NEW BOOKS.

Some Stories by Henry James.

In examining with a pleasure that quite fulfils expectation Mr. Henry James's book of stories "The Finer Grain" (Charles Scribner's Sons) we have been unable to discover that this properly esteemed author is any more headlong, any less cautious, anfractuous and deliberate of utterance than he was before. We have never known anybody who more successfully than Mr. James has avoided the tumults of expression and the shocks consequent upon abruptness. The glide of his style through smooth distances undisturbed by thank you ma'ams or even nubbins of event is a marvel of unagitated procedure from dim intangible beginnings to far periods that are velvet or cushions. There are, to be sure, a good many commas, but the army of these little curly tailed things is captivating rather than alarming; they are anyway a matter that may be left to the concern and perhaps the perplexity of the printers, who ought, however, to know enough to have a barnful of them ready when this particular literature is to be handled.

Entering with a restraint that is imposed upon us into an examination of the first tale here, "The Velvet Glove," we find that John Berridge, the author of an immensely successful—which is perhaps the same as saying an immensely talked about—novel, was approached in Paris in a most taking manner by a young Englishman whose warrant of distinction was written all over him quite unquestionably but so subtly as to require for its expression a good many pages. The young Englishman wanted, as he made known by an exceedingly well bred and thoroughly deliberate system of communication, so much concession of valuable time and inestimable concern on the part of acknowledged genius as would be involved in the sympathetic reception of a "lady friend" (the quotation is not from the author, though we know he would not despise that reasonable combination of words) who also had written a work of fiction, either real or imaginative.

We were going to say that in due time, but we will change it and say that after a time the famous novelist met the other, his still obscure sister in their common art, and found her so wonderful, for sheer visible distinction quite surpassing, as she did, even her friend the young Englishman, who had so irresistibly pleaded for her that he (the novelist upon whom fame had very stupendously descended) gasped. It was a time when music was going on, when a great tenor was filling a great tapestried room with a quite imperious succession of transcendently dulcet sounds, and the effect had come to be really little short of supernatural, if it was at all short of it, at the moment when the Princess (as her title was, either in fact or because unquestionably she deserved it) appeared, overwhelmingly, but far from obstrusively, unless we accord an entirely agreeable significance to that word, with the young Englishman in tow.

The Princess must have been Olympian, there can be no doubt of it in the face of the many pages gently insistent upon that point, pages mentioning such a rich and regular young beauty as might have been accomplished by the overpainting of some divine Greek mask by Titian, also mentioning that at the time of her long rustle across the room she might have been Artemis hung with pearls just after matching under a faintly fierce impulse the cup of gold from Hebe. It was to be remarked that the greatest of contemporary dramatists, a prodigious personage, was present, was also, in spite of the tremendousness of him, in spite of the fact that he was cosmic as well as Gallic, something less than Olympian, so that the Princess could with propriety of appearance in a measure ignore him, could fleetingly turn her back upon him in order to bestow an unimpaired, a thorough welcome upon Berridge, who managed to be, presumably with little difficulty, as much impressed as he should have been.

But the Princess was not what she seemed. How could she be, since after all, and after a good deal, she had under the pseudonym of Amy Evans written what must have been the fairly grotesque piece of fiction entitled "The Top of the Tree" and had now in mind, under the splendid ardor of her approach to Berridge, the particular intention of getting him to write a preface to "The Velvet Glove," her new work? He was very scornfully aroused when he was made aware of this, when as she was taking him home in her automobile to what had promised to be an intimate supper she told him that she desired a preface. His hand had been sustained upon his knee and her fingers had caressed his hand with a light urgency as she explicitly preferred this request for a preface. He had humor—he was a creation of Mr. James. Pressing her fingers in turn, descending from the automobile, declining quite resolutely the richly potential supper, he kissed the Princess, unobserved by the footman and the chauffeur, after assuring her that she herself was Romance and that under no circumstances would he write a preface for her, and so left her, surprised doubtless, perhaps disconsolate, but certainly in an attitude to afford a good climax to the story.

Upon the four other tales in the book we cannot dwell, since space must be considered by us, but they are tales by the same author and being such they need no encomium. They speak for themselves, or if they do not it would be vain for anybody less competent in detail than Mr. James to attempt an explanation.

The Blackfeet Indians.

The reader will feel grateful to Mr. Walter McClintock for publishing the interesting account of what he learned from the intercourse of many years with the Blackfeet Indians in a handsome, readable volume, "The Old North Trail" (Macmillans), instead of burying it in a report of the Bureau of Ethnography of the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. McClintock tells how he came to be interested in the Indians, how he lived among them and how he was adopted into the tribe. He then relates what he found out from them regarding their history, their traditions and customs and describes fully their life, their manners, their religion and folklore.

It is no manual of ethnography that he writes, however, but a story of personal experiences and adventures. He draws vivid pictures of several fine Indians whom he knew well, he describes hunting trips and other outdoor events, he has a keen eye for the beauties of nature and a scientific interest in animal life. The trail that gives the title to his book lies along the top of the Rocky Mountains, running from Wyoming into Canada, and was once the usual track of the Blackfeet tribes. Mr. McClintock at the end of his volume describes his journey along it when he visited the northernmost settlement of these Indians, and an exciting story it is. His book is illustrated with many photographs and with colored pictures. It is one of the most interesting books on Indian life we have seen and a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the aborigines.

The Almanach de Gotha.

First of the annual reference books for 1911 comes the venerable "Almanach de Gotha" (Justus Perthes, Gotha; Lemcke and Buechner) in its 148th issue, thicker than ever in its scarlet binding with its 1,282 pages. The statistical and diplomatic part has long outweighed the genealogical part, not only typographically but in the importance the book has for those who use it, yet it still remains an almost official register of the highest nobility of Europe.

The more noticeable changes of the year are that Great Britain and Belgium have new rulers, that Montenegro has now a King and that Portugal for the time being is a republic. The cautious "Almanach," however, waits for the action of the Powers before removing the royal family from the list of rulers. The countless changes that have occurred during the year are recorded, and the editors have had enterprise enough to note some of the results of the United States census and to include the election of Gov. Dix and Gov. Wilson, which occurred as they were going to press.

Kindly Views of Notable Men.

A veteran political reporter, Mr. O. O. Stealey of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, records his views of the public men he has met in "130 Pen Pictures of Live Men (The author, Washington, D. C.). With proper loyalty the portrait of Henry Watterson is made to head the list; the rest follow in alphabetical order. Men prominent in politics, in the financial world and in newspaper life are, as might be expected, those that the author deals with. He attempts no biography or record of what they have done, but simply tells of the impression they make and of the place they now hold.

It is creditable to the subjects of these sketches and to the author alike that the impressions should be so uniformly favorable. With all the opportunities a Washington correspondent has of seeing the seamy side of politics Mr. Stealey has not soured. His public men are all, or nearly all, swans. Foreigners and readers of campaign literature will form a higher idea of them all after reading the personal impressions they make on those who meet them, which are so amiably and so graphically recorded in this volume that Mr. Stealey publishes.

Belated Children's Books.

From Frederick Warne and Company we receive on the eve of Christmas some very attractive children's books. The infantile tales and pictures by Beatrix Potter, which seem to be as popular with older admirers of simplicity as with the very little ones, are represented this year by "The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse." Three well known books by Kate Greenaway form a refreshing contrast to this year's output of juveniles. The pretty pictures of "Under the Window" and "Marigold Garden" have left their mark on the dress of infants; the rhymes are such as they can enjoy, without being silly. They are books that should be given to every child that does not have them yet. Browning's "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," like "Oliver Twist," has always seemed to us eminently unsuitable for children, though British publishers never tire of issuing new illustrated editions of the poem for the holidays. Miss Greenaway missed the spirit of the poem entirely, but her children are always charming, and her long friezes of lovely children following the piper make the book a delight. The illustrations of L. Leslie Brooke for "The House in the Wood" and other stories taken from Grimm look also like old friends. They are very good, like the stories, and make the book one that will please any healthy child.

Two more boys' books published by C. Arthur Pearson, who seems to prefer sensational stories for his juveniles, came to us from the J. B. Lippincott Company. "Coo-ee!" by Robert Leighton, has for its chief character a rascally beachcomber whose meanness is absolutely inexhaustible. The two youths who get the better of him have an adventurous voyage in the South Seas fighting the islanders, sailing a ship under difficulties and hunting for a sunken treasure ship. In "Strong-hand Saxon," by Christopher Beck, a determined youth, aided by the accomplished hero, chases a gang of scoundrels from England into the Canadian wilds, with a hair breadth escape of some kind in nearly every chapter.

There is danger that school children may become prejudiced against folklore if the enthusiasts do not stay their hand. They have folk songs and folk dances and now are offered folk plays in "The Silver Thread and Other Folk Plays for Young People," by Constance D'Arcy Mackaye (Henry Holt and Company). The plots are simple enough, though the language is rather stilted, but children enjoy that. The folk part, so far as they are concerned, must lie chiefly in the opportunity to wear costumes. It is rather queer to have the scene between *Siegfried* and *Mime* the dwarf adapted for a school performance.

Fiction.

We are sorry to have to reconstruct our ideas of Scandinavian life. Travellers unanimously have borne testimony to idyllic pastoral conditions such as Miss Bremer and Hans Christian Andersen and the earlier Björnson described, and we have believed the descriptions to be true. Ibsen and Strindberg, to be sure, have supplied disagreeable insides for people externally placid and honest, but that we took to be a manifestation of the modern spirit, yet here is Miss Selma Lagerlof, to whom her admiring countrymen have bestowed the Nobel prize for literature, who describes an extraordinary condition of things in the Sweden of sixty years since. In "The Story of Gösta Berling," issued in a new edition, with illustrations by Georg Pauli, by Little, Brown and Company, she has written a number of brilliant episodes, vivid, realistic and full of poetry, which even in translation justify the award of the prize; it is work that can certainly hold its own with that of Paul Heyse on the one hand or Rudyard Kipling on the other, authors that the Nobel committee have considered or rewarded. Many of the episodes make powerful short stories. When taken together we confess to failing to fathom the author's meaning and intention, though Scandinavians may be more fortunate.

The hero is a minister who is turned out of the pulpit for drunkenness, becomes a tramp and consorts with an extraordinary set of equally drunken worthies, who for some reason are supported at a farmhouse. He never overcomes his thirst for drink, nor tries to so far as we can see; he is a poet and very fascinating to women. He and his companions rule the district in which they dwell; the place seems to be destitute of any legal authorities. If the author possessed humor she could have made a sort of Rabelaisian tale of the situation she puts before her readers; she is always in earnest, however, and glories over every abstention from crime of her vagabonds as though it were a heroic deed. Her book may express the cry of the poetic soul for freedom from the humdrum conventionalities of Scandinavian respectability; in most civilized communities it would be answered by a police court sentence or confinement in a lunatic asylum. Apart from the doings of the roisterers the pictures of rural life are wonderfully fine and true, and even where they come in the scenes are very dramatic.

The career of a rich young man who goes to the bad as rapidly and ignominiously as he can is depicted by Mr. Victor Mapes in "The Gilded Way" (the Neale Publishing Company). The reader might feel more sympathy for the young woman who marries him if she had taken ordinary interest in what became of the people that she professed to care for. It is an unpleasant story, told crudely.

About Birds.

A very complete monograph for sportsmen and naturalists has been written by Mr. George Bird Grinnell in "American Game-Bird Shooting" (Forest and Stream Publishing Company, New York.) The author limits himself to "upland" shooting. He devotes the greater part of his book to the scientific description of the birds and their habits, woodcock and snipe, quail, the various forms of American grouse and wild turkey. He next describes how each bird should be hunted, with general directions about shooting, dogs and so on. At the end he writes on the destruction and protection of game. Throughout he gives anecdotes, personal impressions and experiences of his own and of others. He writes very entertainingly, so that his book will be enjoyed not only by sportsmen but by the general reader. It is illustrated with many excellent pictures.

A different kind of hunter is Mr. Seton P. Gordon; he uses the camera instead of the shotgun. In "Birds of the Loch and Mountain" (Cassell and Company, New York), he tells his adventures in trying to photograph birds in Scotland from the golden eagle and the game birds to the bullfinch and the warbler. The photographs are remarkable and the stories of how some were obtained equally strange. An interesting and valuable book.

Books on the Civil War.

One of the few survivors who is competent to tell the story, Gen. Morris Schaff, in "The Battle of the Wilderness" (Houghton, Mifflin Company) gives his account of one of the most stubbornly contested fights of the war, which has been fought almost as bitterly on paper since. Schaff was a young Lieutenant on the staff then and was able to see what was going on from many points. After all these years he tells his story as vividly as though it had happened but yesterday, and an interesting story it makes.

To bring home the reality of the war nothing can surpass the stories of individual regiments or bodies of troops, when they are properly written. One of the best of these is J. B. Polley's history of "Hood's Texas Brigade" (The Neale Publishing Company), an organization that gave a brilliant account of itself from beginning to end of the war and which had the fortune to be engaged in all the great battles. The author served throughout as a private; he was lucky enough or sensible enough to procure the stories of the men in the ranks and to repeat them in plain language without excisions or euphemisms. This enables the reader to see things as the men who did them saw them and makes the book a most valuable contribution to the war history. From Seven Pines to Appomattox Hood's brigade was in the thick of the fighting in the East and it fought at Chickamauga and Chattanooga besides.

On the other side we have the record of the 155th Pennsylvania, a regiment that saw nearly as much arduous service, in "Under the Maltese Cross. Antietam to Appomattox" (The 155th Regimental Association, Pittsburg). This is a composite volume to which many persons have contributed. It is put together after the fashion of most regimental histories, with many accounts of individuals and many portraits. The regiment was recruited in the Pittsburg region, and the editors have thought proper to include much general history of Pennsylvania and of the war in their volume. There is a good deal that is of value in the accounts of what the regiment did, however, and in these loyalty to their corps and division commanders is marked. The regiment has a glorious record.

The "Memoirs of the War of Secession," by the late Governor Johnson Hagood of South Carolina (The State Company, Columbia, S. C.), falls into two parts, both built on diaries and other materials which the author preserved. The first tells the story of the First Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers, which was engaged chiefly around Charleston; the second deals with Hagood's brigade, the campaigns in Virginia in 1864 and in North Carolina in 1865. It is an interesting account of a body that did good service on the Confederate side, and contains many important documents. A brief biography of the author by Mr. U. R. Brooks, who edits the manuscript, is prefixed.

Views of Many Lands.

After visiting Peru and Mexico Mr. C. Reginald Enock has favored the United States with his presence and writes his impressions in "Farthest West" (Appleton's). The title is rather deceptive, for his descriptions are chiefly of places east of the Mississippi and his remarks are general, applying to the whole country. The light and frivolous touch noticeable in his earlier books, but pardonable there because so little was known of the countries described, is out of place here. The assurance and flippancy of Mr. Enock have grown with his books; his "Mexico" was much more careless and offensive than his "Peru," and both qualities are aggravated in this book. Unfortunately for him plenty of intelligent Englishmen have described the United States before him, so that his hasty and undigested views on matters he has not understood are not likely to be accepted at home any more than they will be here. If his blunders were only amusing Mr. Enock might be pardoned, but he is merely voluble and unseeing and has simply written another globe trotting book.

Another book on Spain. Mr. S. L. Bensusan, who writes "Home Life in Spain" (Macmillans), is well informed and conscientious, although inclined to be rather didactic. He describes home life and holidays and cooking in the same way as he does the Church and political parties. He gives much information regarding Spanish dishes, relying on a friend's knowledge, and the reader will learn the meaning of many Spanish terms. We fear, however, that he takes the fondness for local concoctions too seriously and that there is not as much trouble as he indicates when a Gallician or Castilian marries an Andalusian as to what the dinner shall consist of. There is a vast amount of curious information to be drawn from the book by those who already know something about Spain. The author is serious minded and has opinions on religion, on education, on political methods, on the administration of law, on the army and other matters. His book is much more important in many ways than the mass of impressions that have been published of late by tourists.

The interest in the account of a summer in Switzerland, which is recounted in Edith Elmer Woods's "An Oberland Châlet" (Wessels and Bissels Company), depends entirely on trivial personal experiences. These are related in a lively tone, so that if the reader is attracted to the persons who appear in the narrative he will enjoy the book, though he will learn little about Switzerland from it. It is one sample of experience in that much travelled country and, being truthful within its narrow limits, is entertaining.

Sheep mean much to Australia and it is from the point of view of sheep that Mr. C. E. W. Bean describes the country in "On the Wool Track" (John Lane Company). His book is made up of bright, cheerful articles which show many things in an unusual light. He communicates his hopefulness to his readers and makes them understand why men stick to their work in Australia in spite of discouragements. His pictures of men, country and conditions are vivid and entertaining and his style is simple and unpretentious.

Some School and College Text Books.

Nothing is more difficult than the selection of texts for beginning the study of a language. That made by Prof. Alfred B. Nichols in "An Easy German Reader" (Henry Holt and Company) is excellent; he has had to simplify his stories, but he provides a vocabulary that will really help those who begin the study of German. The selections are chiefly from classical writers. Of the same character, but taken from more modern authors, are the stories included in "Ernstes und Heiteres," by Josefa Schrakamp (American Book Company). They are intended for beginners and opportunities for conversation are afforded by the questions on the text. For much more advanced students Prof. Carl Edgar Eggert, Ph. D., has edited Grillparzer's tragedy, "König Ottokars Glück und Ende" (Henry Holt and Company). He has supplied a careful introduction on Grillparzer and Ottokar's history with a bibliography and notes. It is a desirable addition to the list of books for advanced students who can read German easily.

In French Mr. Felix Weill's "Historical French Reader" (American Book Company) may be useful for beginners, although the extracts are far too short, for the French is easy and the subject matter does not call for prolixity. There are exercises for turning English into French and a vocabulary. Prof. Victor E. François's "Easy Standard French" (American Book Company) is also meant for beginners. Its object could surely have been attained without cutting insignificant snippets from the works of famous authors. The advantage of making their names familiar to beginners does not make up for the disrespect shown to them and their works. Even academicians may ask compilers of text books for decent treatment. It was bad enough to turn Alexandre Dumas's "Les Trois Mousquetaires" into a college text book as a Harvard professor has done. What can be said of Mr. I. H. B. Spiers, who in "Episodes From Les Trois Mousquetaires" (D. C. Heath and Company, Boston) cuts the romance down to 142 pages? Notes and a vocabulary can hardly make up for the outrage on Dumas.

An admirable addition to the apparatus for learning Spanish will be found in the volume of "Spanish Short Stories," edited by Prof. Elijah Clarence Hills, Ph. D., and Louise Reinhardt (D. C. Heath and Company). This contains a dozen stories by the best known modern Spanish authors with two by Spanish-American writers. Each story is complete, and the collection is entertaining enough to engage any one who knows Spanish to read it for pleasure. That a vocabulary should be deemed necessary for a book calling for as much knowledge of Spanish as this does is due to the deficiencies of the ordinary Spanish dictionaries.

The study of English in schools and colleges brings with it the appearance of all sorts of unexpected books in text book form. Much as we may deplore their coming within the range of the displeasure of youth there can be no doubt as to the fitness of two books for the purpose intended. Francis Parkman's "The Oregon Trail" is a capital story in unexceptionable English. It has been edited by Clarence Walton Vail and supplied with sensible notes (Charles E. Merrill Company). Edward Everett Hale's "The Man Without a Country" has served many purposes; it is well suited for auxiliary reading. The introduction and notes by William Aspenwall Bradley may seem superfluous, but they will aid children (Charles E. Merrill Company). Thomas Carlyle's essay on "Burns" has been edited by Dr. Julian W. Abernethy, who adds some of the best known of Burns's lyrics, notes and an introduction; all for the use of youth (Charles E. Merrill Company). What need there is for newly editing Shakespeare publishers may know. Dr. Brainerd Kellogg has done the work for "Julius Cæsar" and "Twelfth Night" (Charles E. Merrill Company), providing each play with notes, an introduction on Shakespeare and one on the play itself. From Thomas Y. Crowell and Company come three volumes which, though not in textbook form, perform the task of supplying "auxiliary reading." The "Best American Orations" and the "Best American Essays" have been selected by John R. Howard; "The Hundred Best English Poems," and they are wholly British, by Adam L. Gowans. To meet the requirements for admission to college Prof. Edward Chauncey Baldwin has edited "Old Testament Narratives" (American Book Company), using the American revised edition. We should have supposed that for the purpose aimed at the King James version would have been preferable. For the little ones who are beginning to learn a primer has been prepared in "Speaking and Writing, Book Two" (American Book Company), by a formidable combination of authors: William H. Maxwell, City Superintendent of Schools, New York; Emma L. Johnson, principal of the Brooklyn Training School for Teachers, and Madalene D. Barnum.

On the pedagogical side Edna Lyman, in "Story Telling. What to Tell and How to Tell it" (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago), explains to teachers and mothers what children should read or what should be read to them. The range of literature seems rather extensive. We certainly should not think of reading Tolstoi to children young enough to be read to. Three authors combine in the compilation of a treatise on "Argumentation and Debate," Prof. Joseph Villiers Denney, Prof. Carson S. Duncan and Mr. Frank A. McKinney (American Book Company). The larger part of the volume is taken up with examples; the theoretical part seems much too condensed and dogmatic, especially the fragments on evidence and logic. The book seems devised to fit in with a special system of instruction.

Two musical books by Hollis Dann seem suited for school purposes, "Christmas Carols and Hymns" and "School Hymnal," which includes national and patriotic songs (American Book Company). Frank R. Rix's "The Mastersinger" is more ambitious; it consists of choruses and part songs. Some of the selections hardly justify the title (American Book Company).

A Handbook of Aeronautics.

"How It Flies," by Richard Ferris (Thomas Nelson and Sons), is not a happy title for a handbook dealing with balloons as well as with aeroplanes, but the compilation is better than the title. The author has tried to satisfy a popular demand and deserves success, although there are marks of haste in his work. He has avoided technical terms as much as possible and excluded intricate calculations, yet he gives the reader a good idea of the different types of aeroplanes, of how they are constructed and how operated.

The book is well illustrated with cuts of machines, stationary and in flight, and with plans and diagrams. There is a brief history of the development of the aeroplane from the earliest experiments in gliding. An attempt is made to explain the air currents and the "laws of flight." A fitting tribute is paid to the inventive genius of the Wright brothers, but credit is given to Blériot for first designing a machine that was not dependent upon a starting device to leave the ground. The Blériot monoplane Mr. Ferris terms "the first wholly successful flying machine." One chapter he devotes to military aeronautics. In another chapter well known aviators and balloonists will find biographical sketches of themselves. Balloons, including the motor driven dirigibles, are not neglected. Finally there is a chronicle of aviation achievements and an explanation of aeronautical terms. The author refrains from speculation about the future of the art. "How It Flies" is both instructive and entertaining.

Other Books.

A pathetic little memorial biography is that of Stonewall Jackson's only surviving child, "Julia Jackson Christian," written by her mother, Mary Anna Jackson (Stone and Barringer Company, Charlotte, N. C.) She was an infant in arms when her father died, the sole child of his that grew up. She was married happily and died before she was twenty-seven years of age, more than twenty years ago, leaving two children, one of whom went to West Point. Her life was uneventful, spent entirely in her home; but this record of a gentle, lovely Southern woman will be appreciated for its own sake as well as for its connection with her heroic father.

To the growing mass of Franciscan literature that is being made accessible to the general public may now be added a translation of "The Life and Legend of the Lady Saint Clare," by Charlotte Balfour from the sixteenth century French of Brother François Du Puis (Longmans, Green and Company). Father Cuthbert supplies in an introduction the historical facts regarding Saint Clare, her relation to the Franciscans, the establishment of her order and the struggles with the authorities at Rome. The translator adds excerpts from the books on St. Francis that relate to Saint Clare and four letters that are ascribed to her. The book is printed in very attractive form and is illustrated with extremely interesting pictures from old paintings and miniatures.

A good portion of Mr. August Santleben's "A Texas Pioneer" (The Neale Publishing Company) is very entertaining. The author came from Germany as a baby before the war and was just old enough to enlist. It is not war experiences that he relates, however, but the annals of his life as mail carrier between San Antonio and Eagle Pass and as driver of freight caravans to Chihuahua and back. It was a border made dangerous by Indians and highwaymen; with the Mexicans the author got along very well. The honesty with which he describes events gives value and interest to his story; the care he takes to disclaim participation in many adventures adds a touch of humor. The author's reminiscences of old days in San Antonio are of local importance only. When he takes up his business troubles in later years he ceases to interest.

The reminiscences which the Hon. S. D. Woods publishes under the title "Lights and Shadows of Life on the Pacific Coast" (Funk and Wagnalls Company) are chiefly of the days after the civil war, and the men he tells of are those that followed after the Forty-niners. Many of them were noted far beyond the borders of California, so that Mr. Woods's memories are of general interest. A good part of the book is devoted to excursions he took and to contrasts between the new and the old; this is pleasant reading but will be understood best by Californians.

There is much good sense as well as information in the chapters Prof. John C. Van Dyke has included in his little book "What is Art?" (Charles Scribner's Sons) which distinguishes it from much that is written about art nowadays. His attempt to define the undefinable is not very satisfactory: "Art is primarily a matter of doing, somewhat a matter of seeing and feeling, and perhaps not at all a matter of theme or thinking." The book is full of suggestions for those who can understand, and these are likely to become pitfalls, we imagine, for those who wish to learn to criticise.

A taste of Pepys is better than complete ignorance, and so Mr. Edward Frank Allen's "Red Letter Days of Samuel Pepys" (Sturgis and Walton Company) is excusable, the more so that the selections may tempt some readers to turn to the complete diary. The editor has chosen a number of subjects in which the diarist was interested and gives under each a few extracts from the diary. That arrangement, scrappy though it be, is perhaps as sensible a one as he could have made. To those who know their Pepys these mutilated fragments must be irritating, particularly as Mr. Allen takes care not to offend delicacy.

Pleasant meditations and observations on natural history, weather, plant and animal life, arranged so as to lead the reader gently through the year, make up Mr. Samuel Christian Schmucker's "Under the Open Sky" (J. B. Lippincott Company). The book is adorned with pictures and marginal decorations.

Another nature writer, Mr. Winthrop Packard, whose contributions were made to the Boston *Evening Transcript*, collects his agreeable articles in "Wood Wanderings" (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston). Birds and plants attract the author mainly. The reader will enjoy sharing his rambles.

In "Brandywine Days" (The Biddle Press, Philadelphia) Mr. John Russell Hayes jots down his random thoughts in the form of a diary or commonplace book running from the middle of June to the middle of September. He talks pleasantly enough of the weather, of books, of nature and bygone days, of personal reminiscences and antiquarian matters, and breaks frequently into verse.

Though bound like a law book, Mr. Gleason L. Archer's "Ethical Obligations of the Lawyer" (Little, Brown and Company) is rather a treatise, we fancy, on what the author wishes the lawyer's conduct to be than a statement of adjudicated law and practice. What substantive law there is on the subject will be found in the book and also the Bar Association's Code of Ethics. The object of all the present ethical agitation, however, is, we imagine, to make sure that lawyers shall be ordinarily decent and honest and not to turn them into angels.

The determination of sex has been and is the subject of much scientific investigation and experiment. It is not a subject that the layman, however interested, can handle properly. No good can come from books like "The Law of Sex Determination and Its Practical Applications," by Laura A. Calhoun (The Eugenics Publishing Company, New York). It serves to demonstrate that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, particularly in matters of this sort. If we are not much mistaken the author's "theory" has been discovered before and proved to be fallacious.

Books Received.

"A Bibliography of Mark Twain." Merle Johnson. (Harpers.)

"Joseph Haydn." Franz von Seeburg. (The Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Ind.)

"Christianity and the Modern Mind." Samuel McComb, D. D. (Dodd, Mead and Company.)

"The Miracle of Right Thought." Orison Sweet Marden. (Thomas Y. Crowell and Company.)

"From Freedom to Despotism." Charles M. Hollingsworth. (The Author, Washington, D. C.)

"Literature in the School." John S. Welch (Silver, Burdett and Company, New York.)

"I Rule the House." Edmund Vance Cooke. (Dodge Publishing Company, New York.)

"Sanidad y Beneficencia." Edited by Dr. Enrique B. Barnet. (Secretaria de Sanidad y Beneficencia, Havana.)

"A Little Fifer's War Diary." C. W. Bardeen. (C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse.)

"A Williams Anthology." Edited by Edwin Partridge Lehman and Julian Park. (Privately printed, Williamstown, Mass.)

"A Link of Empire." (The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, London.)

"Anarchism and Other Essays." Emma Goldman. (Mother Earth Publishing Association, New York.)

"Tone Plays for Children." Alys E. Bentley. (The A. S. Barnes Company, New York.)

"Child Life in Song and Speech." Alys E. Bentley. (The A. S. Barnes Company.)

"A Lesson in Marriage." Björnstjerne Björnson. (Brandu's, New York.)

"Xenophon's Anabasis. Books I.-IV." Maurice W. Mather, Ph. D., and J. W. Hewitt, Ph. D. (American Book Company.)

"Makers and Defenders of America." Anna Elizabeth Foote and Avery Warner Skinner. (American Book Company.)

Authors Defeated for Parliament.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

The retirement of Hilaire Belloc from the House of Commons recalls the names of some distinguished authors who in vain sought entrance to that assembly. Thackeray was defeated when he stood for Oxford, and so was Trollope at Beverley. Both of them made good use of their election experiences in subsequent novels. Freeman too proved unsuccessful at the general election of 1869. No wonder, since according to his biographer he wanted "to enthrall an audience of Somersetshire rustics with eloquent passages descriptive of the Landesgemeinde of the Uri."

Talking of Thackeray and Parliament, Grant Duff notes the predicament of the novelist in his diary under the year 1875. "He [J. R. Green] gave me the most remarkable account of canvassing Oxford with Thackeray, whose want of power of public speaking seems to have been perfectly extraordinary. On the hustings he utterly broke down, and Green heard him say to himself, 'If I could only go into the Mayor's parlor for five minutes I could write this out quite well.'"

A Bawbee From Carlyle.

Robert Ross in the Bystander.

"I used to see Carlyle when I lived as a child in Chelsea. I regarded him with extraordinary aversion and fear. One day I was sent to post a letter. I suppose I was older, though unconscious, as always, of anything ahead. I cannoned into Carlyle. The impact laid me flat on the pavement, where I yelled for some minutes, though soothed eventually by England's great thinker.

"And then—this is the point of the story—Carlyle dived into his pockets, produced a halfpenny and said kindly, 'Here is a bawbee for Bobby.' I have the halfpenny to this day. When Mr. Carlyle died I was put into deep mourning. He was the first and perhaps the most interesting of all my street acquaintances."

New Edition Now Ready

A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

THE STORY OF THREE WISE MEN

By W. J. LOCKE

Ornamental Cover, Decorative Border, Cloth, 12mo, 75 cents net. Postage 10 cents. Leather $1.25 net.

NEW YORK TIMES: *"The miracle—for surely it is no less—of bringing the Christmas spirit into the twentieth century is accomplished. Mr. Locke has so wrought that the solemn bright joy of the Christmas chimes is in your ears as you close the little book."*

CHICAGO TRIBUNE: *"A modern tale with the real spirit and meaning of the day faithfully set forth. Nothing written on the subject has conveyed the true message in a more telling way."*

CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD: *"Mr. Locke is a prince of story tellers, and in this delightful fragment he has remained true to his high literary ideals."*

NEW YORK SUN: *"It is a powerful little sermon against unbelief."*

WALTER CRANE'S BOOKS *for* CHILDREN

27 Toy Books. Paper Covers, 25 cents each. Post 3 cents.

Sing a Song o' Sixpence. Princess Belle Etoile. The A B C of Old Friends. Gaping, Wide-mouth Wadling Frog. One, Two, Buckle My Shoe. Absurd A B C. Sleeping Beauty. Goody Two Shoes. Hind in the Wood. Beauty and the Beast. King Luckieboy's Party. Valentine and Orson. Cinderella. Jack and the Beanstalk. Bluebeard. Aladdin. My Mother. Puss in Boots. Baby's A B C. Mother Hubbard. The Three Bears. Red Riding Hood. The Forty Thieves. This Little Pig. The Fairy Ship. Frog Prince. Yellow Dwarf.

JOHN LANE COMPANY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIO ALL BOOKSELLERS **NEW YORK**

No. 13

A different reason for buying this book appears daily in this paper.

"One of the notable books of the hour—a book about which there are bound to be many opinions. Its appeal is not literary but human; it voices the thoughts and ambitions of thousands of Americans."—*Current Literature.*

ASTIR

A Publisher's Life-Story.

By JOHN ADAMS THAYER.

In stock at all live book stores. If your bookseller has sold out make him get you a copy. Price, $1.20 net.

SMALL, MAYNARD & COMPANY, Publishers, Boston.

The Greatest Display of

HOLIDAY BOOKS

to be seen in

NEW YORK'S LARGEST BOOK STORE

Lowest Prices

MALKAN

Send for catalog.

42 Broadway and 55 New St., N. Y.

Telephone 3900 and 3901 Broad.

Open Evenings.

BOOKS—All out of print books supplied, no matter on what subject; write me stating books wanted; I can get you any book ever published; when in England call and inspect my stock of 50,000 rare books. BAKER'S GREAT BOOKSHOP, John Bright st., Birmingham, England.

LAUDER'S Songs, Scotch Toasts, Scotch Books, Irish Toasts, Irish Books. PRATT, 161 6th av.

The Sun Book Exchange

Advertisements of second hand books for sale, exchange or wanted will be inserted in THE SUN, Saturdays, at 20c. a line (seven words to the line, fourteen lines to the inch). Display type not allowed.

Copy for advertisements under this classification must be received at THE SUN office not later than Thursday previous to Saturday of insertion.

AEROPLANES, their buoyant source arising from the Winged Bat Skyudel how conceived and described on page 82 of book, "Love Is in the Stomach," published in 1909 by J. M. Dagnall, originator and author also of "The Hash of Unistasia." The two books, first edition, one dollar, postpaid and registered. J. M. DAGNALL, Publisher, box 153, Brooklyn, N. Y.

"BOY AVIATORS SERIES"—Six thrilling Airship Books for Young Americans. New, exciting and absorbing. Send for Vol. 1, postpaid 50c. At all bookstores. HURST & CO., 395 Broadway, N. Y.

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS bought and sold; catalogue free. Address JOHN HEISE, 410 Onondaga Bank Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y.

Goldwin Smith's Boyhood Christmas.

The following description of Christmas as Goldwin Smith knew it as a boy is taken from his recently published "Reminiscences":

"We children in those days at Christmastide looked joyously forward to three festivals, Christmas Eve and Day, Twelfth Night and New Year's Day. At Christmas there was in every household a feast with turkey, plum pudding and mince pie.

"At midnight on Christmas eve the child as he lay in bed heard with ravishment mixed with awe the music of the waits in the street. The mummers, lineal representatives perhaps of the miracle plays in the Middle Ages, went in their fantastic disguises from house to house singing the hymn 'Christ Is Born in Bethlehem.' All houses were decked with the evergreen holly and its bright berries, a piece of which, by the way, was sent the other day to the Grange from England by an old servant who had left us thirty years before.

"At Christmas the children looked for gifts, though I do not remember any Santa Claus. The poor were feasted, and I think there was something like an opening of all hearts. We in Canada, the Anglicans among us, at all events, have preserved all this in some measure, though perhaps with some abatement from the feelings of the old time in the land. Perhaps the feeling about the sacredness of the season and belief in the historical certainty of that birth in Bethlehem may have somewhat declined.

"On Twelfth Night, the Feast of the Epiphany, twelve days after Christmas, we had parties for the children, with feasting on iced cakes decked with little sugar figures, and playing at snap dragon, that is plucking raisins out of a dish of blazing brandy. There was also drawing for King and Queen, a custom of which I never knew the origin or the connection with the ecclesiastical festival. New Year's Day again brought feastings and gifts, with good wishes for the New Year.

"Both on Christmas Day and on New Year's Day there were family gatherings, more easily brought about in the tight little island than they are here. I do not remember that New Year's Day in England was a special day for paying calls or that it was supposed that by it enmities were buried."