the massing of Russian troops on the frontier presumably for the purpose of again, in the near future, pitting her strength against Turkey.

To most people Turkey is such a vague country, full of unpronounceable names and picturesque mosques, terrible sultans and bedazzled harems, that if a war should break out between these two powers very few would realize the questions involved, the tremendous influence it would exert upon the nations of the world or the probability of all the great countries of the earth being drawn into the vortex.

How many things about the Ottoman empire? Still less are they familiar with their habits, customs or mode of living. It is just along these lines that Mr. Monroe has written; he has gone lightly into statistics, but has dwelt at interesting length on the history of Turkey, which reads like a great romance of heroic proportions, though of cruelty and barbaric splendor; he first, however, straightens out the reader on his geography of the country, which is quite necessary for most people before they will have a very clear conception of what or where they are reading about.

This is no reflection on the reader, for Turkey has changed the geography of Europe and Asia more often and more rapidly, perhaps, than any nation of the world, for as the author tells us in his preface that in less than three centuries the Mediterranean and the Black Sea were lost to the Ottoman power. The author does not spare his criticism of the great European powers that have contributed to the delinquency of Turkey in her attitude to other countries or to her treatment of some of the provinces which she had acquired.

Mr. Monroe gives a graphic description of the women of Turkey, concluding by saying: "I marvel that Turkey could produce so many good men from a motherhood so stunted and impoverished in strength and moral vigor."

But the book is not all severely critical; the author sees many beautiful things, and what are not beautiful or admirable he describes in such a lucid and direct manner they become matters of interest and education. Few books on Turkey appeal more to the lay reader than this, for it is not pretentious enough to be history, and yet it contains just those things that will interest people who want entertainment and instruction and who forewent fiction.

The book is exquisitely bound, in tones of gray with the moose of St. Sophia breaking through a cloud-like

effect for cover design, and it is elaborately illustrated with photographic reproductions. L. C. Page & Co., J. K. Gill, Portland. Price \$2.50.

"The Borrowed Baby," by Lillian Brock.—A quaint little story with a decided moral, which is, "Do not borrow." Father and mother, little Jean and Charlotte, the black mammy, formed the Blaine family and were designated little Jean as "Fadde," "Little Mury," "Girle" and "Cookie," and all lived together in a little house called the "B-hive." After living in this secluded place for a long while some neighbors, at length, moved to a vacant house across the road, which very much distressed "Cookie," who said, when she heard the news of their arrival: "Mis' Blake at the postoffice says it'll be nice for us to have neighbors; but I says no. There's sure to be a parcel of children, and they'll get to runnin' over here and allays wantin' to borrow. Oh, I know neighbors. Be a terrible set of friends, says I, but neighbors is different."

The parcel of children sure enough arrived and just as surely the borrowing began, but it was confined by no means, to the new neighbors and the family from the B-hive were very glad to have someone to borrow from as well as to lend to. But the borrowing was not entirely of material things, for with these came, at least on one occasion, the borrowing of a good deal of trouble, and a few anxious hours, with it, which added zest to the story. It is a sweet little tale intended for young readers, but it is a very attractive bound and has a number of pretty illustrations by Madge Robertson. Richard G. Badger Co. Price, 75 cents.

"The Breath of the Mountains," by Beverly Doran.—This is a collection of unusually fine and meritorious poems, the volume taking its title from the first poem. This little poem is but two stanzas long, but is sweet and pure, the poems would indicate a poet of appreciable and artistic temperament on the part of the author, who repeatedly throughout the book shows a fine sense of the subjects of his song. In many of the poems there is also manifest the most delicate and refined sensitiveness, as for instance, the poem "A Presence, in the Room," while "The Winds Are Sculptors of the Clouds," shows the author's originality and vivid and picturesque imagination. This poem was written at St. Moritz, Switzerland, and is certainly of unusual merit. It is seldom one finds a collection of poems that are so entirely good as this volume has. The book itself is a little picture in gray and silver. The Poet Lore Co. Price, \$1.00.

"Out of the Depths," by Carrie B. Vaughan.—As the title would indicate, the poems in this volume are of a devotional nature. In all of them the poet's heart is in the subject, or indeed the text as well, shows little original thought, and less poetic imagination. Some of the poems are in minor key, and they are almost wholly of a devotional nature. In all of them the poet's heart is in the subject, or indeed the text as well, shows little original thought, and less poetic imagination. Some of the poems are in minor key, and they are almost wholly of a devotional nature. In all of them the poet's heart is in the subject, or indeed the text as well, shows little original thought, and less poetic imagination.

"Songs of Many Days," by Florence Evelyn Pratt.—About sixty poems are contained in this volume, few of them exceeding in length a page, and they are of all shades of merit—some in the first rank of excellence, some indifferently good and a few that should not be given a place in a volume of as much worth as this. The poems are not confined to any particular line of thought or style, but vary from the touching and descriptive nature to the humorous and quaint dialect of the Yankee. A number are devoted to special days and a few to distinguished people. In the poems there is some good original thought, without, however, much imagination, the most of them being of rather a practical nature. The following little quatrain entitled "Edelweiss" shows more real poetic fancy than is displayed in almost any of the longer poems:

"White in the silence of some heavenward Alps,  
Like sacred crystals of a lover's tears,  
They seem the ghost of blossoms which have paled,  
Pressed between leaves of long remembrance."  
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belief that 'all is for the best,' that 'all dark clouds have silver linings,' etc. but an unintelligent, or only half-intelligent optimist may be too confident in its main hypothesis to make an effort to help it along by personal assistance. Half-blind optimism denies the existence of evil, proclaims the light will not admit there is a shadow. It is altogether unsympathetic with sorrow because it denies its cause for sorrow exists."

Meliorism is the reasonable middle-ground between blind or intemperate optimism and doubly debased pessimism. Meliorism is a disease—a brain disease—a product of indigestion—a result of ignorance—a libel on facts—its remedy is a course of Divine Providence—a wicked lie—a vicious untruth—a blot—a rotten spot in character.

To attain the desired optimism the author insists that the only requisite is perfect health and from this standpoint he argues out his thesis and will insure this perfect condition of the human body, and insists that it is the proper absorption of the food into the system through the digestive tract. Mr. Fletcher has been so insistent upon his ideas and has given them such satisfactory and practical results, that his experiments have added a new word—"Fletcherizing"—to our vocabulary.

The book in every particular is well worth reading, for it is a volume of cheerfulness and if he is right in his belief that every one can see the bright side of life, in the simple and easy way, it is quite worth the experiment, and even without being convinced that thorough mastication of the food has a direct bearing on our outlook upon life. Mr. Fletcher says many other good and true things that will benefit anyone who reads. The book is attractively bound and is available at the following places: C. McClurg & Co., J. K. Gill, Portland.

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Mrs. Humphrey Ward is expected to arrive in this country in March for a long-postponed visit. She will be the guest of Mrs. Frederick V. Whitridge and the Hon. Charles D. Walcott, daughter of Matthew Arnold, is her cousin. Mrs. Ward's novel, "The Testing of Diana Mallory," running in Harper's Magazine, will reach full swing during the author's sojourn here. The visit will be the first Mrs. Ward has ever made to America.

At the time when Sir Gilbert Parker went into Parliament it was prophesied that he would neglect literature, through the material surroundings of political life. The actual difference seems to have been only that he neglected fewer works and fewer stories, and has become convinced that slower production is better for his work. "The Weavers," still another edition of which the Harpers have just announced, is testimony to the success of this method for Sir Gilbert at least, whether or not the Italian novel "The Face of a Tempting Present-day reward for the best sellers.

"Through Italy With Car and Camera," by Dan Fellows Pratt.—In his effective, lively, and well-informed description of his journey through Italy, Mr. Pratt has produced a book that will appeal alike to the art-lover and motorist. The author's intimate knowledge of Italy and of Italy's art treasures is evinced at every point. Reminiscences of student days in Rome, of college in Athens and of the author's trips to old Etruscan and Pelagic sites are woven into the story of the motor trip.

The author is a sympathetic and intimate art critic, and a lover of nature, and natural beauty and the beauty of art find a joint expression in this book. Italian novelists, the names of which are Mr. Pratt's publishers.

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sports owing to the same perversity of a veteran lagging superfluous on the stage when he ought to have left the boards empty for the keen theatergoer. It occurs to me that there was a considerable amount of information to be obtained about winds without discouraging on windiness.

Until one actually experiences it there is a lot of romance hanging around the sea in ships the wind affects us but little. In the great continents of India and Australia, however, the breaking of the rains is a matter of real moment of general interest to every one, of painful and keener anxiety to many, and in such cases the word is fraught with a meaning which is greater than ever book conveyed to the mind of man.

Apart from the winds of regular habit there are the many local winds which occur in different parts of the world and are generally unkind in character. Of such may be mentioned the simon, soroco, harmattan, the puna of Peru, the bitter northeaster of Britain, the mistral of Marseilles and that coast, the pampero of the Andes, with all these local breezes, though in fact they are oftentimes sales of some velocity, many curious effects are coupled, and one of the most noticeable of these is that the blowing of the genuine nor-easter at home is always coincident with the greatest number of deaths from consumption and brain disease.

There is here opened up a wide field of most interesting research for the curious in weather study and humanity lore for the effect of wind on the human body has never been as deeply considered as it might be. Thus in the lower planes of life the animals are distinctly affected by winds, and in particular cats, as any one will remember if they consider the peculiarities of cats when high winds are blowing. Cattle, too, are susceptible to winds, and not only more to the premonition of wind, while the blowing of a nor-wester will exhilarate some temperaments in a manner not quite the same as anything else will.

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