

NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Seventh Page.

might be amusing if there were less of him, and an admirable young sociological female prig, who is the god in the machine and gets married in an uncalculated manner at the end.

In "A Long Time Ago in Virginia and Maryland," by Alice Maude Ewell (The Neale Publishing Company), nine stories of colonial times are told. The stories are interesting; much care has been expended on the antiquarian lore that illustrates them and great pains taken with the old-fashioned language in which they are told. This is consistent, but perhaps the stories would have been better if it had not been attempted, for it turns into an artificial dialect what might have been told in plain English.

Very pleasant sketches of life in a rural Virginia town are reported in Mr. Granville Davidson Hall's "Old Gold" (The Mayer and Miller Company, Chicago). They are loving recollections of boyhood days in the country and of many queer characters of the days before the war. The strange thing about the book is that the negro does not appear in it, and that save for a geographical name now and then the town described and many of the people might be of New England or anywhere in the North. Though the author deals with realities, his stories and descriptions are of the kind that have brought success to many books of thinly disguised fiction in late years.

Books for Boys.

"The Treasure Seekers of the Andes" is the new volume in the Pan-American series written by Edward Stratemeyer (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard). It is a complete story in itself, but it introduces again the five schoolboys and their Professor who have been making journeys in "the three Americas." In this tale the young explorers travel about in the South American jungle, meeting with uncommon and perilous adventures and discovering in the end the buried treasure of the Incas. The book is of the good old reliable pattern, warranted to wear and wash, and of which boys never seem to grow weary. A few modern touches are added in the way of camera hunting and much information is skillfully inserted in the midst of exciting episodes. The boys are plucky and lucky, good shots and good workers. The invention of the author arranges many experiences that are more entertaining to read about than they would be to encounter.

The adventurous life of Captain John Smith has always been a favorite theme for the writers of true stories for youthful readers. It is retold this season in new form by C. H. Forbes-Lindsay under the title of "John Smith—Gentleman Adventurer" (J. B. Lippincott and Co.). The new story begins with an account of the rejoicing in England over the defeat of the Armada and introduces Smith as a lad of nine years longing for battle and adventure. It follows the boy up to London and gives a fresh picture of the days when Elizabeth both ruled in England and played part in the Globe Theatre to see Shakespeare's latest piece. It presents again the well known events of Smith's career in this country up to his final departure for England from Virginia. The story is told with directness and vigor and great admiration for the soldier of fortune, of whom it was said by one of his followers "that in all his proceedings he made justice his first guide and experience his second; ever hating baseness, sloth, pride and unworthiness more than dangers." * * * that loved action more than words and hated falsehood and covetousness worse than death." Mr. Forbes-Lindsay's story is a good, strong, interesting and valuable addition to a boy's library.

One of the sentimental little tales regularly prepared for the holiday season like the plum pudding and mince pie which make the Christmas feast so delicious and the day afterward so sad is called "Peter—A Christmas Story," by Mrs. Edwin Hoehler (E. P. Dutton and Co.). It is an English tale, which will scarcely appeal to the American child reared on the Declaration of Independence, where habitation in a steam heated flat has not been handed down through generations and thus become an object of veneration. The little boy of whom the story is written is Sir Peter of Moberly. His father died leaving Peter's financial affairs in a bad way. In fact his only assets are a building of unimpressive appearance and a stock of aristocratic airs that would fit out several families with ancestral pride. He finds his way uninvited to his old home, keeps Christmas in the good old way with tenants and ancestors bowing down before him, and gentlemanly dining in state at his invitation. He does all manner of things that no little boy would ever do, and such an impression on the kinsman who has bought the old place that he gives it back to Peter for a present. It is all as unreal and as pretty as a sugar candy Christmas angel with spangled wings perched in the top of the Christmas tree.

Joseph B. Ames has overhauled the mark in his new book for boys, "The Treasure of the Canyon" (Henry Holt & Co.). Even the omnivorous appetite for exciting adventure peculiar to the young reader demands no such jumble of the impossible as Mr. Ames has crowded into his story of the search for the buried treasure of the Aztecs in the wilds of Arizona. The author has a powerful imagination and no little skill in narration and description. But his story is overcrowded with episode and needlessly improbable in conclusion. The boy hero wins out in everything, from saving the football game in the beginning to discovering the treasure—piles of golden bars, chests of rare manuscripts, bags of precious jewels. It is he and his chum who kill the grizzly. He discovers the villain. He finds the way into the canyon and what is more difficult still, the way out of it again. He saves the day at the holdup of the train, conveying the treasure to its destination. He starts out on his quest penniless; he comes back with \$1,000,000 to begin life with and a devoted chum whose life he has saved to be devoted to him. He is a most extraordinary boy and would be a fine hero if for a moment any one could believe there was "any such person."

"The Remarkable Adventures of Little Boy Pip" on his journey to "the place where the sky comes down," by Philip W. Francis (Paul Elder & Co.) is a whimsical story written with a double purpose—to entertain a very small little person who cannot read and to amuse the kindly grown up person who reads the tale aloud. The very small little person may be interested in the excursion personally conducted by the Welsh Rabbit who belongs to the Nightmarer Family and the curious things encountered along the way—the Fourth Blind Mouse, the animated Oomloot, the Rap Hazards (that may happen anywhere) and the horrible Thing That Hides Behind the Door. The critical grown up person will see that the story belongs to the "Alice in Wonderland" school of extravaganzas and may be unkind enough not to think the play of words so very amusing after all. The book is illustrated by Merle Johnson.

Cyrus Townsend Brady's new book, "Northern Fights and Fighters" (The McClure Company), differs from the others

of the series to which it belongs in that it is largely made up of contributions from the various officers, soldiers, frontiersmen and scouts who took part in the Nez Percés war and the Modoc war, to which the volume is devoted. The book opens with "The Epic of the Nez Percés," a general account of the war written by Dr. Brady, followed by Chief Joseph's own story of the wrongs and sorrows of his people. After this is written the detailed account of the achievements of the men who fought in the great conflict. They are good story tellers as well as brave warriors, these old soldiers, and their chronicle is full of interest for the student of the history of this period. Among these contributors are Major-Gen. O. O. Howard, Brig-Gen. David Perry, Major Parnell, Major Trimble, Brig-Gen. H. C. Hasbrouck and Col. James Jackson. The purpose of the book seems to be, apart from its historical value, to pay loyal tribute to the United States Army and to sit before the readers of the record of what Mr. Brady calls "the bitterest and darkest of our wars" but independent people to which the United States has ever set its hand.

The Story of the Amazing Sadie.

"Sadie—the Story of a Girl, Some Men and the Eternal Fitness of Things," is a lurid tale of Western life written by Karl Edwin Hartman (D. Appleton & Co.). Sadie is a humble heroine but a remarkable one. She is described as one of the peachiest "pis slingers between Chicago and the Coast." She pursues her noble profession in a railway restaurant called Bagdad, which Billy Thompson locates as on "the rim of hell." Billy is one of the "men" and the manager of the eating house. The "men" are of widely differing types, but all of them finally fall in love with Sadie. Each one of them not already matrimonially entangled (and one who has a sick wife) proposes to Sadie at various times. She turns them all down with the reckless abandon of a musical comedy star—all except Billy.

The perusal of the story does not impress the reader so much with the "Eternal Fitness of Things" as with the writer's robustness of imagination and felicity in the use of slang. The book, we regret, must be relegated to the realm of the cheap and vulgar, but we approve of making heroines of the type of Sadie whether they happen or not. She is the kind of a girl almost every one is looking for just now—the girl that stays on and doesn't marry the first man who looks her or give warmer because an extra one comes in for dinner. When the "spotlight" of romance is thrown upon the heroine in a waitress's cap and apron there will be as many girls eager to wash dishes as there are now clamoring to stand about in stage draughts in as near the "altogether" as the law allows.

Between these Sadie rides and peaches, ministers at the bedside of the consumptive gambler, saves lives at the risk of her own and has all manner of the adventures and experiences that all girls crave. She says herself that she isn't like other girls, and she is right. We never have seen a girl like Sadie, but we should like to meet her and hope that she and Billy will thrive and prosper in their new "Palace hotel" in the desert. One of the most remarkable things Sadie does is to write a letter that would have done credit to any of Richardson's heroines. It is nine printed pages long and tells the story of her life in a graphic manner.

Books for Girls.

Annie Fellows Johnston is one of the best writers of fiction for young people now in the field. Her stories are founded upon simple, natural events touched with the glamour of romance and full of the poetic ideals that appeal to youthful fancy. They are not written for those who have passed their Tennyson age, but for the young, the eager, the ardent and the inexperienced. Her boys are knights brave and fearless, her maidens ladies fair to be wooed in old gardens and won with quotations. But their charm and value rest in the fact that it is in the world of the everyday and the commonplace that tournaments and triumphs take place. Of all this author's books "The Little Colonel Series" has been deservedly most popular. It has introduced a group of delightful little lads and lassies, followed them through their schooldays, and in a new volume, "The Little Colonel's Knight Comes Riding," arranges their matrimonial affairs. They are very real, very dear little people, and it will be with mingled regret and gladness that those who have loved the Little Colonel so long will see her "wooed and married and kissed and carried away." Let it be pure and wholesome and it will not harm them. Go to, old bald heads, and read the stock reports and think about your diet. We'll take caramels and "Sondies" as long as we can and laugh and blow our noses as we read how the Little Colonel "With her father's blessing light upon her rode away beside the Prince; and ever after all her life was crowned with happiness as it had been written for her in the stars." The Little Colonel Series is published by L. C. Page & Co.

Girls who have never been to college will be interested in the story of "Helen Grant, Senior," which Amanda M. Douglas adds this year to the Helen Grant Series published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. The real college girl takes herself altogether too seriously to condescend to trifling tales of this kind. Sociology or pragmatism are more in her line than rambling accounts of college crushes, athletic contests and dormitory doings. Helen Grant is a very well balanced and clever girl, who manages to skip a year's work and takes honors in her senior class without being obligated to the despised lists of the "gray grinds." Some shadowy love affairs are introduced and give promise of another volume to be written concerning "Helen Grant, Graduate." The varied activities and conflicting demands of college life, which show the difficulties laid in the way of serious study in college, are well presented and will be interesting to old-fashioned people who labor under the delusion that a college career is one of serenity and intellectual development.

The story of ranch life in the great wild West has been told many times for boys, and its variations are always received with favor. This year it has been written out for girls in a bright and entertaining manner by Minna Caroline Smith under the title "Red Top Ranch" (E. P. Dutton). It sets forth the experiences of a little Eastern girl on a visit to a ranch in Wyoming. We advise all little girls who like rattlesnakes and bucking broncos and Indians to read it, for we doubt very much if any other little girl would ever be permitted to meet with such adventures as those which Mary Lloyd enjoyed in the story. Most grownups have a tiresome way of looking after little girls, keeping them out of danger and never letting them show how really brave they are. But everything happened to Mary from the forest fire to the stage holdup, and she took it all with pluck and courage, as little girls in books always do



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