

Literary News and Criticism

How to Make Gardens and Appreciate Them.

MANUAL OF GARDENING. A Practical Guide to the Making of Home Grounds and the Growing of Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables for Home Use. By L. E. Macmillan Company.

INDOOR GARDENING. By Ellen E. Rexford. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 215. The H. P. Dutton & Co.

A HISTORY OF GARDENING IN ENGLAND. By the Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil. Gardeners of London. Third and enlarged edition. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 259. H. P. Dutton & Co.

Can a manual of gardening be of absorbing interest to those who have no gardens? Let us record the fact that Professor Bailey's new book is of that kind. His own interest in the subject he communicates to the reader—whom he wisely assures that reading a book and following it literally will not make him a gardener, and that he must always assume his own risks. As for the point of view, he notes that wherever there is sunlight plants may be made to grow and that one plant in a tin can may be a more helpful and inspiring garden to some mind than a whole acre of lawn and flowers may be to another. The true lover of a garden will keenly appreciate the statement that "gardens are moodish, particularly with the novice," and also the warning against rigid and arbitrary notions and against projects too ambitious. "Love the things nearest at hand and love intensely," says our author. "If I were to write a motto over the gate of a garden I should choose the remark that Socrates is said to have made as he saw the luxuries in the market: 'How much there is in the world that I do not want.'" Most excellent common sense animates the practical advice given in this volume, and we need seldom quarrel on questions of taste. We would prefer to see carpet bedding condemned except in narrow strips of ground surrounding metropolitan mansions—where, to be sure, this seems really in place. But as long as the owners of country estates or village acres or town parks like carpet beddings, so long, no doubt, it is as well to give instruction in the making of them. We are glad to see, however, that Professor Bailey dilates with no emotion whatever on this subject, reserving his most vigorous phrases for such matters as this:

The greatest defect with our flower growing is the stinkiness of it. We grow our flowers as if they were the choicest of meats to be cooked in a hot-bod or under a bell-lar, and then to be exhibited as single specimens in some conspicuous position. The flowers are not in the turf or perched upon an anthill that some gardener has laboriously heaped on a lawn. She goes to the other hand, grows many of her flowers in the most luxurious abundance, and one can pick the fragrance and smell a man grow a crop of corn. One can revel in the color and the fragrance and see that we should grow flowers freely when we make a flower garden. We should have enough of them to make the effort worth while.

We agree with the author in his insistence that the easiest way to spoil a good lawn is to put a flower bed in it, and the most effective way to show off flowers to the least advantage is to plant them in a bed in the greenward. "Flowers need a background," he adds. "We do not hang our pictures on fence posts. If flowers are to be grown on a lawn, let them be of the hardy kind, which can be naturalized in the sod and which grow freely in the tall, unmown grass; or else perennials of such nature that they make attractive clumps by themselves. Lawns should be free and generous, but the more they are cut up and worried with trivial effects the smaller and meaner they look." These are golden words. There is nothing about the arrangement and preparation of home grounds, the making of landscape effects, the handling of the land, the growing of flowers, fruit and vegetables that the author leaves unnoticed, and the illustrations are judiciously selected. He who would fain make a garden and would surround his house with beauty in these Northeastern States could not find a better manual.

Mr. Eben Rexford has long been known as the writer of many pleasant chapters on the growing of house plants. In "Indoor Gardening" he teaches this lore in most praiseworthy fashion. Some of his remedies for the evils that afflict the leafy nurselings may perhaps seem unduly heroic—as, for instance, the plunging of a plant attacked by "red spider" into a tub of water heated to 129 degrees Fahrenheit. It kills off the spider and doesn't hurt, he declares, even comparatively tender plants. He tells us that in plant growing there are extremes, one being neglect and the other too much "fussiness," and as many plants dying of one as of the other. Give them the right conditions and then "let them take care of themselves to a great degree." And again he is unconventional in his assertion that it matters much less what kind of vessel a plant is grown in than most persons imagine. "I have seen," he says, "as fine plants growing in an old wooden box as I ever saw in anything." Details as to the most satisfactory plants for indoor gardening fill many of these pages, and a host of valuable suggestions for the care thereof accompany them. Many interesting illustrations add these instructions.

Mrs. Cecil's charming book on the history of gardening in England was first published fifteen years ago. It has since then been the most valuable work of reference on its subject. This third and enlarged edition, with illustrations, is heartily welcome. Some of the additions consist of notes drawn from historical manuscripts, and there is much new material relating to the modern aspects of gardening. Mrs. Cecil, the daughter of the late Lord Amberst, inherited the literary taste so agreeably displayed in this historical study, and that she writes is shown by the beautiful upon her of the Freedom of the Gardeners' Company in 1896. The earliest gardeners of England of which Mrs. Cecil is aware are those attached to the manor, and there is a wealth of quaint detail concerning these in the opening chapter. Rich in entertaining matter also is the account of the gardening of the nineteenth century, when so many plants from other countries were naturalized in England. As for the modern craze for the making of gardens, she notes that the very large number of men and women who have a real insight of the subject would astonish the gardening experts of a former generation.

Professor Charles Foster Kent's admirable series of studies taking the general name of "The Student's Old Testa-

ment" receives an addition in "The Sermon, Epistles and Apocalypses of Israel's Prophets" (Charles Scribner's Sons). The plan of the work is to arrange in their proper chronological setting, and as far as possible in logical sequence, the documents that make up the Hebrew Bible. In this volume the contributions of prophecy from the beginning of the Assyrian period to the end of the Maccabean struggle are exhibited in fresh translations, with convenient footnote elucidations.

THE HEALTH OF TREES

Care for Them in England and America.

TREES AND SHRUBS OF THE BRITISH ISLES. Native and Acclimatized. By C. C. Cooper, F. R. H. S., and W. Percival Westell, F. L. S. Illustrated by C. F. Newell. Two volumes, medium 4to, pp. 168-281. H. P. Dutton & Co.

THE CARE OF TREES IN LAWN, STREET AND PARK. By Bernhard E. Fernow. Illustrated. American Nature Series. 12mo, pp. 292. Henry Holt & Co.

The two big volumes on British trees and shrubs for which Mr. C. C. Cooper is chiefly responsible are as beautifully made as they are technically accurate, detailed and useful. The sixteen full page colored plates and the seventy full page black and white plates were drawn direct from nature by Mr. Newell, who is a clever botanist as well as artist. These drawings are wonderfully truthful and are charming in color and in delicacy of line. Careful and complete descriptions of trees and shrubs are presented, together with interesting discussions of such subjects as insect and fungoid pests and galls, reafforestation, fruiting trees and shrubs for decorative effect, the study of winter buds and the like. A chapter on useful insects deals with often forgotten agents of which the author says that were it not for their presence in the enemy's camp certain insect scourges would get beyond control. A chapter on fungicides and insecticides is full of valuable formulae. The work appeals as forcibly to tree loving Americans as to British amateurs.

A truly admirable book for those who are undertaking tree planting on a country estate, on village acres or in a town park or streets is that just published by Mr. Fernow, professor of forestry in the University of Toronto. It is eminently practical, especially in its advice as to the hills to which they are subject. There are sick trees, as there are sick people, and their diseases are nearly always amenable to treatment when taken in time. Trees in place, the author tells us, may be made almost impervious by the trained doctor, and he points out that judicious care of trees has not kept pace with the activity in planting of the last fifty years. He holds that prevention is better than cure, and he dwells on the conditions of proper food, drink, air and light, which are the needs of trees. Street and lawn trees are the greatest sufferers for lack of these conditions, yet even for them something may be done which means new life. The skilled doctoring of aged trees works wonders, especially in veterans whose hollow cores are filled with cement, as a dentist fills a tooth, and whose health is restored by soil improvement and better water supply. Mr. Fernow devotes much space to the enemies of trees and the best methods of dealing with them. His list of trees desirable for shade and ornament is a full and most valuable one, and the illustrations that accompany it are enlightening. The book should be studied in a country which still holds too much of the spirit of the pioneer days in respect to trees. To cut, to root out utterly and do away with trees for the making of field and pasture was natural enough a hundred years ago, but it was a task carried to extremes, as witness the highways left bare of shade in summer and piled with snowdrifts in winter. Even now there are very few country districts in our older states where the impulse to cut down a tree at every excuse or chance is not to be observed.

personal experience; but every intending purchaser of that possible small farm will be the wiser at the start for the perusal of this author's sound counsel. The establishment of a dairy of the excellent modern sort, the care of stock and fowls, the planting of crops, the treatment of orchard, market garden and kitchen garden—all these subjects and more are tersely set forth. One bit of common sense is offered at the beginning, a contradiction of the idea that farming—the kind described here, we take it—will ever provide the owner with a fortune. "A good, substantial living, yes, but a fortune, never."

FARMING AND FUN

Some Tempting Advice to the Town Dweller.

THE TRAINING OF FARMERS. By L. E. Bailey. 12mo, pp. 263. The Century Company.

A GUIDE TO THE COUNTRY HOME. By Edward K. Parkinson. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 118. The Outing Publishing Company.

FARMING IT. By Henry A. Shute. Illustrated by Bernard Birch. 12mo, pp. 38. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

How shall American farming be still further developed? How shall a delightful and satisfying rural civilization be built up? Professor Bailey describes a recent illuminative experience in a particularly prosperous part of the corn belt, a region where farm land is a good investment, where the farmers have money in the bank and some of them automobiles, and where they are able to move to town at fifty years of age. "I asked," says the author, "why they desired to move to town. The answer was, to secure good school facilities, to escape bad roads and isolation, to have church privileges and to be able to enjoy social advantages. In other words, the country life of the region was successful only on its business side and a satisfying rural society had not developed. The town was the centre of interest. The country was not sufficient unto itself as a permanent place of abode." It is a typical instance. To meet its argument and to form a rural civilization of the twentieth century that shall hold the centre of all interest throughout life is not at all impossible if the agencies suggested by Professor Bailey be used. For some of them he turns to the government and to public institutions, and he covers much ground that is deeply interesting in his discussion of the problem. The chapters on "Why Do the Boys Leave the Farm?" and "Why Some Boys and Girls Take to Farming" deserve careful reading. From the answers to be found in the latter the author draws the conclusion that "the love of the open country and of plain, quiet living still remains as a real and vital force." Professor Bailey's statements and theories as to agricultural education are those of an authority. He notes that the teaching of agriculture is becoming more and more practical—that the students are studying cows and corn, not studying more or less relevant subjects about cows and corn.

The town dweller who wants to live in the country may gather from Mr. Parkinson's book a good deal of useful information as to the choice of a small farm and the management thereof. No book, of course, can take the place of

begin immediately to talk of that really vital topic. There is only one thing that prevents the attack of these wild beasts, though it can't cure, and that is an ointment made from the crabwood tree—and as for that evil smelling thing Mrs. Beebe is inclined to think that the remedy is worse than the disease.

ANIMAL LORE

The Traits of the Black Bear and Other Forest Folk.

THE BLACK BEAR. By William H. Wright. Illustrated from photographs by the author and J. E. Kerfoot. 12mo, pp. 47. Charles Scribner's Sons.

KINGS IN EXILE. By Charles G. D. Roberts. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 252. The Scribner Company.

WILDERNESS PETS AT CAMP BUCKSHAW. By Edward Breck. With illustrations from photographs from life. 12mo, pp. 240. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

If we except the grizzly, with its reputation for ferocity, which has been made a part of its Latin name, bears are among our prime favorites in the animal kingdom. We like them, and love to watch them, finding invariably something to amuse us in their antics, performed with such imperturbable gravity and self-possession. And, as the old lady said at the zoo, "they have such friendly faces." No healthy, normal boy has ever lived who has not cherished among the dearest wishes of his heart that of possessing a bear cub of his own. Next to the increasingly difficult realization of this desire, the boy can do nothing better than to make the acquaintance of Mr. William H. Wright's black bear and "Ben," whose many virtues and accomplishments he describes in the first part of his book on "The Black Bear." This intimate narrative of the life of a member of the family is admirably well adapted to arouse interest in the whole tribe.

IN TROPICAL FORESTS

The Journeys of a Man and Wife in South America.

OUR SEARCH FOR A WILDERNESS. An Account of Two Ornithological Expeditions to Venezuela and to British Guiana. By Mary Blair Beese and C. William Beese. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 408. Henry Holt & Co.

The story of the expeditions of these two naturalists in South America is a fascinating one. No reader who appreciates the delightful surprises of tropical exploration and the charm that lies in the study of wild nature can turn these pages with indifference. The excitement of interest with which this pair travelled through these forest wonderlands of Venezuela and Guiana is contagious; the thrill with which they happen upon strange and rare animal or plant life is communicable. They tell their story very well, with simplicity and often with humor and with good use of the proper picturesque detail.

Especially entertaining is Mrs. Beese's description of their journey through the Venezuelan wilderness to the famous Pitch Lake. Their little sloop made its way up the winding river under the overhanging mangroves, along banks of vines and brilliant flowers, and at every turn something amusing happened. One interesting personage on board was Maestro, the cook, a dusky gentleman of temper so inflammatory that upon one occasion he was not backward in drawing a huge cutlass on the old Spanish captain. Here is a picture of Maestro at work drawn by Mrs. Beese: "I often shut my eyes and see him with streamer eyes stirring some fearful concoction over the little stove; or again on his knees mixing dough for the leader's dumplings to be boiled in the pig tail stew which appeared at the meal. We so often wished that we had brought graham flour. White flour does show the dirt so! Still another picture is Maestro washing the tablecloth. 'This was a piece of oilcloth originally white, and Maestro's method of washing it was to spread it on the deck, pour water over it, dance upon it in his bare feet, to the accompaniment of some weird chant, and finally hang it on the rail to dry! No doubt after this proceeding he felt as self-satisfied as the most pompous and well-trained English butler.' The traveller notes in justice to Maestro that he could boil the native vegetables well and could cook good cornmeal mush; and with her own stores of preserved foods there was no danger of starvation. In the evening the old captain would tell tales of his youth and of strange people of those Southern forests:

He told us of aged men and women, both among the Indians and the Spaniards, who, he declared, can, by a peculiar whistle, call together all the snakes in the vicinity that they can be handled with impunity. The owner of the whistles sometimes employs one of these charmers to call together the snakes, which can then be killed. The performer himself, however, will never handle a snake. He told many a story of black magic arts, in which he firmly believed, and of the various enemies, sources of rats or deadly diseases or departed spirits to make life unbearable.

The travellers, pausing at the headquarters of the Pitch Lake company, found themselves in reasonably civilized comfort among Venezuelans who were nothing if not patriotic. Witness such statements at the dinner table as "Venezuela leads not only all the South American countries, but all those of North America as well, in literature, art, science and commerce. When our General Blank went to New York the greatest ovation ever paid any general in the world was given him. New York remained amazed!"

Those who fear the fevers of tropical forests and swamps will be interested to learn that the explorers felt no ill effects, though they worked hard on the collector's tasks. Proper dress, proper food and a wise adherence to the mosquito net at night are safeguards. The worst enemy they found was that "fiendish little beast," the bite rouge, the little red mite of the forest. The most brilliant conversation is apt to falter and fall when the talkers' ankles "wise and hopeful" papers. To noble and thoughtful thought is added the charm of worthy exuberance.

"With great power of argument and literary expression"—The Herald, Glasgow. "Convincing vigor and freshness. Such a writer, if not destined to be a leader of the masses, is likely to be recognized as a leader of the leaders."—Booker T. Washington, in the Independent. "The best philosophical statement thus far made as to the solution of the race problem."—H. B. Frissell, Principal of Hampton Institute, Virginia. "Wise and hopeful papers. To noble and thoughtful thought is added the charm of worthy exuberance."—South Atlantic Quarterly, Trinity College, North Carolina. "With great power of argument and literary expression."—The Herald, Glasgow. "Convincing vigor and freshness. Such a writer, if not destined to be a leader of the masses, is likely to be recognized as a leader of the leaders."—Booker T. Washington, in the Independent. "The best philosophical statement thus far made as to the solution of the race problem."—H. B. Frissell, Principal of Hampton Institute, Virginia. 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