LITERARY NEWS, VIEWS AND CRITICISM

NEW BOOKS.

Some New Fiction.

Save for the brutal incident on which the story turns it is a kindly world and very pleasant people that Ronald McDonald describes in "Lanchester of Brazenose" (John Lane Company), which is either a satire or a thesis on divorce. A man who is happily married suddenly discovers that his wife is committing adultery; he enables her to obtain a divorce from him and does everything he can to preserve her good fame, in which proceeding he is abetted by nearly every one who comes into the story. He is forced to kidnap his little son, who is wasting away because his mother does not love him, and in the process of educating him finds out the good qualities of a delightful young woman, whom he marries in the end. The guilty wife marries an innocent third party and lives up to her new opportunities; her stolid selfishness enables her to forget her wrong doing and apparently induces every one to protect her. Out of this the author has constructed an entertaining and very well written tale, the one shocking and improbable thing in which is the inexplicable act on which it turns, which the reader is never allowed to forget.

In frank imitation of the play Louis Joseph Vance translates "Kismet" into the rankest New Yorkese in "The Day of Days" (Little, Brown and Company.) By grouping together enough newspaper items, fancifully elaborated, the author manages to give his hero a remarkably lively night in this town. The reader, who is soon out of breath in following the rapid succession of adventures, will be amazed at his physical endurance even more than at his skill with his fists. Violence and sudden death are supplied in quantities to satisfy any appetite and the excursions into slang are adventurous. It may not be literature, but the reader who starts in with this book is in no danger of falling asleep over it.

The primitive young person who enters into J. S. Fletcher's "The Fine Air of Morning" (Dana Estes and Company, Boston) by cracking her stepfather's head with a bottle will attract the reader, as will the cheerful young man who lives in a caravan, in order to enjoy life in the open, with whom she seeks shelter. Their adventure is of the delightful open road variety that is now the fashion. It is broken in two by a comic interlude which protracts the story to a proper length at the cost of three months imprisonment to the hero for poaching in order that the heroine may be educated in that interval. She meets queer and amusing people. It is an enjoyable book with good character drawing and plenty of poetry mixed in with the nonsense.

It is a self-willed young termagant who is the heroine of S. R. Crockett's "Patsy" (Macmillans), a romance of Galloway at the beginning of the eighteenth century, when the district was apparently as much opposed to the Government as Ireland could be. There is a little of everything in the story, Scottish feuds, smugglers, London court life, a jail delivery, all mixed up helter-skelter with a good dose of dialect to give it a Scottish flavor. There is little to mark the hero or the heroine; some of the minor characters are interesting, but the author does not make much out of them.

The pictures of Mexican life and scenery in "The Mystery of the Barranca" by Herman Whitaker (Harpers) may attract readers at this time. They will search in vain for a mystery, for it is a straightforward love story combined with the account of the struggle for a copper mine between two energetic Americans and Mexican landowners who object to the gringo invasion. It is to be regretted that the traditional Mexican treachery and violence are retained in this tale. The plot is clumsy and conventional; the descriptions are all that make the book worth reading.

That a young man should be attracted by a gown in a cleaner's window and should reconstruct the young woman to whom it belongs and fall in love with the vision, as the hero does in "The Maiden Manifest," by Della Campbell MacLeod (Little, Brown and Company), is an idea for which the author may be pardoned easily. When he meets the young woman in the flesh, however, he is kept from recognizing her and bringing the story to its proper conclusion, simply for the sake of allowing the author to draw pictures of life in the South and to describe various forms of superstition. This is all interesting enough in its way and told brightly, but it seems wholly out of place, for it leads to nothing and shows manifestly that the author is marking time, which is inartistic. A friendly blue pencil would have improved the story greatly.

It would not be just to say that E. W. Hornung's hand has lost its cunning, for the criminal tales included in "Witching Hill" (Charles Scribner's Sons) are as vigorous as those of which Raffles was the hero, but his venture into the supernatural is not impressive and rather spoils the stories in which it predominates. The narrator is a real estate agent who looks after the houses built on an estate that once belonged to a Georgian rake. That gentleman's wicked spirit clings to the land and is the incentive for most of the misdeeds. It also influences a descendant of his, who acts as the detector and whose struggles with his ancestor's viciousness are rather confusing and tiresome. The mysterious and picturesque side of his troubles is handled skilfully by Mr. Hornung; the pathological side is not, and that interests him more than the other.

A sordid story of a mean crime, which is apparently a requisite for realistic fiction, is told by George Stevenson in "Topham's Folly" (John Lane Company), a remarkable well written book. The scene is a small English provincial town and a farm not far distant, and the point of view is that of a devoted and angelic serving maid from whom the author is supposed to have obtained his facts. The people are the members of the family she serves and their relatives; they are drawn carefully and with a kind touch, but most of them change little. The maid herself and the mistress she loves the reader will be glad to know. It is fine work.

Practical Information.

The pioneer of a class of books for which there must be an ever increasing demand has been written by George D. Webber in "The Best Motor Routes Through Europe" (McBride, Nast and Company, New York). He strikes the right key, somewhat epigrammatically, by the statement that the thing to consider first is the comfort and happiness of the machine and not where the driver wants to go. His general remarks will be instructive and valuable to all who think of motoring abroad. The tour he describes is a long and interesting one, though by no means exhaustive. He goes from Havre to Paris, through western France to the Pyrenees, through the south of France, Switzerland, the Italian lake country and Tyrol as far as Vienna; thence back through southern Germany to Strasburg and Paris again. He describes also various side trips and alternative routes. The information is intended wholly for the use of automobilists, and this is the first guide book prepared with their needs in view.

A work of unusual erudition in its line, establishing the foundations on which the art must be built in America, is Grace Tabor's "Old-fashioned Gardening" (McBride, Nast and Company). The author has collected the historical facts regarding Colonial gardens and has analyzed the principles on which they were formed, but she contents herself with the statement of the facts and leaves her readers to draw from them the ideas that shall prevail in the imitations or adaptations they may have in mind. The early gardens are described according to Colonies from Florida to New England, for each settlement brought with it its own culture. It is an interesting book, and is illustrated with plans of gardens and photographs.

If it aids in any measure in making public singers enunciate words clearly "Lyric Diction," by Dora Duty Jones (Harpers), will render a great service. The author complicates her subject with many metaphysical considerations and with asthetic pleas for matters that might be taken for granted, as is the way with most elocutionists; she labors under the common misfortune, too, of having to explain in rather complex language and formulas things that are simple when executed for the pupil's imitation, but in competent hands her book will be found useful.

A book on so technical a subject as "Dyes and Dyeing," which Charles E. Pellew has written (McBride, Nast and Company), would hardly be expected to interest the general public. Prof. Pellew, however, has managed to make his book extremely entertaining, not merely by going into the history of the art and the story of the discoveries made in it, but by the vivid descriptions of the processes and the results. The book is intended not for large manufacturers but for the craftsman who works by hand, for dyeing is one of the processes that the artistic crafts have taken up. This calls for so many returns to old and picturesque methods that the general reader will be interested. He has here that rarity, a popular book written by a thorough master of his subject.

Two attractive little volumes under the common title "National Treasures" (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston) apparently begin a new series of descriptions of great collections. An interesting portion of each is the account of how the collection was brought together. "The National Gallery" is by J. E. Crawford-Fitch; his classification leads him to write something like an abridged history of painting. In "The Louvre," by E. E. Richards, the author restricts himself to descriptions of the palace and the collections it houses. Both volumes are illustrated.

Dog lovers, especially those that own a terrier, will enjoy the monograph on "The Fox Terrier" by Williams Haynes (Outing Publishing Company, New York), for the author can tell only of virtues and nothing of faults. Besides the descriptions of the various breeds and the historical facts the reader is instructed about the ailments terriers are subject to and how they should be trained.

Historical and Descriptive.

The author of "Life in the Indian Police" (E. P. Dutton and Company), C. F. Gouldsbury, has the material for an extremely interesting book at his command, but is unable to use it. Years of official life have deadened his sense of the picturesque side of his calling; he relates trivial details about his personal affairs and journeys, he is enthusiastic about sporting adventures, but of the police work, except for early experiences with a native detective, he has little to say. The cases that person ferreted out show how entertaining the book might have been. As it is, it might be dismissed without comment if it were not for a splendid description at the end of a ride through the forest jungle on the Bhutan border and a great story of a fight with a tiger. Of the artistic merit of his last chapters the author is evidently unaware.

An attempt to describe social conditions in England under George III., an essay in "culture" history, is made by E. S. Roscoe in "The English Scene in the Eighteenth Century" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The first half contains sketchy descriptions of London, Bath and Liverpool, with frequent citations from contemporary memoirs; the second half contains general observations about various classes of society, from the nobility to the peasantry. It is a mechanical and pretty dull book, for the author draws no apparent inspiration from the far from uninteresting material at hand.

Court scandals will always attract hearers no matter how stale they may be, and in "Love Affairs of the Courts of Europe" (Brentano's) Thornton Hall feels no compunction in repeating the timeworn stories of French court intrigues in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He dies them out with tales of Russian Empresses, a German or two, the Servian murders and the story of Bianca Capello from the sixteenth century. The stories are told without distinction and with no great effort at accuracy, in a tone of gossip. The author, writing for the British public, is obliged to be as proper in his language as he can and passes over many things that a Frenchman would not hesitate to write.

The conscientious and thorough monograph on "The Van Eycks and Their Art" by W. H. James Weale is issued in a new edition by the John Lane Company, after being revised by Maurice H. Brockwell. It is essentially a volume of materials. First come all the documents relating to the Van Eycks that are known; next a brief biography founded on these, and finally the main part of the book, a minutely descriptive catalogue of every painting attributed to them. This is followed by observations, appendices and a bibliography, while the book is illustrated with reproductions of all the pictures.

The volume on "The Family," by President Charles Franklin Thwing and Mrs. Carrie F. Butler, is issued after twenty-eight years in a thoroughly revised edition, with a chapter added on "the family under a socialized society" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, Boston).

The volume by H. G. de Lisser on "Twentieth Century Jamaica" (The *Jamaica Times*, Kingston) is in no sense a guide book. It is a study of the present social, economic and political problems of the island, in which the author deals to some extent with past history, but more with what the future should bring. He is open minded enough to regard annexation by the United States as a possibility that might not be harmful for Jamaica.

Interviews With Famous Men.

The importance of the men whom he had the good fortune to interview, as well as the interest of their communications to him, fully justifies the republication by Herman Bernstein in "With Master Minds" (Universal Series Publishing Company, New York) of the articles he contributed to various newspapers, including THE SUN. These appear just as they were first published, as they properly should, for they were accurate reports of what the subjects had said to Mr. Bernstein.

The articles fall chronologically into two groups, one of interviews that occurred about 1908, the other dated in the last two years. In the former fall the valuable results of a journey to Russia, visits to Count Tolstoy, to Sergius Witte, Prof. Metchnikoff and Leonid Andreyev, besides interviews with Maximilian Harden of the *Zukunft*, the Sheikh ul Islam and Prof. Kovalevsky; in the latter come the long interviews with Bernard Shaw and Havelock Ellis and those with Henri Bergson and Auguste Rodin. To several of the articles are appended notes of later interviews.

It is an interesting collection of pen pictures of noted men. It is illustrated with portraits.

Other Books.

A description of the business of the Stock Exchange from the point of view of one engaged in it is furnished by William C. Van Antwerp in "The Stock Exchange From Within" (Doubleday, Page and Company). The accounts of the Stock Exchange and its operations are very clear; the author gives a summary of the legislation regarding it, describes the London and Paris exchanges and their ways of doing business and touches on most of the questions under discussion at present. He tries to present both sides. He has written an interesting and very readable book.

The translation of Moliere's plays into English by Prof. Curtis Hidden Page progresses. Two volumes come to us from G. P. Putnam's Sons containing "L'Avare" (The Miser) and "Le Misanthrope" (The Minanthrope), which titles fortunately leave no room for eccentricity. As might be expected, Prof. Page is more successful with the prose play than with that in verse, for blank verse has many pitfalls for the best of intentions. It is, at any rate, a correct and eminently respectable translation.

With Volume XII. the edition of "The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce," issued by the Neale Publishing Company, New York, is for the present complete, subject, as all such editions of living authors are, to being increased by the author's continuing to write or by his deciding to save more of what he has written. The volume is entitled "In Motley" and contains "King of Beasts," dialect tales, "Two Administrations," political satire, and some miscellaneous matter.

Books Received.

"Problems in Persician Buildings." G. W. Elderkin, Ph. D. (Princeton University Press. Henry Frowde.)

"Problems of Life and Reproduction." Marcus Hartog, D. Sc. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"James Fenimore Cooper." Mary E. Phillips. (John Lane Company.)

"Across the Andes." Charles Johnston Post. (Outing Publishing Company, New York.)

"Sieur Therese of Lisieux." Edited by T. N. Taylor. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York.)

"The Travels of Ellen Cornish." Vaughan Cornish. (W. J. Ham-Smith, London.)

"The Governments of Europe." Frederic Austin Ogg, Ph. D. (Macmillans.)

"Modern Problems." Sir Oliver Lodge. (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company.)

"Heroines of Modern Progress." Elmer C. Adams and Warren Dunham Foster. (Sturgis and Walton Company.)

"Social Welfare in New Zealand." Hugh H. Lusk. (Sturgis and Walton Company.)

"Republican France." Ernest Alfred Vizetelly. (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston.)

"King Edward in His True Colours." Edward Legge. (Small, Maynard and Company.)

"English Literature, 1880-1908." J. M. Kennedy. (Small, Maynard and Company.)

"Our Book of Memories." Justin McCarthy. (Small, Maynard and Company.)

"The Roman Curia as It Now Exists." The Rev. Michael Martin, S. J. (Benziger Brothers, New York.)

"Windyridge." W. Riley. (Appletons.)

"The Lost Despatch." Natalie Sumner Lincoln. (Appletons.)

"The Burning Question." Grace Denio Litchfield. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"Concert Pitch." Frank Danby. (Macmillans.)

"The Story of Stephen Compton." J. E. Patterson. (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company.)

"Simon Brandin." Paul Newman. (George H. Doran Company.)

"Success." Una L. Silberrad. (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company.)

"The Impeachment of President Israels." Frank B. Copley. (Macmillans.)

"The Love Dream." George Vane. (John Lane Company.)

"The Highway to Happiness." Richard Le Gallienne. (The Morningside Press, New York.)

"What a Man Wishes." William Stanley Hill. (The Morningside Press.)

"On Board the Beatic." Anna Chapin Ray. (Little, Brown and Company.)

"Child of Storm." (H. Rider Haggard. (Longmans, Green and Company.)

"The Lady Who Smoked Cigars." Rupert Hughes. (Desmond Fitzgerald, New York.)

"The Aspirations of Jean Servien." Anatole France, translated by Alfred Allinson. (John Lane Company.)

"Along the Road." Arthur Christopher Benson. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"Mishnah: Baba Meziah." Hyman E. Goldin. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"The Law of Commercial Exchanges." Chester Arthur Legg. (Baker, Voorhis and Company, New York.)

"Cooperation in New England." James Ford, Ph. D. (Survey Associates, New York.)

"The History of the Bible." Harry Lorenzo Chapin, M. D. (The Shakespeare Press, New York.)

"New Lives for Old." William Carleton. (Small, Maynard and Company.)

"The Reasonableness of the Religion of Jesus." William Stephen Rainsford, D. D. (Houghton Mifflin Company.)

"A Man's Religion." William Fraser McDowell. (Eaton and Mains, New York.)

"The Homing Instinct." Fred Clare Baldwin. (Eaton and Mains.)

"How New York City Administers Its Schools." Ernest Carroll Moore, Ph. D. (World Book Company, Yonkers, N. Y.)

"Anti Semitism." Monroe Engelsman. (The Author, New York.)

"W. A. G.'s Tale." Margaret Turnbull. (Houghton Mifflin Company.)

"The Blindness of Virtue." Cosmo Hamilton. (George H. Doran Company.)

"Latin Subordinate Chuse Syntax." M. A. Leiper. (American Book Company.)

Baldpate Inn has SEVEN keys. The novelist has one. The other six fall into the hands of six apparent lunatics—(1) a hermit who flees from barbers and women has a (2) a peroxide blonde who "just loves" men has a (3) a college professor who has been laughed out of his job has a (4) a political "boss" who eats cigars alive and he has a (5) a Belle of High Societee has a (6) a bold, bad clubman who has a and—The Girl. She (bless her) hasn't a key, you notice, but she provides one—to the mystery that Baldpate Inn immediately becomes soaked in.

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THE MAKING OF BOOKS.

The Macmillan Company announces the publication of two new books: "Concert Pitch," a new novel by Frank Danby, relating the life story of the daughter of an African made millionaire who runs away with a young musician, and "The Impeachment of President Israels," by Frank Barkley Cooper, an unusual novel, telling how a President of the United States met critical situations.

John Masefield's "The Story of a Round House and Other Poems" goes into a new edition this week, the third since its publication.

New books announced for publication by John Lane Company are: "Tapestries: Their Origin, History and Renaissance," a handsome large paper edition on Normandy vellum, by George Leland Hunter; "James Fenimore Cooper," a record of the man for the making of which the author, Mary E. Phillips, has the use of letters, portraits and pictures which had never before left family hands; "The Aspirations of Jean Servien," by Anatole France, translated by Alfred Allison, and "The Love Dream," depicting life in London diplomatic circles, by George Vane.

Lane's publications for last week included "The Van Eycks and Their Art," a large book by W. H. James Weale, with the cooperation of Maurice Rockwell, and "The Play of To-day," studies in play structure for the student and the theatre-goer, by Elizabeth R. Hunt.

G. P. Putnam's Sons are about to publish two important books, "The Campaigns of 1863 to July 10," by William Roscoe Livermore, Colonel, U. S. A., the third part in "The Story of the Civil War"; and "Volcanoes," an account of their structure and significance, by F. G. Bonner, D. Sc., LL. D., F. R. S.

Those who have read Elizabeth Robins's striking story "My Little Sister" will be interested to hear that a famous London prelate, Dean Wilberforce, has spoken of the book in two of his recent sermons—once in St. John's Church, Westminster, and again from the pulpit of Westminster Abbey. Since the publication of the book in this country Miss Robins has received many letters asking for direction and advice in a crusade against the evil which "My Little Sister" portrays.

A timely book is about to come from the press of Dodd, Mead and Company apropos of the spirited debate on the immigration bill that took place before President Taft a few days ago. The book is entitled "The Immigrant Invasion" and is the work of Frank J. Warne, ex-Secretary of the Immigration department of the National Civic Federation, secretary of the New York State Immigration Commission and special expert of the United States Census Bureau on our foreign born population. Dr. Warne takes a firm stand in favor of restricting immigration.

Charles Scribner's Sons have prepared and issued in pamphlet form a brief sketch of the life and the writings of Sir Gilbert Parker, whose works they have begun to publish in the uniform Imperial Edition. In the pamphlet are contained the author's own account of his life, his objects, his methods—on all of which points he has been particularly reticent. The Scribners will send this pamphlet, free of charge, to any one on request, as they will their similar pamphlets on Maurice Hewlett and John Galsworthy.

Interesting new books from the Scribners include: "Art Museums and Schools," a collection of essays originally delivered before teachers in the Metropolitan Museum of Art; "Latin America: Its Rise and Progress," a study of conditions by F. Garcia Calderon, the young Peruvian diplomat, and "Art in Egypt," by G. Maspero, director-general of antiquities in Egypt, a new volume in the compact little "General History of Art Series."

Dr. Roland G. Usher's study of "Pan-Germanism," which will be published February 26 by Houghton Mifflin Company, will be brought out in England by Constable & Co., Ltd.

The H. W. Wilson Company of Minneapolis is issuing the third edition of its "United States Catalog," which has proved itself successful and valuable. The volume is a catalogue of about 150,000 American books (author, subject and title featured in one alphabet) in print January, 1912, and of all books published since January, 1905, whether in print or not. There are about 450,000 entries with cross references and price, publisher, binding, edition and date of publication are given in the author entry for each book.

Harper & Brothers announce that they are putting to press for reprintings "The Captain of the Janizaries," by James M. Ludlow; "Elements of Navigation," by W. J. Henderson; "Boots and Saddles," by Eliza R. Custer, and "Farm Legends," by Will Carleton.

The interest of the Japanese in books on all subjects which are claiming the attention of the Occident is again demonstrated by the fact that the publishers of "Scientific Management," by Frederick W. Taylor, and "Socialism and the Great State," by H. G. Wells and others, have just received from Japan a large order for these books.

The Century Company will publish this month a new book of short stories by Jack London, called "The Night Born" from the title of the first story, several of these stories being personal experiences of the author in part. Other books forthcoming from this house are: "Pippin," a first book of a new writer, Evelyn Van Buren, and "The Story of Panama," a detailed story of the present big undertaking, as well as a history of the Canal Zone up to the time the United States began work there, by Farnham Bishop, son of the secretary of the Isthmian Canal Commission.

Just announced by E. P. Dutton & Co. are three interesting new books: "The Sea and the Jungle," an account of an experimental voyage through the tropical forests of the Amazon, by H. M. Tomlinson; "The Sheep and Its Cousins," by Richard Lydekker, a well known scientist, the only book in English dealing with the chief breeds of sheep all over the world, and "Life and Times of Calvin," by L. Fenning, a dramatic record of an eventful life.

McBride, Nast & Co. announce the publication of the following new books: "Theatrical and Musical Memoirs," by Rudolph Aronson; "The Best Motor Routes Through Europe," a complete and detailed exposition, by George D. Webber; "Dyes and Dyeing," by Charles E. Pellew, formerly adjunct professor of chemistry, Columbia University, and "Old Fashioned Gardening," by Grace Tabor, an account of the various styles of gardens famous in the past, with suggestions how to make gardens to-day in keeping with houses that have come down from the past.

Among the books shortly forthcoming from the same house are "Thorney," an island romance with a study of the "detached two," by Alexander Black, who invented and produced the first "picture plays," and "The Children in the Shadow," by Ernest K. Coulter, who was for ten years clerk of the Children's Court and was one of the founders of the Children's Court of New York.

Henry Holt & Co. have just published two new books, "Nogi: A Man Against the Background of a Great War," by Stanley Washburn, who as war correspondent knew Nogi well and who has illustrated his book largely from photographs he himself took, and "Tradition and Other One Act Plays of American Life," by George Middleton, author of "Embers and Other One Act Plays of American Life."

The Holts report that they are having to send to press for a sixth time John L. Given's "Making a Newspaper." Of especially timely interest now are the chapters in this book on "The Police as News Gatherers" and "Police Courts as News Centres."

George H. Doran Company announce the following interesting list of books: "Simon Brandin," a story of Russian political intrigue, by B. Paul Neuman, author of "Roddles"; "The Story of Stephen Compton," a novel of political, commercial and industrial life, by J. E. Patterson; "Success," the story of an inventor, an aerial torpedo and international complications, by Una Silberrad; "A Dream of Blue Roses," the love story of a French girl in an English setting; "The Chequer Board," a collection of stories, by Lady Sybil Grant, daughter of Lord Rosebery; "In the Shadow of the Bush," by P. Amaury Talbot, an account of the Ekol people, inhabitants of the Cameroons and Southern Nigeria, who were almost untouched by civilization in 1907, when the author first visited them, and "My Sudan Year," by Ethel S. Stevens, an intimate account of the author's travels among the people of the Sudan.

The same firm announces two volumes postponed from February 1: "Modern Problems," by Sir Oliver Lodge, in which the noted scientist expounds for laymen some of the problems of modern civilization, and "The Case of Oscar Slater," a detective story founded on facts, by Sir A. Conan Doyle.

The Holts announce that they will follow up the recently issued "Germany and the German Emperor," by George Herbert Perris, with Henri Lichtenberger's "The Evolution of Modern Germany," to appear to-day, and that before the end of February they will follow up Filson Young's "Wagner Stories," already in its third American and sixth English edition, with the same author's "Opera Stories."

The Putnams announce the following books: "My Autobiography," by Mme. Judith of the Comedie Francaise, edited by Paul G. Sell; "The Childhood of Art or the Ascent of Man," a sketch of man's early struggle based on the relics of his artistic work in prehistoric times, by H. G. Spearing, M. A., of Oxford; "The Story of the Borgias," by John Fyvie, author of "Tragedy Queens of the Georgian Era"; "The Positive Evolution of Religion," an estimate of the moral and social reaction of various forms of religion, by Frederic Harrison, D. C. L.; "The Technique of Painting," an account of the various processes and analysis of the great examples of various schools, illustrated, by J. Moreau Vauthier, and "The Evolution of States," an exposition of the ruling forces in all political life, ancient and modern, by J. M. Robertson.

Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. report that they have already had to send again to press George Iles's "Leading American Inventors." Other new editions include the sixth of Julie M. Lippmann's "Martha-by-the-Day"—six in less than five months—and a school edition of Bruno's "Le Tour de la France," edited by V. E. Francois, professor in the College of the City of New York, carrying that French book over the 300 editions mark.

Announcement is made by Doubleday, Page & Co. that early this spring they will publish a new novel by A. M. Chisholm, the young Canadian author of "The Boss of Wind River." The new book is entitled "Precious Waters" and deals with the irrigation problem.

A travel book for children, "Barbara's Philippine Journey," by Frances Williston Burks, is announced by the World Book Company.

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AUTHORS AND THEIR WORK.

Two notable poets at the recent gathering in New York of the Poetry Society of America were Josephine Peabody Marks and Anna Hempstead Branch, who publish up in Boston. A writer for this paper seemed to be disappointed at the general good grooming and at Mrs. Marks's unpoetically plump red cheeks and eyes sparkling like black diamonds. Miss Branch appeared to be not quite so disappointing, however, by suggesting Dante in her appearance.

Miss Elizabeth Kendall, head of the history department at Wellesley College, does not believe in depending entirely on books for information and is herself an appreciative and indefatigable traveller, searching out the untrodden ways. Her most recent journey is recorded in her new book, "A Wayfarer in China," just published by Houghton Mifflin Co., an acount of her experiences while travelling across West China and Mongolia, accompanied only by her Chinese servants and an Irish terrier.

Orson Lowell has painted the frontispiece to Alexander Black's island romance, "Thorney." A heroine castaway in a man's clothes was the artistic problem imposed by the same conditions that fastened her nickname. Mr. Lowell, like the hero who found Thorney after she had been six years alone on her Indian Ocean island, is said to have been equal to the delicate emergency.

J. E. Patterson, whose new novel, "The Story of Stephen Compton," has just been announced, is a famous wanderer and has been everywhere and done everything—from breaking a wild goat as a boy to breaking heads as a man, and in all the wild corners of the world. At 13 he was doing a man's work in the deep sea fisheries. From then on his life has been one wild rush of Homeric escapades, leading him all over the globe. He stirred up hornets' nests in Hindu temples, smuggled revolutionistic literature into Russia, nearly died in an African swamp while hiding from his captain, investigated the methods of howling dervishes at the risk of his life, and so on. His new novel, like his previous work, is handled with the convincing vividness engendered by actual experience.

That 15,000 school children in New York city, 2 per cent. of the enrollment, are feeble minded is the substance of a report which Dr. H. H. Goddard of the New Jersey Training School has submitted to the committee on school inquiry. Dr. Goddard is the author of "The Kallikak Family," a book dealing with defectives published last year, and is of the belief that more institutions for the feeble minded are needed.

It is not generally known in this country that S. R. Crockett started out in life as the pastor of a little Presbyterian church in the Galloway district, which he describes in his latest novel, "Patsy." After a number of years, however, he gave up the ministry for writing, believing that thus his sphere of influence would be enlarged. He is said to be a typical Scot, a man who is of the firm opinion that there is no better luck in the world than to have been born in the land of heather and that there is no better dish than the far famed oatmeal. A man who knows Mr. Crockett was asked the other day whether the author favors any particular kind of oatmeal. "Oh, no," was the reply. "He doesn't buy any fancy brand, but the old fashioned article, for it is reported that he has it three times a day and buys it in bulk."

B. Paul Neuman, whose new novel, "Simon Brandin," is just out, is a Londoner by birth, though on his father's side of foreign extraction. He was trained for the legal profession, was the holder of the Equity scholarship of the Inner Temple and practised for some time as a chancery barrister. His first venture in authorship was as joint editor of a huge compendium of equity. Then came a volume of short stories, "The Interpreter's House," followed by his first novel, "The Supplanter." He has written several novels and his "Roddles," last year, was very successful in this country.

"I wrote 'Poor Dear Margaret Kirby' a number of years ago," says Kathleen Norris, whose volume of short stories under that title has just been published. "I've forgotten now just where I first submitted it, but when it came back I threw it into an old trunk and forgot all about it. When I began to take up writing seriously a member of my family found the manuscript and without saying anything to me sent it to *Munsey's Magazine*. I don't think I ever received more hearty encouragement or a more gratifying surprise than when I received the editor's letter of acceptance with the check enclosed in my mail about a fortnight later."

Una L. Silberrad, author of the new novel "Success," lives in the heart of a very beautiful district of Essey, England, and most of her books have been written there. During her earlier youth her health was extremely delicate and for this reason her education was rather irregular and disjointed, but unusually extensive. She already has many sucessful novels and magazine articles to her credit.

Frank Crane recently returned from Europe and is spending the winter in New York. New editions of his book of popular essays, "Human Confessions" and "Lame and Lovely," have been required every few weeks, his publishers report. A prominent merchant recently sent a copy of both books to 300 friends.

Roger Pocock, author of "A Man in the Open," received his earliest training on board an English training ship. At the age of 15 he went to Canada, where he sought employment in the far Western part of the Dominion. Since then he has had twenty-four different and distinct vocations, ranging from "boots" in a large Victoria hotel to captain of a pack train from Fort McLeod, Canada, to the city of Mexico. Mr. Pocock was a member of the Northwest Mounted Police and served in the Riel rebellion, the Skeena blood feuds and the Boer war.

Henri Bergson, the famous French philosopher who is now lecturing at Columbia University, is having record breaking audiences, there being more than 2,000 applications for tickets. Appearances point to a repetition of the conditions in his home country, where at the University of France he has the largest lecture room of the kind in Europe. Even that is said to be too small to accommodate the throngs who come to his lectures. This is Dr. Bergson's first visit to this country and he will be here in all about three weeks.

Houseboat dwellers in the Louisiana bayous whose homes are anchored in the vicinity of the houseboat dwelling of Charles Tenney Jackson, the author, who makes his home among the lily pads more than nine months out of every twelve, attended a reception given by Mr. Jackson on New Year's Day, when his boat, which had been nameless for more than two years, was christened. It was named Aurelie for the heroine of the author's latest novel, "The Midlanders," and a little kinky headed negro girl was sponsor and broke a bottle of gin at the threshold of the boat.

Among the American authors who have been spending the winter abroad but expect to return home in time for the Presidential inauguration are Hallie Erminie Rives (Mrs. Post Wheeler), who will accompany her husband from their home in Rome, and George Randolph Chester, who will sail from Liverpool immediately after completing a cruise in the North Sea.

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