

NEW BOOKS

Some Consequences of Lying. Hartley Lathorn began the ill business that is set out for us in Mr. Sidney Warwick's story of "The House of Lies" (Cassell and Company). He obtained his wife by lying. It was a lie when he told Richard Jardine that he was engaged to Margot Parrish's lovely daughter Margot. Margot loved Dick. She had confidently believed that he would come around on a certain evening and ask her to marry him. So he would have done it if it had not been for Hartley Lathorn's lie. It seemed to us that he believed Hartley a little too readily. A lover hearing such news from a rival ought to investigate it. But Dick went away in sorrow without asking any questions and Margot married the false Hartley.

Lathorn lied again when he was a witness in court. He said that he had not obtained money due to the late Mrs. Jardine, Richard's mother, for whom he had acted as trustee. In this lie he discovered on a sudden that he was about to be found out. Richard, who had brought out against him, had a paper that was proof that he had not made over the money. Lathorn had torn up this paper and thrown it into his waste basket. It had been found there by Fenwick, his clerk, a provident man, who had pieced it together and kept it. There came a day when Lathorn discharged Fenwick. He did it rudely, with contumely. Thereupon Fenwick, who was of a revengeful nature, gave the paper to Richard Jardine.

It was evening. Lathorn knew that in the morning his lie and his perdition would be revealed. He thought anything would be better than that. He confessed to his wife—confessed both lies and the theft. He implored her to go to Richard and persuade him to stop the suit. She went in what state of mind we need not say. Richard still loved her. He had already determined that the suit should be stopped for her sake. He assured her that her husband should be spared. She went home and told the third of the lies indicated in the title of the story. She said to her husband: "He refuses."

The cowardly Lathorn turned a shade graver. "A little groan broke from him." He prepared feverishly to go away by the 11:30 train. Margot said: "Should she let him go? No; she would tell him the truth. She went down to the smoking room and discovered a tragedy. The revengeful Fenwick had come to gloat over his victim. He had tapped on the French window. Lathorn had let him in and shot him with a rook rifle.

It was now indeed necessary that Lathorn should go in the 11:30 train. A remarkable possibility suggested itself just here. He and Fenwick looked very much alike. He exchanged clothing with the dead Fenwick, wrote and left on the table a note which would indicate that he had made an end of himself and went away. The deception worked. Fenwick was buried at Lathorn and Lathorn made his way to London.

In London he had curious and strong experiences. He kept himself drunk for days in order to escape agonies of fear. All at once he became brave. He dashed into a burning house and saved a child. Footpads attacked him in a lonely street and knocked him senseless. When he came to he found himself in Father Brampton's house of refuge in the Westminster slums. He remained there and did noble work. Many more strange things happened to him, but we shall not relate them. The story is full of matters that will hardly be believed. Just the same it is highly interesting to read about them.

Emma Was Cleverer Than John. Mr. Will Payne's story of "The Losing Game" (G. W. Dillingham Company) tells us about some unscrupulous people. They manipulated the ticker tape that gives the news of the stock market and conducted bucket shops (more than 1,200 of them) with the result that they enriched themselves and impoverished a great many greedy and foolish customers. John Pound and Emma Raymond were the chief clever ones. They were just pals in business for some time, but one day John noticed that Emma was good looking and so they were married. They had good nerves and adamant consciences, and it is quite likely that nothing disastrous would have happened to either of them if John had not allowed himself to be moved by his sentimental emotions on another occasion. It was fatal to him when he divorced Emma and married Helen. Emma maintained her poise, as usual. She did not seem to mind very much. But presently John found the dekins to pay with his bucket shops. A net of black disaster puckered in upon him with a precision that he was unable to account for. He managed to send a million and a quarter in bonds to Canada. It was his idea to follow them and to go off with that considerable amount of spoil to Europe. He did follow them, but he never came up with them. To his unbounded surprise, and of course to his confusion, he learned that they had gone straight into the hands of clever Emma, who was wonderfully clever. She had selected all the overthrown and despoiled of John. A readable and vivid tale.

A Syrian Record. The full history of American missionary work in Syria will be found in Dr. Henry Harris Jessup's two large volumes "Fifty-three Years in Syria" (Fleming H. Revell Company). It is a rich mine of information for the historian, the ethnologist and the student of human nature, apart from the labor to which the author devoted his life, the material monument of which is the Syrian college at Beirut. Dr. Jessup kept a diary during all these years, and it is chiefly of excerpts from the diaries, with comments made in later years, that his book is made up. He begins with an account of his production in the field, so that the reader's history is complete. He had a strong sense of humor, which crops out in unexpected places, and his evangelistic ardor in no way blunted his native directness. He notes down the cases of false converts as freely as he does those of men who really become Christians. He seems to share the prejudice of other Protestant missionaries against Catholics and Greek Orthodox and to think more highly of the Moslems; he looks on the survival of native Christians, the numerous strange sects that survived the invasion of Islam, as a stumbling block in the way of missionary effort.

Some Spring Fiction. A very clever and well written mystery story has been constructed by Roman Doubleday in "The Red House on Rowan Street" (Little, Brown and Company). The solution of the mystery is as unexpected as it is natural. While it is developed the reader will become acquainted with an attractive hero, whose other attributes are as entertaining as the problem to which he devotes himself, with a charming young woman of whom he would like to see more, with a self-centered flirt who is admirably drawn, and with various persons of less importance who have life. Even in the less exalted forms of fiction it is a pleasure to find good and artistic work.

The English, somehow, have a way of describing perfectly charming children, and we should have been sorry to have missed the acquaintance of Sara and the very woolly bunny, introduced by Mary C. E. Wemyss in "The Professional Aunt" (Houghton Mifflin Company). The work begins as a sort of essay on the possibilities of an aunt, and suggests rather felicitous qualities in the narrator; it drifts into stories of children, some of which are amusing and some not wholly new, and from them into accounts of various love affairs, including the narrator's own. It makes very pleasant reading in a style that has been tried more successfully by other English women, to be sure, but the people are generally nice and their surroundings always comfortable, so that the reader will be glad to be among them and will not crave too much originality.

It must be a pretty corrupt society that can take E. F. Benson's "The Fascinating Mrs. Halton" (D. Appleton, Page and Company) for a poetic idyll. The young girls are mercenary and attracted by men of evil reputation; the married women have the broadest tolerance for wrongdoers. It is therefore perhaps not out of place for the admirably heroic, a recent widow and always engaged to be married, to endeavor to save a young girl from an impossible marriage by flitting desperately herself with the titled objectionable. The reader will be gratified at her success; he may feel puzzled at the extremely friendly relations she keeps up with him after she has achieved her object and is married to the man she loves. There is plenty of bright dialogue, but the morals of

of half a century's changes under Turkish rule, of the French occupation of Syria and the Kaiser's visit, of cholera epidemics and famines. The book is a perfect storehouse of information. We shall limit ourselves to a few quotations taken almost at random, which if not important show the human side and the interesting quality of the book. Dr. Jessup left Boston for the East in December, 1855. Even then he notes: "The sailing bark Sultana, 300 tons, with a cargo of New England rum, sailed for Smyrna. There were eight missionaries on board." Soon he was able to testify to the unexpected virtues of the New York Tribune. An Egyptian doctor applied to him for some American newspapers. Dr. Jessup thinking he wanted them for wrapping paper gave him some Tribunes. After a few weeks the man returned, was effusive in his thanks and invited him to his vineyard. There Dr. Jessup asked him what he had done with the newspapers. "He led us to an earthen five gallon jar in the corner of the room in which he had dissolved the papers into a pulp and, adding olive oil had fed them to his patients, and said he. 'The medicine works like a charm; nothing like I thank you with all my heart.'" Years after Dr. Jessup had the chance to tell the story to Horace Greeley, who enjoyed it and inquired "Do tell me how did it act? Was it a cathartic or an emetic?" Dr. Jessup was able too to establish the truthfulness of Xenophon when he tells of the army as it approached the sea finding a lot of honey, which it ate. The soldiers became violently sick, lay on the ground as if dead, but recovered the day after. A shipload of Asiatic honey came to Beirut and was sold very cheap. The whole town was stricken down with the exact symptoms noted by Xenophon and the illness was traced to the honey. Dr. Jessup's explanation is "The origin of the poison in the honey is the flowers of the poppy and the wild oleander on which the bees feed."

Facts About The South

No. 3

It is a Fact That

The increasing wealth of the South is shown by the rapid growth of its banking interests. In 1880 the resources of all national banks in the South was \$171,464,000. By 1900 this had risen to \$516,798,000. But between 1900 and 1909 it had increased to \$1,177,000,000, showing a gain of over 100 per cent. in nine years. The deposits in state, savings and private banks and trust companies in the South grew from \$254,430,000 in 1900 to \$624,752,000 in 1908.

No. 4 will be published March 22. For any information about the South, whether you want to settle there, invest there or do business there, write

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Mr. Benson's society are certainly not those of the Victorian age. When a forceful young man makes a mature spinster give up her European trip, just as the steamer is sailing, in order to attend to her forgotten duties as a godmother, as happens in "The Godparents," by Grace Sartwell Mason (Houghton Mifflin Company), the experienced reader will anticipate that the two will make a match, nor will he be disappointed. Their duty involves a delightful camping experience in the Pennsylvania mountains. This and the love-making will be found satisfactory; the chief sufferer is the luckless godchild, an interesting and attractive boy, who with all the attendant mystery is neglected by the author after serving the purpose of bringing his godfather and godmother together. There is freshness and promise in the book, which gives a new promise to the novel, which gives a new promise to the novel, which gives a new promise to the novel.

Two short stories, both dealing strangely enough, with life after death, come to us separately printed from Charles Scribner's Sons. The lesson in "The Message," by Katharine Holland Brown, is put strongly and dramatically; apart from the coincidences it reads as if it might have happened. "The Lifted Bandage," by Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews, on the other hand sounds artificial both in the point made and in the setting.

Sicily is the background for a succession of love affairs in Josephine Toner's "Susan in Sicily" (L. C. Page and Company, Boston). The reader is treated to the minute details of travel from Liverpool by steamer and then from Palermo to Girgenti, Syracuse and Taormina and back to Palermo, and also to many impressions of the people and their ways. The sights are only touched upon, the author preferring to refer the reader to the guide books. The impressions are not very accurate, but they are unpretentious and personal. The traveler's interest in the author much more; she manages to include a deserted wife and the widow of a bigamist husband in her small company and to match three couples. A letter describing the Messina earthquake is thrown in. It is all chatty and sprightly and pretty slight.

The American Navy. It is a glorious tale that Mr. Frederic Stanhope Hill has compressed into the 300 pages of "The Romance of the American Navy" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The story that every boy wants to know. He tells of sea fights and other brave deeds from the outbreak of the Revolution to the return of the battleship fleet. No formal or continuous history, but an account of successive exploits; the ship duels of the war of 1812; the feats of privateers, the old and well known stories, and besides many less familiar episodes in navy history; the mutiny on the Somers, for instance, the beaching of the Waterate at Arica, the hurricane at Samoa.

Many things are told in full that the formal histories only allude to or dignify in a few words. No time is wasted over strategy or politics; it is the personal story of bravery or grit or skill that is presented; the things boys care for most.

A Philosophical Library. Two volumes of a new series of books, intended to present in a dozen or more volumes the main contents of philosophical thought, and called "Epochs of Philosophy," are before us. The general editor is Prof. John Grier Hibben of Princeton, the publishers Charles Scribner's Sons; the authors engaged comprise many American and some British scholars. Prof. Hibben himself has written "The Philosophy of Enlightenment," an account of the eighteenth century; Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Rousseau, Leibnitz and Kant, in less than 300 pages, which implies careful selection and much condensation.

The volume on "Stoic and Epicurean" by R. D. Hicks of Trinity College, Cambridge, is also ready; a lucid account of the thought of the Roman Empire. The volumes are issued as fast as they are ready, regardless of chronological sequence, though following a common plan and arrangement.

School and College Text Books. The endeavor to obtain novelty and freshness in the texts through which knowledge of foreign tongues is acquired is to be commended. It may be that one text is as good as another for beginners, and it is true that the old standbys, that have served to break in one class after another, are new to those innocent of knowledge, but variety is needed by the teacher and the power to select according to the taste and the proficiency of the classes is desirable. The publishers seem ready to do their part.

As an introduction to German Mr. Philip Schuyler Allen has put together "Heroin" (Henry Holt and Company), giving pictures of German life in childhood and youth and ending with tales of general interest. He explains his purpose in his preface. Among his aims are "to achieve simplicity without silliness," "to use idiomatic German," "to maintain a German atmosphere." He has made a good and useful reader, though we cannot agree with the reason he gives for exclud-

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