

LITERARY NOTES.

Some time in the spring the Macmillan Company will publish a new novel by James M. Allen. Other forthcoming novels announced by the same house are Winston Churchill's fourth story, which they hope to put on the market before the summer; a novel by Charles Major, in a field not hitherto entered by him, to appear in the course of the spring, and a new novel for the same time of publication written by William Stearns Davis author of "The Friend of Caesar" and "God Wills It."

An advertising page in a Sunday issue of one of the daily papers lately led a publisher to some generalizing on the trend of current writing. There was conspicuous among the advertisements a display of type about a new novel dealing with industrial speculation as its main theme. Another novel concerned a complex condition of political intrigue within a state. The third book was frankly sociological in its consideration of the discontent prevalent at the present time as to many economic conditions. The fourth volume advertised in this group was a book on home making. "One may press a theory too far into a chance appearance of publishers' announcements," was the comment this drew forth, "but that certainly seems to suggest—even by the fact that it is a chance grouping of mere advertisements—that the tendency in literature to-day is away from the contemplative. We are all so busy, so feverishly engaged in getting ahead in material comfort; it is such hard work to keep chin out of water these days, that we hardly have time to dream, to be seers, scarcely to be sentimental. The inspiration of the hour is 'hard-pan'; if a man has anything to say to us, we demand, in the phrase of one of my friends, that he 'come down to brass tacks.'"

Miss Mary Elizabeth Springer, recording secretary of the New-York City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, has written a book called "Elizabeth Schuyler, a Story of Old New-York" which will be issued in March. Miss Springer dedicates this book, her second, to "The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, noble hearted men and women who keep alive the memory of great deeds of yore to inspire and foster love of country."

The introduction to "The Woman That Tells," the book descriptive of industrial conditions among women workers by Bessie and Marie Van Vorst, is written by the President, but not, as had been understood, for the special purpose. It seems that while the articles were appearing serially in "Everybody's Magazine" the President wrote to the authors of his interest in their subject. He has consented to have this letter serve as an introduction to the collection of the papers in book form, which is being published by Doubleday, Page & Co.

Sir Walter Besant's "London in the Eighteenth Century," which he called his magnum opus, has been issued by the Macmillan Company, every day in London, though he had been walking about in it for thirty years. This book is a picture of the social London of the time, ranging from the Court to the haunts of well fed thieves. In addition to the historical notes, there is a description of the streets, the churches, and the government, trade, manners, customs and amusements of the time. The book also gives glimpses of the various prisons.

John H. Whitson, a native of Indiana and a newspaper correspondent who has had experience in describing the conditions at the famous Colorado mining camp at Cripple Creek, and is thoroughly familiar with the Rocky Mountain region, has used his material for a novel, called "Barbara, a Woman of the West," which will be issued by Little, Brown & Co. in the spring. The scene of the story is laid on a Western ranch, in Cripple Creek and in San Francisco.

"A Pastebard Crown," the novel of theatre life by Clara Morris, fired the imagination of one reader to such an extent that she sent the author a token of her admiration in a cross of eleven periods, a jewel of chrysolite found in meteoric stones. The gems were collected at a well known jeweler's by a woman who refused to give her name. On the back of the cross there was inscribed a legend in honor of the hero of the book, and a note which accompanied the gift read: "This heaven born jewel suits well sign something more than 'One of the Old Guard.'"

"The Circle" is the title of the first long piece of fiction written by Katherine C. Thurston. Dodd, Mead & Co. will publish the novel about the middle of next month. The story concerns a young Russian Jewess, the daughter of a demoted keeper of a London curiosity shop, who is discovered by a woman of wealth and transformed, after a period of training in Paris, into a successful actress. The idea of the "circle" lies in the return of the acclaimed artist to her humble surroundings when she hears of the effect her absence had on her father.

"The Girl at the Half Way House," a novel by Emerson Hough, is being reviewed in a cheap edition by D. Appleton & Co.

Miss Edith Wyatt's story of modern Chicago life, which she called "What's Worth While," is found to conflict in title with another publication, "True Love; A Comedy of the Affections" has been chosen to replace the original title.

Longmans, Green & Co. are publishing an essay by John Mackintosh called "The Religion of Plutarch." A Fagan Creed of Apostolic Times." Much original thinking had to be undertaken for the purpose, as the available versions are faulty. Speaking of the "Ethics" and the "Morals," the author says in his preface that the two well known volumes in the Bohn translation are "utterly misleading, not only as regards the color they infuse into Plutarch's style, but also as regards their conspicuous inaccuracies in many particular instances."

A story involving subjects of art and journalism has been written by Frances Charles, the author of "In the Country God Forgot," and will be published by Little, Brown & Co. It is called "The Siege of Youth." The scene is laid in San Francisco.

"The Journal of Arthur Stirling" will be published by D. Appleton & Co. on February 6.

Dodd, Mead & Co. announce for publication this month two novels by familiar writers: "Robin Brilliant," by Mrs. Dudeney, author of "The Maternity of Harriet Wicken" and "Spindle and Plough," and "The Gold Wolf," a story now running in "Munsey's Magazine," by Max Pemberton, author of "The Garden of Swords" and many other tales.

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