BOOKS AND AUTHORS—REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

Lord Haldane on Life, Education and Nationality—Lee's Unpublished Dispatches—Bronson Alcott's New Eden.

A STATESMAN-SCHOLAR.

THE CONDUCT OF LIFE, AND OTHER ADDRESSES. By Viscount Haldane. 12mo, pp. 194. E. P. Dutton & Co.

High scholarship, both academic and utilitarian, and distinguished achievements in philosophy, literature, science and art are perhaps more common among the public men of Great Britain than of any other modern country. To go no further afield, the memory of the present generation recalls the names of Argyll, Disraeli, Gladstone, Salisbury, Balfour, Avebury, Morley, Rosebery and others; each of whom would have become noted for either his public services or his intellectual attainments and contributions. To the company of those whom we have mentioned who are still living, this little book reminds us, the name of Lord Haldane is to be added.

It is as a many-sided thinker and the master of a persuasive style in discoursing upon a great variety of themes that he reveals himself in these pages. There are only four addresses here, but they are on subjects even more widely separated than the places in three different countries in which they were delivered. The first, which gives the title to the volume, delivered at the University of Edinburgh, strikes indeed the keynote of all; for the conduct of life is fundamental to all its activities, individual or collective. It is a lofty note, too; instinct with spirituality above all material and utilitarian purposes, and proclaiming, with Schiller, that mere life itself is not the highest good. There is a large measure of inspiration in such a presentment from a particularly practical lawyer and administrator, whose dealings have chiefly been with the non-idealist side of the world, but who from amid his matter-of-fact arguments and dry-as-dust details of business exclaims with Goethe—borrowing the germ of the thought from Paul—"The fashion of this world passes away, and it is with what is abiding that I would fain concern myself."

Lord Haldane has not himself produced any purely historical works, and therefore his London University lecture on Truth in History is not a mere exploitation of his own method of writing. Here again a pleasing contrast is presented, for the author, whose mind is essentially scientific and analytical, makes a most convincing plea for history as an art as well as a science; in which we must esteem him to be quite right. The accuracy of science is needed, but so, too, is the interpretative power of art. That is why histories such as those of Michelet, Macaulay and Carlyle have a perennial and indestructible vitality. They omit a thousand details upon which some painstaking annalists would dwell, but "they are presentations by great artists of the spirit of a period, and the artists are great because with the power of genius they have drawn portraits which we recognize as resembling the results of direct perception."

In discussing the functions of a Civic University at the University of Bristol Lord Haldane recalled the fact that such institutions were formerly pervaded by a spirit of utilitarianism; which, indeed, still perceptibly clings to some of them. They were regarded as good and useful only so far as they imparted aptitude for commercial achievement or industrial production; in brief, as sublimated business training schools. In the United States, we remember, there used to be a prejudice against college or university training for business men on the ground that it not only failed to impart an aptitude for their calling, but actually created unfitness for it. That prejudice is vanishing here, while in Great Britain, conversely, men are realizing that "culture" is, after all, conducive to efficiency; that applied science must have, for its best results, a basis of pure science; and that the most successful specialist is he who has the amplest preparation of general training. It is not possible, of course, for all to have university education. The majority have not the capacity, the time or the means to acquire it. But the theory of the civic university, as it exists in the United Kingdom, is to provide the opportunity for it, for all who can avail themselves of it. That is the doctrine which the author commends.

It was less than two years ago that Lord Haldane addressed the American Bar Association on what he termed the Higher Nationality; a theme much more closely related to his attitude in the present European crisis than any of the others in this book. His intimacy with Germany, with Germans, with German thought, was and had long been very marked. He had studied at Goettingen, had translated Schopenhauer, and had gone on a mission of international amity to Berlin. In view of what has happened since that address was made at Montreal in the late summer of the year before last it is interesting to recall some of the things which he said in it:

> The world is probably a long way off from the abolition of armaments and the peril of war. For habits of mind which can be sufficiently strong with a single people can hardly be as strong between nations. There does not exist the same extent of common interest, of common purpose and of common tradition. And yet the tendency, even as between nations that stand in no special relation to each other, to develop such a habit of mind is in our time becoming recognizable. There is growing up a disposition to believe that it is good, not only for all men but for all nations, to consider their neighbors' point of view as well as their own. There is apparent at least a tendency to seek for a higher standard of ideals in international relations. The barbarism which once looked to conquest and the waging of successful war as the main object of statesmanship seems as though it were passing away. There have been established rules of international law which already govern the conduct of war itself, and are generally observed as binding by all civilized people, with the result that the cruelties of war have been lessened. . . . Recent events in Europe and the way in which the great powers have worked together to preserve the peace of Europe, as if forming one community, point to the ethical possibilities of the group system as deserving of close study by both statesmen and students.

No man probably ever spoke more sincerely or from a deeper personal belief and conviction than did Lord Haldane in saying those things. There was, moreover, good ground for saying them; and they were good things to say. Yet exactly eleven months after they were uttered "the ethical possibilities of the group system" were materialized in the War of the Nations, and since then have demonstrated to what extent "the cruelties of war have been lessened." The regret is not that Lord Haldane had that irenic vision less than two years ago, but that his vision has not been fulfilled.

LEE'S DISPATCHES

A Contribution to the Military History of the War.

LEE'S DISPATCHES: Unpublished Letters of General Robert E. Lee, C. S. A., to Jefferson Davis and the War Department of the Confederate States of America, 1862-'65. Edited, with an Introduction, by Douglas Southall Freeman. 8vo, pp. xxiii, 400. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The collection of Confederate war papers from which these hitherto unpublished letters and dispatches of General Lee have been taken belongs to Mr. Wymberly Jones De Renne, of Wormsloe, Ga. These documents were evidently part of a file kept by President Davis for his own reference, for most of them are addressed to him and show no evidence of having passed through the hands of other persons. The file was undoubtedly lost when Mr. Davis tried to make his way south after the fall of Richmond, probably just before his capture by Federal troops in Eastern Georgia.

The two hundred and four documents which Mr. Freeman has collected and edited have a very genuine historical value. They supplement the reports and letters written by Lee which are contained in the Federal government's vast treasure house of "Official Records" of the Union and Confederate armies. They help to bring into clearer light Lee's intentions, plans and opinions during the three years in which he led the Army of Northern Virginia.

They only heighten the impression of Lee which the official records and the whole literature of the war have firmly established. Lee was a thoroughly competent soldier, one of the greatest of American commanders, bold, confident, alert and resourceful. Considering the straitened means at his disposal, he achieved a series of remarkable military successes. But besides being an exceptional soldier he was an exceptional man—self-contained, modest, generous, patient, noble-minded, of a heroic temper and character which never weakened however great the strain.

One document in this collection most happily illustrates Lee's innate consideration of the rights and feelings of others. On August 26, 1862, he forwarded to President Davis a letter written by a Federal colonel, Abia A. Tomlinson, making some wrathful comments on the battle of Cedar Mountain. The letter was picked up after the Federal retreat, and evidently contained criticisms which might have gotten Colonel Tomlinson into trouble with his superior officers and with the War Department at Washington. General Lee, in view of this fact, made the following recommendation to President Davis: "I would suggest, as the letter is of wholly a private character, that no publicity be given to the name of the writer, though the facts could be made known, if you deem fit, for its publication would in all probability injure him without materially benefiting us."

Lee was then busy with the Manassas campaign against Pope. The battle of Groveton was fought two days later—on August 28. It was characteristic of him that even with all his military preoccupations he should think of the possible injury which might be done to an enemy officer through the publication of an indiscreet letter.

These new records make it clear that Lee was not taken by surprise by Grant's transfer of the Army of the Potomac in June, 1864, from the north side of the James to the Petersburg front. He says distinctly in his dispatch to President Davis, dated 12:10 p. m., June 1: "I think the enemy must be preparing to move south of the James River. * * * I apprehend that he (Grant) may be sending troops up the James River with a view of getting possession of Petersburg before we can reinforce it."

Lee was not so certain on this point the next day, but he kept the probability of a transfer in mind and got his own army across in time to relieve the hard-pressed forces of Beauregard. He had considered the possibility of an attack on Richmond from the southeast at the time when McClellan retreated in 1862 from the Chickahominy River to Harrison's Landing, but he felt that McClellan would not have the initiative or energy to carry through such a movement. It was left for Grant to discover eventually the weakest spot in the defences of the Confederate capital and to act on that discovery.

The letter in the collection which possesses the greatest historical value is the one which Lee wrote to President Davis on July 31, 1863, discussing the failure of the Gettysburg campaign. It was a private communication and preceded by nine days the formal letter, made public at the time, in which Lee asked to be relieved as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. In this earlier confidential statement he might have been tempted to put on other shoulders the blame for defeat, if he had felt that that blame could justly be shifted, yet he stood nobly by his impulsive and honest declaration to Pickett on July 3 on the latter's return from his famous charge: "It was all my fault!"

Lee was not looking for scapegoats. He never looked for them. He wrote to Davis:

> No blame should be attached to the army for its failure to accomplish what was projected by me, nor should it be censured for the unreasonable expectations of the public. *I alone am to blame, in perhaps expecting too much of its prowess and valor.* It, however, in my opinion achieved under the guidance of the Most High a general success, though it did not win a victory. I thought at the time that the latter was practicable. I still think if all things had worked together it would have been accomplished. But with the knowledge I then had and in the circumstances I was then placed [in] I do not know what better course I could have pursued. With my present knowledge, and could I have foreseen that the attack on the third day would have failed to drive the enemy from his position, I should certainly have tried some other course. What the ultimate result would have been is not so clear to me.

How much acrimonious controversy would have been avoided if Southern military critics had had this clear and positive statement before them and had been guided by it in trying to fix responsibility for the failure of the Gettysburg campaign! It has been vehemently argued that Lee lost the battle through the faults of subordinates. Stuart has been blamed because his cavalry was out of touch with Lee's army for six days, from June 27 to July 2. But the absence of Stuart did not interfere with the concentration of the scattered Confederate forces. Lee's troops lay west, north and east of Gettysburg, and were nearer that strategic centre than Meade's were, the latter being massed to the southeast and south. He was able to bring on the field on July 1 seventeen infantry brigades, of which fifteen were engaged, and seventeen batteries of artillery, while the Federals had only twelve infantry brigades, eleven of them engaged; two cavalry brigades, both engaged, and eleven batteries of artillery. Lee's forces outnumbered Meade's until the afternoon of the second day, and the conditions under which he delivered battle could hardly have been any more favorable if Stuart had been with him and had protected the concentration.

Ewell has been assailed because he did not attack Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill late in the afternoon of July 1. Lee was on the field by that time and suggested an assault. But he left the details to Ewell's judgment, and Ewell did not think that he had enough fresh troops on hand to carry these two strong positions. He failed to carry them on July 2 and July 3, when his entire corps was in line of battle.

Finally, Longstreet has been accused of losing the battle by delaying the atttack on the Federal left wing on July 2. There is nothing to show that Lee expected him to move in the morning. Moreover, his troops were within a mile of Lee's headquarters. The evil effect of any delay on his part was also fully offset by Sickles's projection of the Federal left in a salient toward Longstreet's line, so that an attack in the afternoon threatened the Federal position much more seriously than a morning attack would have done. Longstreet did not order Pickett's charge on July 3. Lee ordered it against Longstreet's protest.

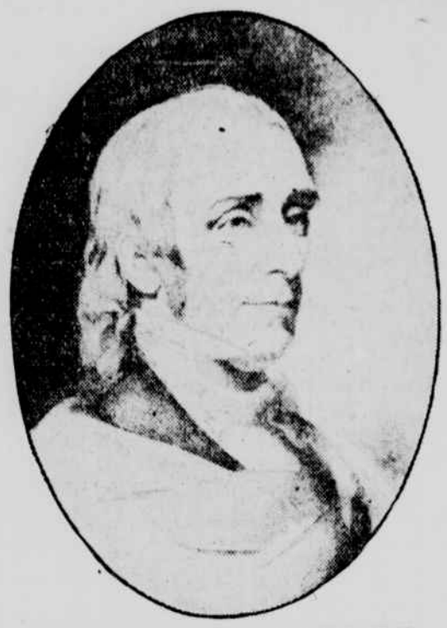
Lee never fought, in fact, under more favorable circumstances than he did at Gettysburg. For the first time his fighting strength was practically equal to the enemy's. Two divisions of the Federal 6th Corps did not get into action at Gettysburg, arriving too late to be used. That left the armies evenly matched, whereas at Chancellorsville Lee had only 60,000 against 130,000; at Fredericksburg, 78,000 against 113,000; at Antietam, 55,000 against 87,000; at the second Battle of Bull Run, 49,000 against 70,000, and in the Seven Days' Battle, 80,000 against 100,000.

When he had to deal with opponents like McClellan, Pope, Burnside and Hooker he could defy odds and win. He lost at Gettysburg simply because the Army of the Potomac was handled by Meade with a high degree of skill, coolness and vigor. What the splendid Army of Northern Virginia had easily accomplished against inept generalship it could no longer accomplish against competent generalship.

Lee was right in holding that the Army of Northern Virginia was not to blame and that his subordinate commanders were not to blame for the defeat. He had expected too much of "the prowess and valor" of his troops. He was defeated not because his plans were wrong in conception or went wrong in execution, but because he was fighting against an army well handled and possessed of a new spirit since it realized that it had at last found a dependable leader.

Lee's Gettysburg letter alone would give very high value to this welcome and competently edited volume of unpublished war correspondence.

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM "BRONSON ALCOTT'S FRUITLANDS," COMPILED BY CLARA ENDICOTT SEARS. BOSTON: THE HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY.



A. BRONSON ALCOTT AT THE AGE OF 53.
(From the portrait by Mrs. Hildreth.)

ABIGAIL MAY, MRS. A. BRONSON ALCOTT.
(From a daguerreotype.)

"THE NEWNESS"

A History of Bronson Alcott's Transcendental Wild Oats.

BRONSON ALCOTT'S FRUITLANDS. Compiled by Clara Endicott Sears. With "Transcendental Wild Oats," by Louisa M. Alcott. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. xvii, 185. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

This is a welcome little volume to place by the side of the histories of Brook Farm on the shelf devoted to transcendentalism. Much has been written and published concerning Alcott's New Eden, near Harvard, and its inevitable failure, but it has remained for Miss Sears to gather together these many references to the "con-sociate family" and to arrange them in a consecutive story which fits neatly, without breaks, into the records of the movement of which it was a part. The correspondence of Charles Lane, the Englishman who financed the enterprise; Alcott's letters, Mr. Sanborn's life of him, the future Father Hecker's and Anna and Louise Alcott's diaries, newspaper and magazine articles are drawn upon, and Louise Alcott's ironic "Transcendental Wild Oats" is printed in full. She, indeed, summed up the crux of the matter and the cause of the failure in her observation that "they said many wise things and did many foolish ones," which is, after all, only a paraphrase of Richard Henry Dana's explanation of the collapse of the Brook Farm experiment: "It failed because it did not pay."

If Charles Lane lost most heavily in pocket by the experiment, Mrs. Alcott bore the heaviest burden of work and worry. Lane felt the hostile influence of Mrs. Alcott, who foresaw failure, and, as he complained, was "blinded to all else by her maternal love." She told Ellery Channing in later years that she feared for her husband's sanity as well. "Poor Mrs. Alcott! Poor 'Marmee,' as her daughters called her!" exclaims Miss Sears, and she continues:

> In her loyalty she had almost worked her fingers to the bone, with no thanks for it. Her days had passed without any help to lighten her manual labor. At first they said that not a lamp could lighten Fruitlands, because the oil contained animal fat, and only bayberry candles could be used. But Mrs. Alcott then rebelled. How could she sew and mend the clothes with such poor light? There seemed some sense in this, so one small lamp was brought to Fruitlands just for her. The philosophers tried sitting in the dark, but one by one would try to find some pretext to join her at the sewing table.

Far more even than the history of Brook Farm that of Fruitlands is a record of childlike simplicity, utter lack of common sense and unpractical enthusiasm. Alcott, seeking a New Eden, would not allow the soil to be manured, because he considered it a corrupting mode for forcing nature. He made a distinction between vegetables which "aspired" or grew into the air, and the "base" products which grew downward into the soil. Some of the members of the community nearly starved to death; they furtively went among the surrounding farmers to beg for food. One of them, an enthusiast indeed, wrote: "We have not yet drawn out any preordained plan of daily operations, as we are impressed with the conviction that by a faithful reliance on the Spirit which actuates us we are sure of attaining to clear revelations of daily practical duties as they are to be daily done by us. When the Spirit of Love and Wisdom abounds, literal forms are needless, irksome or hinderative; where the Spirit is lacking, no preconceived rules can compensate." It was sound transcendentalism, but it was poor farming.

LEADING FEATURES OF AUGUST MAGAZINES

Midsummer Fiction Numbers—Plays, Verse and Colored Illustrations—Economic Results of the War—John Hay's Letters—World Peace.

With the exception of Frederick W. Whitridge's most optimistic "impressions of the English Attitude Toward the War" and Ernest Peixotto's travel paper on Lisbon and Cintra, with, of course, his own drawings, the August "Scribner's"—its Fiction Number—is entirely devoted to that form of literature, and to verse. Stephen Phillips's "No. 6," written in dramatic form (it is his first prose play), is an interesting variant of the dual nature motiv—of the good and evil in man. A great Italian painter seeks models for the Christ and the Judas of his Last Supper; the one he finds in a chorister in Milan Cathedral, but he searches for ten years before he comes upon the ideal face of evil in the bagnio at Naples. The criminal is the youth of the cathedral. N. C. Wyeth illustrates the playlet in colors and black and white.——Kate Douglas Wiggin's complete novelette, "Miss Thomasina Tucker," is as summery and light as a midsummer story for a midsummer magazine should be. Thomasina Tucker sang for her supper, and, as it turned out, sang for a most desirable husband as well.——There is sterner stuff in James B. Connolly's tale of the Old World and the New and the ocean between them, "Mother Machree"; Jennette Lee's tale of pirate gold, "At the End of the Rainbow," gives an ingenious modern twist to old material; George T. Marsh takes us into the land of the Hudson's Bay Company and the trappers in "A Little Tragedy at Coocoocache," and Una Hunt tells an amusing tale of a Virginian darky girl, "Her First Marrying."——"Letitia," by Gordon Arthur Smith, is somewhat obvious, but rather pleasing nevertheless.——The verse is by Maxwell Struthers Burt, William H. Hayne, Marguerite Merington, Corinne R. Robinson, John G. Lansing and John Masefield, who opens this number with two sonnets.——"Franklin at the French Court," from a painting by Stanley M. Arthurs, is the second of the magazine's twelve colored American frontispieces.——Alexander Dana Noyes's Financial Department is begun in this issue. It deals with the economic results of the war thus far, with what financiers expected that did not happen, and with what did happen that they did not foresee. Mr. Noyes writes with admirable clearness for the general reader. One need not be a financier to understand him.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.

The August "Harper's," designated on its white-and-gold-and-blue cover as the Fiction Number, opens with a new story by Katharine Fullerton Gerould, "Sea-Green." It is in her best manner, notable especially for the skill with which its atmosphere of mystery is developed—thickened would be the better word—as the situation unfolds. Meredith Nicholson tells a cheerful story of "Honor Bright," who was a modern teacher under an ossified public school system, and who became acquainted with the Little Boss of the town, abhorred by all its respectable people. The school board was intensely respectable; it was the disreputable Little Boss who shook it up and brought about better conditions. A most amusing tale.——Stephen Whitman's "One of Those Nice Little Evenings" is a venture into the field of burlesque, but does not quite succeed.——Sophie So-and-so," by Marjory Morten, the story of the daughter of a teacher of dead languages and a kleptomaniac mother, is decidedly worth while; Alice Brown gives us still another study of New England life and character; "Roscoe the Invincible," by Alice Cowdery, is entertaining; and Maude Radford Warren tells how "Mr. Durgan Rides Down Cupid."——William Roscoe Thayer closes his papers on the life and career of John Hay with a chapter on the Russo-Japanese War. This series has given us a foretaste of Mr. Thayer's biography of the dead statesman, and has whetted our appetite for what promises to be an exceptionally able and significant addition to American historical and biographical literature.——The serial publication of a new novel by Basil King, "The Side of the Angels," is begun in this number; the editor seizes upon the occasion to ask, in the Editor's Study, whether serials hold as important a place in periodical literature as once they did. There are two travel papers, one in France, by Herbert Adams Gibbons, the other among the Kentucky mountaineers, "In Shakespeare's America," by William Aspinwall Bradley, a delightful voyage of discovery in the realm of surviving Elizabethan English.——The poetry is by Ameen Rihnani, Ellen M. H. Gates, Mildred Howells, Sarah N. Cleghorn and Henry Dodd. The illustrations, colored and in black-and-white, are by C. E. Chambers (frontispiece), N. C. Wyeth, Elizabeth Shippen Green and others.

THE CENTURY.

Jean Webster opens the Midsummer Holiday Number of the "Century" with the first chapters of her new novel, "Dear Enemy." A portrait of Miss Webster, painted by L. Fisk Thompson, is reproduced in full colors.——There are four stories in this issue, "Marrying Ann," by Ethel M. Kelley, in her well known fluffy manner; "No. 45,637 Missing," by Hendrik Willem van Loon, an incident of the invasion of Belgium; "The Golden Goose," by Virginia Tracy, a sketch of an actress who is great only when her bounder of a manager, of whom all her friends disapprove, coaches her; and "Mis'rable," by James Oppenheim, who, the advertising department of the magazine informs us, is "a novelist, poet and short story writer of recognized genius." There is also a one-act play by Percival Wilde, "A Question of Morality," an ingenious and amusing invention.——"Me," the anonymous autobiography of a woman novelist, comes to an abrupt stop; Princess Lazarovich, who was Miss Eleanor Calhoun, of California, begins her reminiscences, "Pleasures and Palaces," with her arrival in England in the days when James Russell Lowell was our minister. Under Mrs. Lowell's wing Miss Calhoun saw much of English society, she was introduced to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and began her stage career in London as Dora in Sardou's "Diplomacy."——Armond Dayot writes of "Art in the Trenches," his article being illustrated with rough sketches drawn by French soldiers at the front; Arthur Bullard, who declares that he is a collector of world peace plans, asks some matter-of-fact questions in "America and the World's Peace," and suggests that the first step for us on this side of the ocean is to found the league of American Republics. That accomplished, he concludes, we shall have the right to send peace proposals to Europe, but not before.——Louis Graves writes of "The Rise of Tennis," and there is verse by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson, Arthur Davison Fiske and Evans Clark. The colored frontispiece is by Anna Whelan Betts.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

The set midsummer fiction number is not for the "Atlantic's" editors; still, they open its August pages with a war story by Anne Douglas Sedgwick, "Hepaticas," which may claim the distinction of being the only war-baby story up to date. The author of "Tante" and "The Encounter" may be relied upon to get the utmost from the situation—the widow sending her only son to war, seeing him again but for a moment on furlough, and finding herself left with a cockney daughter-in-law, a public dancer, and with a grandson whose officer-father lies in the trenches of the dead behind the trenches of those left to fight. The merit of the story lies in what it suggests of wrecked hopes and plans in the past, and of readjustments in the future.——Mildred Aldrich's letters home describing her "Adventures in the Little House on the Marne" during the German advance promise to make one of the most interesting books on the war by an onlooker. In this new instalment she describes the coming of the English in retreat, on the eve of the turning of the tide. An officer came riding up to her little house, dismounted, consulted his map, and "had his foot in the stirrup when I recovered." Then follows this graphic English touch:

> "Is there anything I can do for you, captain?" I asked.
>
> He mounted his horse, looked down at me. Then he gave me another of his rare smiles.
>
> "No," he said, "at this moment there is nothing you can do for me, thank you; but if you could give my boys a cup of tea, I imagine that you would just about save their lives."

The excellent quality of the "Atlantic's" war papers has repeatedly been commented upon in these columns. This month there is a biographical sketch of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, with a brief review of his heroic exploits and a study of his character; and A. D. Lindsay, in "State and Commonwealth," draws once more the contrast between England and Germany in the light of the history of Athens and Sparta. There are also some very practical "Questions for Pacifists," by H. M. Chittenden.——Earl Barnes recommends bookselling—the establishment of small bookshops—as "A New Profession for Women"; Gamaliel Bradford adds Secretary Stanton to his gallery of Union Portraits; Edward Garnett writes of Robert Frost, "A New American Poet," whom we have discovered for ourselves since this paper was written, and Mr. Frost contributes a group of poems. There are also some stanzas by Grace Fallow Norton, "After Seeing Young Soldiers in London":

> I have no Heaven for myself. My heart is Heaven here.
> To unfold, to fade—it is enough, earth and a dream so dear.
>
> But I craved Heaven for them, for them! Let there be Paradise!
> They go to die ere they have lived, their youth within their eyes.
>
> They go to die for the bond, the word, that the dream of dreams may grow.
> It is their will. They say farewell, knowing where they go.
>
> Though they have Heaven as they die, knowing they die so well,
> Knowing the dream is dear enough, as all who live will tell.
>
> Knowing this death is life—yet—youth is in their eyes!
> O let them wake, laugh and unfold! For them, green Paradise!

THE OLD HOUSE AT FRUITLANDS.
(From Clara Endicott Sears's "Bronson Alcott's Fruitlands": The Houghton Mifflin Company.)

NEWS AND GOSSIP OF BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Somerset Maugham's Novel—"Writers of the Day"—Climate and Efficiency—"The German J'Accuse"—Classics of Science and Philosophy.

W. Somerset Maugham's novel, "Of Human Bondage," will appear on August 3. The English dramatist's American publisher, the George H. Doran Company, states that the book is not a comedy in story form, but a piece of stern realism.

"Writers of the Day."

Henry Holt & Co. will publish tomorrow the first three volumes of the "Writers of the Day" series. As has already been announced, these critical biographies of contemporary authors of note will all be written by men and women who have themselves made their mark in "creative" literature, as distinct from criticism. The first volumes will be "Anatole France," by W. L. George, author of "The Second Blooming," etc.; "H. G. Wells," by J. D. Beresford, author of the "Jacob Stahl" trilogy, and "Arnold Bennett," by F. J. Harvey Darton, author of "The Wonder Book of Old Romance." The publishers hope to follow these with new volumes every month or so. The next issues will be "Rudyard Kipling," by John Palmer, author of "The Future of the Theatre"; "John Galsworthy," by Sheila Kaye-Smith, author of "The Three Furlongers," and "Joseph Conrad," by Hugh Walpole, author of "The Duchess of Wrexe."

Climate and Efficiency.

In his forthcoming book on "Civilization and Climate" (Yale Univerity Press) Dr. Ellsworth Huntington will summarize the results of many years of study of the influence of climate upon civilization. He thus sums up the conclusions he has reached:

> On the one hand, a study of the daily work of several thousand factory operatives and students at all seasons has given an approximate measure of the exact climatic elements which most influence efficiency. On the other hand, a prolonged study of past and present climatic variations suggests that location of some of the most stimulating conditions varies from century to century, and that when the great countries of antiquity rose to eminence they enjoyed a climatic stimulus comparable with that existing to-day where the leading nations now dwell.

The German "J'Accuse."

The George H. Doran Co. announces a translation of "A German 'J'Accuse,'" recently published in Switzerland. Unlike Zola, the author of this indictment of German policies has preferred to remain anonymous.

Classes of Science and Philosophy.

The Open Court Publishing Co., of Chicago, has begun the publication of a series of reprints of classics marking the historical development of science and philosophy. The first volume is still in preparation; the second, just issued, is "Selections from the Scottish Philosophy of Common Sense," edited, with an introduction, by G. A. Johnston, M. A., of the University of Glasgow. For half a century the philosophy of common sense was the dominant philosophy in American universities; and it is to the Scottish president of an American university (James McCosh of Princeton) that we owe the most comprehensive study of it. In England and Germany it has never been much appreciated, but in France it exercised a great influence through Victor Cousin, who made it the greatest power in French philosophy of the period. In recent years, in France, there has been a recrudescence of interest in the Scottish philosophy through the writings of Professor T. T. Laurie, who attempted in several able works, a critical reconstruction of the traditional Scottish natural realism. The Scottish philosophy of common sense originated as a protest against the skeptical conclusions of Hume and the hypotheses found in Locke and Descartes. Thomas Reid was the first man to see clearly the genesis of Hume's skepticism, and in this little volume he gave an admirable account of his investigations of the principles upon which this skeptical system was built.

Germany and Industry.

"Germany and the Industrial Revolution" (Macmillan) is a book on the Empire which deals, in the words of its author, Thorstein Veblen, with "neither the controverted merits of the international struggle nor the comparative force and probable success of either belligerent." It aims "to account for Germany's industrial advance and high efficiency by natural causes without drawing on the logic of manifest testimony, providential nepotism, national genius and the like. It is believed to be the first attempt yet made at an explanation, as distinct from description or eulogy, of this episode in modern history."

Woman Suffrage.

Most timely is the publication, by the Messrs. Putnam, of a new edition of the late Dr. Mary Putnam-Jacobi's "Common Sense Applied to Woman Suffrage," first issued twenty-one years ago, when the question was under consideration by the State Constitutional Convention of 1894. Dr. Jacobi was selected by the Suffrage Association to present before this convention the case of the political rights of women in this state.

First Aid for Dramatists.

Fanny Cannon's "Writing and Selling a Play," which the Messrs. Holt announce for publication in October, is the result of its author's practical experience as an actress, producer, playwright and play "doctor." In this book she depends more on straight-out directions than on theory. She makes no attempt to tell how to write a perfect play, but devotes much space to warning the novice of "breaks" that would make any experienced play reader throw out a MS. without further consideration. She avoids mysteries and vague theories, and shows clearly most of the things necessary to get a play produced under existing American conditions. A large number of her illustrations are drawn from plays now or very recently running. A sample scenario, a detailed play analysis and an ideal contract are included.

Antique Bronzes.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art announces the publication of a catalogue of the classical bronzes in its collection under the title of "Greek, Roman and Etruscan Bronzes," by Gisela M. A. Richter, Litt. D., assistant curator, department of classical art. The volume is a quarto, bound in paper covers and illustrated with a large number of cuts in the text—every object of importance being reproduced—and with numerous full-page plates.

"Present-Day China."

Little feet are no longer the fashion in the aristocratic circles of China; and it has come to pass that the Chinese ladies, on the rebound from ancient customs, are proud in proportion to the largeness of their shoes. So says Gardner L. Harding, author of "Present-Day China," which the Century Company will publish early in the autumn. The woman suffragist is abroad in China, Mr. Gardner goes on, and there are vast cotton mills that run night and day, child labor, soldiers in the most modern khaki suits and oil fields covered with countless derricks. The China revealed by Mr. Harding, who returned from that country early this year, is said to be not at all the China that is in the minds of most Americans.

Jiu-Jitsu.

Since our first enthusiasm for this Japanese system of self-defence, some ten years ago, in the day of our pro-Japanese ardors, it has gradually fallen into oblivion. It is as effective a form of defence and as interesting a sport as it ever was, wherefore a little volume on the subject, "The Complete Jiujitsian," by W. H. Garrud (E. P. Dutton & Co.) deserves attention. Beginning with a chapter of general hints, the author deals successively with the breakfalls, standing defences, tripping and throwing, the ground locks, ground manœuvres and jiu-jitsu versus boxing. The illustrations are from instantaneous photographs.

Sara Teasdale's New Verses.

"Rivers to the Sea," Sara Teasdale's third volume of verse, is announced by the Macmillan Co. for publication in September. The book has already been translated into German by Rudolf Rieder, but will not be issued in the Empire until the end of the war. The Macmillan Co. has just got out a third edition of Edgar Lee Masters's "Spoon River Anthology."

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