LITERARY NEWS, VIEWS AND CRITICISM

NEW BOOKS.

A Tale of English India.

In Irene Burn's story of "The Unknown Steersman" (Brentano's) we read of Eve Lang, who was beautiful and married and lived in India. Her husband, Denis Lang, in the civilian service, "had a straight nose, romantic dark eyes and a sufficient income." She was just out of school when they were married. She adored him and felt that nothing was wanting on her departure for India "with a soul satisfying trousseau." But he was a busy man in India, and she abhorred loneliness, and so we find her availing herself of the companionship of Capt. Staniforth, who had inclination for her society and was blessed with leisure.

As regards the appearance of the Captain, it is to be read that he was typical. He was lean and brown, like a thousand of his rank. Majors are stouter and Colonels again are thin, but yellowish rather than brown. Subalterns are pink. The chin strap of Capt. Staniforth's helmet streaked his tan with a not unbecoming nor unappreciated white mark. His beautifully moulded legs were agreeably contained in Jodhpur breeches. His head was "well groomed" slickly brushed, we presume, not curycombed. His dog was a fox terrier, not a halfbreed black and tan. The cur was so well disposed toward Mrs. Lang that he licked her hand in an ecstatic manner.

The lady was cautious, although she considered herself "in love." The Captain had been trained to be "the devout lover without undue or uncomfortable warmth." Browning has phrases to fit all cases. As applicable to this case the novelist quotes: "No least line crossed without warrant." The pair went about in quiet places with "hands clasped, and now and then a kiss was "lightly stolen at dusk." All seemed well.

But Celia Forthy was coming to India. She had been strictly reared in a Lincolnshire rectory. Capt. Staniforth exclaimed with obvious sincerity: "A girl! What a horrid nuisance!" Nevertheless Mrs. Lang was disturbed. She saw in imagination "an English complexion of 18." She felt the danger of an intruding young person. "She watched her usurp the elder woman's meed of admiration. Eve had seen it happen so often, devotion transferred in a week from a mature woman to some pretty pink and white idiocy newly arrived by the mail." She had reason for her apprehensions. Celia had been most carefully reared, but she was terrible. Her possibilities may be judged from what she said to a lady in the railroad train running out of Bombay. "I want," she declared to the lady, "some one to love me passionately, like they do in books, and crush my shrinking form to his hungry heart." She spoke absurdly. She had read such sentiments and such expressions in some stolen novelettes. But she meant what she said.

She had startling experiences. The reader may wonder that she came out as well as she did. A number of the characters in the story have their eyes opened. They were pretty blind at first. The picture of India is interesting. It has plenty of surprises.

Amundsen's South Pole Story.

It is the fate of nearly all great geographical explorers that the importance of their discoveries overshadows that of the manner in which they were made, and that, in these days of the rapid transmission of news, the essential and interesting parts of their stories are made public long before the explorers have time to write and to publish their books. When these appear they seem like old stories to readers of their generation; they are read usually by specialists and laid aside as records, to be revived when a later generation, which has not read these newspapers, turns to them to learn what was achieved. Some of these accounts have been so jejune as to disappoint all expectations. Capt. Roald Amundsen, however, in the two portly volumes in which he tells of his dash to "The South Pole" (John Murray; Lee Keedick, New York) has succeeded in writing a brilliant story of adventure, which is not only exciting in itself but also contains a mass of material which the newsgatherers have passed over.

The reason for this is probably the hasty way in which the book was written. Capt. Amundsen tells his story naturally and without literary effort; he seems to have left out very little that happened. The result is that a great deal that is of human interest, though it may be of very slight importance in itself, is retained. The reader gets to know the members of the expedition and the dogs as friends and follows with care what happens to each. Capt. Amundsen is liberal with his praise and no trace of jealousy of any kind appears with regard to his own men. At the start there is a brief summary of Antarctic exploration, which the translator has condensed judiciously, followed by an account of the preparations, which might also have been condensed a little. Then the reader embarks with the expedition and follows its experiences day by day from Norway to Madeira, thence to the Antarctic, where Amundsen makes his dash south, Lieut. Prestrud explores the barrier to King Edward VII. land and Lieut. Nilsen takes the Fram away to examine the ocean depths.

Amundsen was more fortunate in his advance south than were the discoverers of the north pole, in that he soon met a range of mountains, to which he gave names. This breaks the monotony of the daily sledge journeys, for a name, however unknown, seems something more tangible than a mere statement of degrees and minutes. The broken country too gave more variety to the record of each day's work, and the tragedy of the dogs keeps the reader's emotions stirred. It is a fine tale of human pluck and endurance too, and Amundsen does full justice to his brave Scandinavian companions.

Into the matter of the ethics of exploration we cannot enter. Capt. Amundsen asserts that before starting from Norway, on receiving the news that the north pole had been reached, he determined to make a dash for the south pole on the chance of anticipating Capt. Scott. He kept his plan to himself for fear that his backers would withdraw. He felt sure that they would no longer support him in his Arctic venture, unless something startling were done. The one thing that he could try that would accomplish his object was to get to the south pole first. It was the plan of a practical man of action whose heart was set on attaining a definite object, and while casuists may ease to discuss the case, few men, we fancy will be ready to cast a stone at him.

One unpleasant revelation appears in the book. The Fram met both the Terra Nova of Capt. Scott's expedition and the Japanese Antarctic party. While they addressed each other in terms of politeness, it is clear that they took care to have as little as possible to do with one another. National and personal rivalry have entered into the field of scientific exploration, so that there seems danger that expeditions may be disinclined to assist each other in cases of disaster. That is far from the old spirit of chivalry that sent Englishmen and Americans alike into the Arctic for the relief of Sir John Franklin.

The book is illustrated with many interesting photographs and with serviceable maps. In the appendix the scientific results obtained are summarized, and it is gratifying to note that the astronomical observations leave no room for doubts as to the south pole being reached. It is as a fine story of adventure, however, that the book will be read.

Fancies, Fun and Fairies.

It is a thoroughly delightful book of a very uncommon sort that James Stephens has written in "The Crock of Gold" (Macmillans), a book that may or may not become popular, but is sure to find many devoted admirers. It is hardly a story, but a haphazard wandering through sheer nonsense, bits of human life and feeling, stretches of Celtic folklore and Greek mythology and scraps of wisdom and hard sense, all of it Irish, however, and as refreshing as an aimless walk in the country in spring. Allowing one thought to lead whimsically to another without regard to what the outcome may be is no novelty in literature; when it is done well it has a peculiar attraction. The French romanticists thought they had invented the process but the great masters of the art wrote in the eighteenth century, Sterne and Diderot, and the author of "Le Moyen de Parvenir," Heine, has more than a touch of it, and so in our own day has Anatole France.

That Mr. Stephens should have retained the necessary lightness of touch through 300 pages, never making a slip either in his poetry or his humor, is a notable literary achievement; but the reader will hardly think of style in chasing after the author's fancy, he will feel that this is a book written for the author's own pleasure. He will follow the queer and unexpected adventures in which human creatures and beasts and fairy folk are mixed inextricably with more interest than the actions of logical fiction, and much more interest than the conscious efforts of the new Irish school. Here is poetry and fancy, humor and fun, philosophy that is universal, yet is Irish too, put as lightly and artistically as it might be in French.

Some New Fiction.

In spite of its artificiality and a rather juvenile desire to harrow the reader's sensibilities "The Happy Warrior," by A. S. M. Hutchinson (Little, Brown and Company), is a story far above the average in literary execution and in interest. The author, unfortunately, is too much influenced by recent fiction: by Mr. Bernard Shaw's glorification of prizefighting, for instance, and by the prevalent taste for the open air life. The hero is delightful so long as he remains a boy; many of the other characters are pleasing or entertaining, such as the philosophic showman, his daughter, the horse dealer, the pretty girl with the hothouse training, and above all the amiable gentleman whom fate and an ambitious wife force into the peerage, regardless of his habits and wishes. Once drawn, however, they do not develop, though the action of the story covers many years. There are fine scenes too, like the interview between the abandoned wife and the woman who has ousted her, the love episodes, the bits of country life, the sporting episodes, the brutal prizefight and the rest, are far less satisfactory. The author, however, has a thesis to develop and people and incidents only serve to establish it. The reader will probably not agree with the arguments and will resent the butchery of the hero, which proves nothing. It is all good work misapplied.

It is gratifying to discover that there is no moral purpose in J. E. Buckrose's "The Browns" (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company). The heroine, it is true, does something which weighs on her conscience and causes her trouble till the book is ended, and from her experience a lesson may be drawn, but the story itself is about the commonplace people in a British provincial town and their commonplace doings. All have their failings and their comical sides, but all have their pleasant qualities too. The general kindliness and good nature, even in dealing with worldliness and human frailties, has long been absent from British fiction; it is the spirit that made people love Dickens. There are plenty of people in the story that the reader will like, above them all the quiet middle aged woman who has preserved the spirit of adventure through all the years of her humdrum devotion to duty.

There must be friction between the new Canada and Great Britain, if we can trust the romancers of the Northwest, for Harold Bindloss is not alone in drawing contrasts unfavorable to the old country. In "Ranching for Sylvia" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) he tells how the confidence of an estimable young man is abused by a selfish and heartless woman and a rascally relative. She sends him out to Alberta to work her farm for her, while his cousin mismanages his property. The scene changes abruptly from one country to the other, as suits the author's convenience. Of course the rough but invigorating life of the new country is shown to be superior to the ease and luxury of the old. One young fellow with a sense of humor enlivens the book, but Mr. Bindloss is turning out too much mechanical and perfunctory work for a writer of his talent.

The hope that Kansas City, Mo., may be lifted out of the ruck and shown to be a scene of romance is excited by Hamilton Drane's "Madison Hood" (The Hamming Publishing Company, Chicago), and is kept alive by the fact that the story begins in the '50s, shortly before the exciting period of the history of Kansas and Missouri, that was terminated by the civil war. At the beginning we meet with interesting bits of the early history of the town and with an entertaining rustic philosopher. Unluckily the author prefers to give his readers his own opinions on religion and religious people, partly through his philosopher, but at much greater length and more prosily in his own person, and these, however important to himself, have little interest to others. Kansas City almost disappears, the love story is told in the language of the reports of society functions in rural newspapers and the war part is condensed into a few pages. Mr. Drane has missed a great opportunity to remove the brand of commercialism from Kansas City.

The sincerity and photographic realism that Harry Wagenseller Jones shows in "A Man in the Making" (Crane and Company, Topeka, Kan.) make a good portion of the book well worth reading. So long as an author relates his memories of country boys and the scrapes they get into he is sure of an audience, and if bits of melodramatic crime drift in it does no harm, for there are plenty of precedents, notably Huckleberry Finn. Mr. Jones, however, undertakes to tell about grown up people too, and the tone of respectful pomposity he then assumes is unintentionally funny. His boys are all right, nevertheless.

The chief value of Shirley Carson's "The Motto of Mrs. McLane" (George H. Doran Company) lies in the vivid picture it gives of Western farm life. There are shrewd bits of wisdom and of insight into character also to be found in the loquacious outpouring of the kind hearted heroine. We could wish that women authors would content themselves with abstracts instead of stenographic reports of the long winded utterances of voluble females who speak in dialect, the husbands, in the books, are usually able to withdraw to the woodshed or the barn, which the reader cannot do. The young girl in this story is precociously well behaved, but the people are all pleasant and the picture of their life is graphic.

Foreign Lands.

Sicily, since the establishment of Mediterranean trips, is no longer an unknown land and Taormina has become in fiction almost as commonplace as Mentone or Florence. Much travel literature also antedates Arthur Stanley Riggs's "Vistas in Sicily" (McBride, Nast and Company, New York.) The author in writing his book has several advantages; he understands Italian, he has unusual sympathy for the Sicilians, he has read up the extremely interesting history of the island and has visited nearly every part of it. He describes what he has seen intelligently, with no pedantry, is as much concerned with human nature and the incidents of travel as with scenery or history, and has written a book that is helpful and enjoyable, whether the reader has seen Sicily or not. The illustrations are attractive.

The trip described by Russel W. Leary in "Italian Lanes and Highroads" (McBride, Nast and Company) is one of the commonest that travellers take. Starting with Naples and the Sorrento peninsula, the author proceeded north to the customary cities of interest, stopping, however, at some Umbrian and Tuscan towns that are sometimes passed over, and winding up in Venice. He describes his journey pleasantly enough, but has seen nothing more than the hasty traveller can notice. There are illustrations.

Books on the Panama Canal are hardly scarce just now, but "The Story of Panama," by Frank A. Gause and Charles Carl Carr (Silver, Burdett and Company), is distinctly a well done piece of work. The first half describes concisely all the work that has been done on the canal; the second half contains a careful and instructive account of the history of the isthmus. The book is illustrated with many photographs and with maps.

Other Books.

At the head of the small band of Australian poets stands Adam Lindsay Gordon, and justly, for though he was educated in England he wrote his verse in the pioneer days of Australia and struck notes that differed from those of modern humdrum respectability. A collected edition of "The Poems of Adam Lindsay Gordon," classified and annotated by Douglas Sladen, is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The editor has been able to add some unpublished poems and provides a sketch of the poet's adventurous and unhappy life.

Excursions into unknown fields are made by Israel Abrahams in the essays contained in "The Book of Delight and Other Papers" (The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia). Few, even among Hebrew scholars, venture into the Hebrew literature of the Middle Ages, so that there is the attraction of novelty as well as interest to the curious stories contained in the title essay, to the account of the mediæval wayfaring of Jews and to the study of Hebrew love songs.

No more authoritative statement can be asked for by devotees of auction bridge than that made by Milton C. Work in "Auction of To-day" (Houghton Mifflin Company). The author, if not the inventor, was one of the early promoters of the game, and has had much influence in the adoption of the rules. He objects to the term "auction bridge" and to the designation "new count," holding that former count is a thing of the past and does not apply to the new game. The book is written in noticeably clear language, remarkably free from dognatism. There is no mistaking the author's view of the facts.

In "Let's Civilize the Marriage Laws" (Burton Publishing Company, Kansas City, Mo.) Richard D. Kathrens expresses frankly his views on divorce. There is certainly nothing foolhardy nor aught calling especially for courage in this, as the many instances of unhappiness on which he bases his argument for freer divorce laws and the opposition to the attitude of the Catholic Church in the matter have been in the minds of others before him. In that matter the reader may or may not agree with his reasoning. Where Mr. Kathrens is original is in his view that the woman is never to blame and that she only should have the right to ask for a divorce. In this he seems to go further than the most radical of the suffragists.

Some useful hints may be found in a little pamphlet by Gustaf V. Lindner, "Nowspaper Library Manual" (the author New York). The information supplied is sensible and instructive, but the author's point of view seems that of the librarian rather than the newspaper man. The system of cards and checks in issuing books of reference, for instance, is well calculated to prevent the loss of books; it would prove pretty awkward for a man trying to get information in a hurry, as in the bad quarter of an hour before going to press. We could have desired, too, a much fuller list of books of reference.

A useful little book that should interest many people is the "Engineers' Handbook on Patents," by William Macomber (Little, Brown and Company.) The author is a patent lawyer; he explains for the guidance of inventors, in clear and untechnical language, the principles on which the patent law is based, what things are patentable and what not, and a great many matters that may save them from trouble.

A new analysis of a branch of the law to which much attention has been given of late is made by Prof. Frederic Campbell Woodward of the Leland Stanford Junior University in "The Law of Quasi Contracts" (Little, Brown and Company).

Books Received.

"Vital Lies." 2 vols. Vernon Lee. (John Lane Company.)

"A History of South America." Charles Edmond Akers. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"A History of Nursing." Vols. III. and IV. Lavinia L. Dock. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"English Life and Manners in the Later Middle Ages." A. Abram. (George Routledge and Sons; E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"Dawn in Darkest Africa." John H. Harris. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"Problems of the Sexes." Jean Finot, translated by Mary J. Safford. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"Symbol and Satire in the French Revolution." Ernest F. Henderson, Ph. D., L. H. D. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"An Unorthodox Conception of Being." William Ellsworth Hermance. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"The War Drama of the Eagles." Edward Fraser. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"The Conquest of New Granada." Sir Clements R. Markham. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"England and the Orleans Monarchy." Major John Hall. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"George Washington." Woodrow Wilson. (Harpers.)

"Music Lovers' Cyclopedia." Rupert Hughes. (Doubleday, Page and Company.)

"Geoffrey Chaucer." Emile Legouis, translated by L. Lailavoix. (J. M. Dent and Sons; E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"The Old Gardens of Italy." Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond. (John Lane Company.)

"Bible Ways in Bible Lands." Maude M. Holbach. (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Company, London.)

"A Gentle John in Japan." Ethel L. McLean. (Dodd, Mead and Company.)

"A Hundred Years of Irish History." R. Barry O'Brien. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York.)

"The Awakening of the Desert." Julius C. Birge. (Richard G. Badger, Boston.)

"Fields, Factories and Workshops." P. Kropotkin. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"All the Year Round." Newell Dwight Hillis. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)

"Milk and Its Products." Henry B. Wing. (Macmillans.)

"Islam, Mission, Politik." Martin Hartmann. (Otto Wigand, Leipzig.)

"Fünf Vortrage über den Islam." Martin Hartmann. (Otto Wigand.)

"God or Chaos." The Rev. Robert Kane, S. J. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons.)

"Thick-Lens Optics." Arthur Latham Baker, Ph. D. (D. Van Nostrand Company.)

"My Little Sister." Elizabeth Robins. (Dodd, Mead and Company.)

"The Dragoman." George K. Stiles. (Harpers.)

"Until the Day Break." W. L. George. (Dodd, Mead and Company.)

"The Lure of the Iron Trail." Ward W. Adair. (Association Press, New York.)

"Yonder." E. H. Young. (George H. Doran Company.)

"A Slice of Life." Robert Halifax. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"Bunker Bean." Harry Leon Wilson. (Doubleday, Page and Company.)

"A Lift on the Road." Virginia W. Johnson. (The A. S. Barnes Company, New York.)

"Porzia." Cale Young Rice. (Doubleday, Page and Company.)

"The Bird of Time." Sarojini Naidu. (John Lane Company.)

"A Legend of Old Persia." A. B. S. Tennyson. (William Heinemann; John Lane Company.)

"Gedichte." Udo Brachvogel. (Lemcke and Buechner, New York.)

"The Silver-Burdett Arithmetics." 2 vols. George Morris Philips, LL. D., and Robert F. Anderson, Sc. D. Silver, Burdett and Company, New York.)

"A Primer." Emma Serl and Vivian Evans. (Silver, Burdett and Company.)

"Mewanee, the Little Indian Boy." Belle Willy. (Silver, Burdett and Company.)

"The Sale of Liquor in the South." Leonard Stett Blakey, Ph. D. (Columbia University; Longmans, Green and Company.)

"The Adulteress Before Christ. A Picture by Rembrandt." Charles Sedelmeyer. (Charles Sedelmeyer, Paris.)

"Company Fire Insurance in Russia." G. Dobson. (St. Petersburg.)

"Business Almanac and Investor's Guide, 1913." (Doubleday, Page and Company.)

"Garden and Farm Almanac, 1913." (Doubleday, Page and Company.)

"Thirteenth Census of the United States. Abstract of the Census." (Government Printing Office, Washington.)

"Trees in Winter." Albert Francis Blakeslee, Ph. D., and Chester Deacon Jarvis, Ph. D. (Macmillans.)

"The Frontier of the Heart." Victor Margueritte. (Frederick A. Stokes Company.)

TWO NEW NEALE MAGAZINES.

Many Important Issues by Well Known Publishers.

The Neale Publishing Company celebrates its eighteenth anniversary this year by establishing two magazines of the first class, *Neale's Monthly* and *Neale's Essay Magazine*, by publishing Neale's Quarterly Series of the World's Great Short Stories, in durable bindings, and by issuing many important new books.

During the eighteen years that have passed since this house was founded it has contributed many notable volumes to American literature. Chief among them, perhaps, are the books that make Neale's War Library, which comprises more than one hundred volumes that relate to the civil war, written by both Northerners and Southerners. To this comprehensive library, doubtless the largest that relates to any war, important books are frequently being added.

Also this house counts among its greater achievements the publication of "The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce," in twelve volumes, the last of which was issued a few days ago.

NOTED MEN TRY FRESH AIR.

Conan Doyle a Pupil of "as Few Clothes as Possible."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Lord Alverstone are among the pupils of a new institute of physical culture opened recently in London by Lieut. J. P. Muller, whose "Fresh Air Book" was published not long ago by Stokes.

The institute does not aim at bulging muscles, but is for the sake of maintaining high vitality by means of simple exercises.

Lieut. Muller grew up from a sickly childhood to a champion athlete and is always in a condition of glowing health. He is a firm believer in air and sun baths but does not prohibit either tobacco or alcohol. He favors wearing as light clothes as possible and going without clothes wherever sufficient privacy is assured.

Among distinguished persons who have practised his theories are Col. Roosevelt, the Kaiser, the Czar, the Crown Prince of Greece and Gen. Bell, Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

AUTHORS AND THEIR WORK.

It is some time since Frances Courtenay Baylor wrote her little story "Juan and Juanita," but she is still receiving gratifying evidence of its popularity. Recently the book has been made part of the reading in the public schools of Milwaukee, and last Thanksgiving Day Mrs. Baylor received 360 letters from Milwaukee school children, all of them praising the book and wishing for a dog like Amigo.

John Kendrick Bangs, whose latest volume, "A Little Book of Christmas," has gone into a fifth printing, will sail for Australia in the spring for his postponed lecture tour.

Albert Bigelow Paine sailed a few days ago for Bermuda, where he expects to spend the winter. In his "Mark Twain" Mr. Paine has told the pathetic story of his last trip home from Bermuda with Mark Twain. When he was so ill that there was a doubt whether he would reach New York alive the humorist parodied, consciously or unconsciously, Charles II., who apologized to his courtiers for the time he took in dying. "I am sorry for you, Paine," he said, "but I can't help it—I can't hurry this dying business."

Hamlin Garland, whose home in Wisconsin was recently destroyed by fire, will spend this month and next in the East. He is planning a lecture tour for the coming year.

Irving Bacheller is at present engaged on a new book at his home in Riverside, Conn. He has planned to start next month for an extended cruise to the Mediterranean.

C. H. Claudy, whose book for little children, "Tell Me Why Stories," was recently published by McBride, Nast & Co., is the proud father of "Squidge," the boy who was lucky enough to be answered so entertainingly and accurately when he asked, "Tell me why the fire smokes—tell me why the lightning flashes," &c. Mr. Claudy says that for a number of years he saw everything at home "as through a baby, darkly." Being a photographer as well as a writer, he has taken about 2,500 pictures of the lad, and this graphic biography of a small boy fills ten bulky volumes.

Mme. L. de Hegermann-Lindencrone, whose recently published book of reminiscences, "In the Courts of Memory," is full of anecdotes of famous personages, relates the following story told her by Bishop Phillips Brooks: A negro asked by the priest if he had stolen nothing since his last confession replied, "No, sir." "None at all? No chickens?" "No, sir." "No watermelons?" "No, sir." "No eggs?" "No, sir." "No turkeys?" "No, sir; not one." When his companion outside the church asked, "How did you get on?" he answered, "Bully. But if he'd said ducks he'd got me."

Lewis Gaston Leary, the well known traveller and author, whose latest book, "Andorra, the Hidden Republic," was recently published, admits with sorrow that in all his travels he has never had any thrilling experiences or hairbreadth escapes. During a hundred thousand miles of journeying, in thirty countries, he has never been in a railway accident or lost a day through illness, and he has yet to witness his first storm at sea. And he has lived in the toughest slums of European capitals, travelled through the troubled Balkans and ridden through the remote districts of northern Syria. Once he drove unsuspectingly through a district which was being terrorized by a marauding robber tribe. His host was stabbed just after Mr. Leary left him, and another man was murdered within a stone's throw of the trail, but his own journey was deadly dull and uninteresting. In fact, he confesses, though he once lived in a town where there was an assassination every night for six weeks, he himself has never seen even a serious street brawl. He has never owned a revolver, but contents himself with preparing for possible contingencies by carrying a heavy riding crop or stout cane.

Dr. Josiah Royce, the well known lecturer and professor, sailed last week for England, where at Oxford University he will deliver a series of lectures on "The Real World and the Christian Idea." These lectures will later be gathered together and with those which Dr. Royce delivered before the Lowell Institute on "The Christian Doctrine of Life" will be published under the general title of "The Problem of Christianity" by the Macmillans. The work, which will be in two volumes, will appear probably in April.

Capt. John O'Brien, whose adventurous career was chronicled a few months ago by Horace Smith in "A Captain Unafraid," only last week, according to a cable despatch from Havana, refused to take command of a ship fitting out, it is rumored, for a filibustering expedition. Capt. O'Brien, it is stated, declined on account of age, and as in "A Captain Unafraid" he gives the year of his birth as 1837 this is probably the only reason. For "Dynamite Johnny" believes filibustering justifiable and considers the laws against it based on no moral principles.

The Palazzo Bombicci in Florence is the winter abiding place of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Johnson, where Mr. Johnson is working enthusiastically on his new novel "The Salamanders." Mrs. Johnson, who is studying singing under Lombardi, has a room for her singing that is almost as big as a concert hall. In their leisure moments the Johnsons are enjoying the social life of Florence. Among other visitors there have been the Swedish sculptor Elmquist, Oscar Browning, Mr. and Mrs. Cale Young Rice and the Marchesa Louisa Corsini.

Mr. Burd, the eccentric blacksmith in G. W. Ogden's novel "Home Place," would probably rejoice to learn of the six thousand persons in a certain London parish who, according to the statement of their vicar last week, have not a bathroom among them and no desire for one. Mr. Burd, it may be remembered, had been "usin' a washtub in the back yard summer nights f'r fourteen years, 'n m' daddy before me he used a washtub in the back yard, 'n' if that ain't good enough f'r the members of my fam'ly they can use a teacup behind the door. That's all I got to say."

PERCY BREBNER'S CAREER.

English Novelist Gained Early Fame as Christian Leys.

Percy Brebner, the English novelist, whose "The Little Gray Shoe" has been announced by Little, Brown & Co., began his literary career when in his teens he wrote a five act tragedy and a long novel, which lay fallow for five years and then appeared under the title of "The Dunthorpes of Westleigh."

But literature as a profession did not appeal to his practical father, who placed young Brebner with a well known firm on the London Stock Exchange, where he stayed for several years. He burned much midnight oil and stole odd hours from the day to follow his own bent, gradually making a name for himself under the pseudonym Christian Leys.

Of late he has used his own name. His latest books, including "The Little Gray Shoe," indicate a strong dramatic instinct that may lead him eventually to become a dramatist. His work has been translated into French and Italian, while as lecturer on literary and other subjects he has quite recently made an excellent impression.

BEST SELLING BOOK IN NEW YORK

The Valiants of Virginia is a bright and breezy novel showing that the author has arrived on her best ground. The love episodes are handled in Miss Rives's best style. —*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*

THE VALIANTS of VIRGINIA

By HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES

If ever there was pure romance, Miss Rives gives it to us in *The Valiants of Virginia*.—*Boston Globe*

The swinging story both stirs and pleases. It begins well and ends better.—*Chicago Record-Herald*

A story dramatic, ardent, and sympathetic, one to be followed with unflagging interest. —*Detroit Free Press*

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THE MAKING OF BOOKS.

The Macmillan Company announced the publication this week (January 15) of the following books: "Trees in Winter," with a striking series of illustrations, by A. F. Blakeslee and C. D. Jarvis; the new edition of "Milk and Its Products," postponed from last week, by N. E. and Henry H. Wing, and the latest addition to their popular priced reprints, "The Life of David Livingstone," by C. Silvester Horne, M. P., in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the explorer's birth.

Other new books shortly forthcoming from the Macmillans include "Social Religion," by Scott Nearing; "Poor, Dear Margaret Kirby and Other Stories," a collection of Kathleen Norris's short stories; "The Science of Human Behavior," in which Maurice Parmalee, Ph. D., professor in the University of Missouri, attempts to show the significance of recent findings in zoological and neurological and psychological and anthropological research in an analysis of human behavior, and a collection in book form of the lectures on the civil war which Dr. James Ford Rhodes delivered at Oxford last year.

Second editions before publication of A. S. M. Hutchinson's novel, "The Happy Warrior," and Percy Brebner's "The Little Gray Shoe" are announced by Little, Brown & Co.

Harper & Bros. announce the publication this week of "The Dragoman," by George K. Stiles, and a new edition of "George Washington," by Woodrow Wilson. The same house is putting to press this week for reprinting two of its books for younger readers: "Strange Stories of Colonial Days" and "Strange Stories of the Revolution."

Houghton Mifflin Company reports an interesting selection from its publications in the latest list of books ordered by the Government for the United States marines. Besides the volumes of history, travel and technical works there are many novels, including such ultra modern favorites as "People of Popham," "The Professional Aunt" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

In "Auction of To-day," the new book on auction bridge by Milton C. Work, just published by Houghton Mifflin Company, the "Table of Summarized Penalties," the chapter on "Scoring," the "Decisions" interpreting the laws by the Whist Club of New York, and the "Answers to Queries" are unique features and original with the author.

Interesting new announcements by Sturgis and Walton Company include "Memoirs Relating to Fouche, Minister of Police Under Napoleon," which was first issued under the original French title in September, 1824; "The Love Seeker: A Sentimental Handbook," by Maud Churton Braby, author of "Modern Marriage and How to Bear It"; "Tad Sheldon, Scout: Stories of His Patrol," in which John Fleming Wilson continues the account of episodes in the life of his popular young hero; "Education for Economic Democracy," a discussion of "cultural" vs. vocational education, by Prof. Arland D. Weeks; "Getting Together," a collection of unusual essays, the collaborative work of American and British churchmen of note, representing eight denominations, Christian and Jewish; "Constructive Rural Sociology," by John M. Gillette, professor of sociology in the University of North Dakota.

The Putnams announce the publication of the following new books: "An Interpretation of Rudolf Eucken's Philosophy," by W. Tudor Jones, Ph. D. (Jena); "Protestantism and Progress," a historical study of the relation of Protestantism to the modern world, by Ernst Troeltsch, professor of theology in the University of Heidelberg; "An Unorthodox Conception of Being," a synthetic philosophy of ontology, by William Ellsworth Hermance; "Six Centuries of Work and Wages," a new and revised edition, by Thorald Rogers; "Recollections of the Civil War," by Mason Whiting Tyler, late Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, with many original diary entries and letters written from the seat of war; "A History of Nursing," Vols. III. and IV., by Lavinia L. Dock, R. N.; "Fields, Factories and Workshops," new and revised edition, by P. A. Kropotkin; "The Problem of the Sexes," by Jean Finot, translated under authority of Mary J. Safford; "The Interpretation of Radium," second edition, rewritten with data brought to 1912, by Frederick Soddy, lecturer on physical chemistry in the University of Glasgow; "Symbol and Satire in the French Revolution," an illustrated book covering an almost untouched field, by Ernest F. Henderson, Ph. D., L. H. D.

"Socialism and Democracy in Europe," by Samuel P. Orth, treating of the subject in France, Belgium, Germany and England, will be issued by Henry Holt and Company, January 25. In February the same house will publish "Tradition," a new volume of one act plays by George Middleton. The title play, "Tradition," will be produced at the Berkeley Lyceum, January 24, by the Woman Suffrage party, when Fola La Follette, the author's wife, for whom it was written, will create the leading part.

Dana Estes and Company announce the publication the latter part of this month of "Miss Jimmy," a story of New England life, by Laura E. Richards. Early in February the same house will issue a new novel, entitled "The Fine Air of the Morning," by J. S. Fletcher.

"The Tudor Shakespeare," volumes of which have been appearing at intervals during the last year and a half from the Macmillans, is rapidly nearing completion. About thirty out of the total of forty volumes are now out.

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PLOT FOUND IN SOCIAL WORK.

Albert Edwards Tells How He Came to Write "A Man's World."

In a recent number of *La Follette's Magazine* Albert Edwards tells how he came to write his novel "A Man's World."

"I was born far inland, but when I first saw the Atlantic Ocean I was not amazed," he said. "I had seen many pictures of it. I had read descriptions of it. And so I was prepared to understand and enjoy it. This is, I think, one of the main functions of all art and especially of fiction. The novel which does not interpret to us some phase of life seems to me to have missed its aim. In writing 'A Man's World' I made a very definite effort to interpret the little known life of 'The Social Worker.'

"There is hardly a city in our land that does not contain a circle of ardent young people who are giving their best efforts to the work of making their community a better place to live in. The importance of these social workers we are just beginning to realize. It was my good fortune to be one of them, in the earlier obscure days. I came intimately into contact with the pioneers. Many of my dearest friendships have been formed in settlements or on various 'committees' for social betterment.

"It is the life of those early days of 'The Movement' that my book tries to interpret. It is a surprise to me that this rich field has not been more used by writers. These social workers announce their intention of painting a happy smile on the hitherto sordid and sorry face of the world. They are very conscious of the size of the job they have undertaken; no wonder they are earnest about it. Such earnestness is attractive material for the writer. Murger, in 'Scenes de la vie de Boheme' and Du Maurier, in 'Trilby,' have amply proved that such young people are worthy subjects for literature."

Bell and Wing

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