

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

New Fiction by Charles Marriott, Mrs. Vaizey, Oliver Onions, Harold MacGrath and Miss Van Sadnen. Books of Travel Into Corners of America, China, Russia—The Scribner Gilbert Parker—Business Encyclopedia Volumes of Biography, Politics, Sporting, Gardening, Mathematics, Travel Impressions and Other Subjects

The purpose of Charles Marriott's "The Catfish" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis) we take to be the delineation of a peculiar character. The hero has a dual nature, an instinct that turns to the realities of life and an inclination to avoid conflict by accepting the conventional. His ideal is to be content with the life he has, particularly from those who sympathize with them and wish to draw him out, he keeps this up to the end and, we imagine, will leave the reader perplexed, for the outcome is the blending of his two natures in the management of a department store on improved principles in a provincial town. He picks out workmen who do the things they are best fitted for, and these are highly appreciated by a public which gets exactly what it wants. The middlemen are wholly excited. The reader, who has followed with curiosity the strange behavior of the hero and the efforts of his friends to keep his ideal awake, is somewhat disconcerted to find that this has meant business efficiency in the author's mind all the time. The title is peculiarly misleading; it is surprising that American publishers should have retained it, for the catfish they are familiar with has nothing in common with the British creature that Mr. Marriott had in mind when he strains the bit of information into an unintelligible simile. A pleasantly told if somewhat artificial love tale will be found in "An Unknown Lover," by Mrs. George de Horne Vaizey (G. P. Putnam's Sons). It opens with the painful elimination from a brother's household of a devoted sister, she must give way to a fast-tasting young woman who has conspired his widow's heart. The sister, however, has entered on an unconventional correspondence with an unknown person in India, which develops into an exchange of love letters and her near-erasing herself to him. On the way out she meets on the ship a man with whom she falls in love, she struggles between loyalty to the one present, till her attachment to the one present, till the end is unexpectedly satisfactory. The people in the story are gentle folk and the language and manners are those of their class. The author rather absurdly excuses herself for introducing a collusion at sea, as though this were unknown in fiction previous to last year's discussion.

Curiously enough Desmond Coke's "Helena Brett's Career" (E. P. Dutton and Company) also opens with the parting of a devoted sister from a wholly selfish brother. He is a conceited, fussy, pampered author who marries a girl who wishes to get away from home. There is no sentiment, he tyrannizes over his wife as he did over his sister, on whom the author vents his spleen, leaving him with no redeeming trait. The wife relieves her feelings by keeping a record of his misbehavior, which through a succession of breaches of confidence is published anonymously. It is far more successful than the husband's books, and then the author's name is revealed. The author secures a "happy" ending by the sudden disclosure of unsuspected qualities in the parties concerned. The tone of banter shows that he regards the rather shady proceeding as a sort of a joke. In "The Debt Account" (George H. Doran Company) Oliver Onions supplies a sequel of a continuation of the self-revelation by the monomaniac who told his story in his previous book. The same crime hangs over him as he prospers in life and is interwoven with the existence of the same set of people. The people are allowed to be a bit more human, but realism is maintained by the usual catalogue of misadventures and the immaterial incidents of the mysterious business that enriches the hero. A postscript gives an explanation of his insanity. It is a pity that so much good work should be wasted on such sordid and unprofitable material. One Oriental trait will be found in Harold MacGrath's venture into the East, "Parrot & Co." (The Bobbs-Merrill Company), namely, an oppressed grandchild, who, under the name of a parrot, and his Eurasian retainer, makes an effective entrance on the stage. We should like to follow him in further adventures, for he looks like a man. Unfortunately he falls into the hands of the heroine, who is quaint, to say the least, and all that he does afterward lies in the domain of cheap humdrum melodrama. It is hardly worth while to produce Burma with a flourish of trumpets when the scene is to be shifted so soon to commonplace steamers and hotels. The remarkable energy of the small boy to whom the reader is introduced in Marie Louise Van Saanen's "Wild Grapes" (Moffat, Yard and Company) and the manner in which he gets on in the world will lead him to read on. He falls in love with amazing recklessness, and from the moment he marries, though he remains the hero, the author is more interested in showing what he has to put up with from his wife. She belongs to a type which, to judge from the newspapers, is by no means uncommon, mercenary, extravagant, heartless, a gambler, without truth or morals or shame. He becomes a money-making machine for her, condones her infidelity repeatedly and only balks when she asks him to give her grounds for divorcing him. What this indictment of one form of American married life has to do with the picturesque beginning we cannot make out. The greater portion of Mme. Noel Frances's "Les Intrusives" (Bloud et Compagnie, Paris) is taken up with the account of a spirited woman's suffrage meeting, the eloquent orations delivered and the discussion they excite. The subject is complicated by the fact that the women are Christians and that the orators seek to demonstrate that the rights they ask for are such as the Church admits. The specific wrongs that should be set right for French women are the compulsion put on young girls' affections by their parents in arranging marriages and the subjection of the wife to the husband's will after marriage. More general



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ceptually well informed about China and the Chinese people, he had news from competent persons about what happened in places where he was unable to be in person, and so was enabled to watch the whole course of the revolution. In his book he relates what occurred almost day by day, he supplies information about the men who were active at every step, often gives personal experiences, and is brief in his

many countries. As usual the latest information, as late as the middle of April this year, is arranged in the seventy pages that precede the regular pagination. The maps are chiefly intended to show the changes of half a century, for Europe certainly the scale is too small to be very useful, and it holds good for Asia and America in a lesser degree. A large scale map shows the boundaries in Africa agreed to by France and Spain.



Eihel Shackelford Author of 'The Jumping off Place'

Whoever has had occasion to use the Year Book knows how well the qualities that distinguish it have been kept up, the mass of information on political and administrative matters is trustworthy, the statistics are well selected and authoritative and the arrangement of the material is convenient. It is the book of reference which perhaps more than any other has facilitated the work of all who have to do with contemporary history.



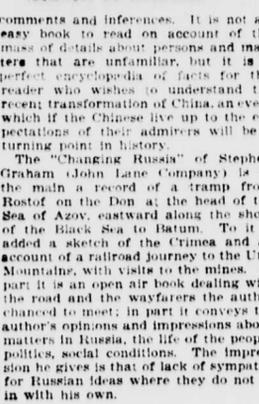
Frank Waller Allen Author of 'The Lovers of Shyde'

There is novelty in the beginning of Martha M. Stanley's "The Souls of Men" (G. W. Dillingham Company), the description of the efforts of an American to win his way on a Cuban plantation and the difficulties with the natives. The heroine cannot enter into the feelings of the people about her or appreciate her husband's struggle. Then the story, unfortunately, turns to theatrical life in New York and her temptation to take up with a dissolute man about town. The relation between husband and wife is hard to understand and her ignorance of evil and readiness to yield to it is even more unnatural. We should have liked to have the Cuban story properly worked out.



Muriel Hine Author of 'Earth'

The nine short stories which Frank Harris of the Saturday Review entitled "Unpaid Waters" (Mitchell Kennerly, New York) are all bright and well written may be taken for granted. The variations on Biblical themes are interesting in themselves and fair types of a prevailing fashion. Those that deal with contemporary vanities are very amusing, for the author knows the world he lives in. He never lets his satire break through the light tone of conversation and never forgets that it is a story he is telling. His tales are better reading than most of the short stories that are being published nowadays.



Miss S.C. Nethercole Author of 'William'

Two more volumes of the handsome subscription edition of "The Works of Gilbert Parker," the "Imperial" edition, are at hand (Charles Scribner's Sons). They are numbered XV and XVI, and contain his Anglo-Egyptian romance, "The Weavers," the only one of his books long enough to require two volumes. This leaves only two more volumes to complete the edition, though completion can hardly be thought of with an author who is still alive and vigorous.

The 1913 Statesman's Year Book. This is the jubilee year for "The Statesman's Year Book" (Macmillan), now edited by Dr. J. Scott Keltie and Dr. M. Epstein, the fiftieth year of publication of this valuable book of reference. The editor refers briefly in a short preface to the changes a half century has made in the book; he does not mention the most significant, namely, the increased amount of information about the United States and the assignment to it of a separate section, next to the British Empire, all the other countries of the world being lumped together. The Year Book for 1913 is brought up to date as usual, a fact that is of unusual importance because it includes the figures derived from the censuses that have been taken recently in

Prussia, and Prof. Herman Gerlach James, J. Ph. D., is justified in offering a model to be studied ("Principles of Prussian Administration" (Macmillan). It seems to be a condensation of the information supplied in German universities in courses on "Staatsrecht" and "Verwaltungsrecht." The historical survey is good, though it is colored with Prussian ideas; the author passes over many controversial matters very lightly, as is right in a purely explanatory account. With regard to the matter of the book he might have improved his statement greatly in two ways: first, the avoidance of many forms of expression common to all German lecturers but not quite clear to persons who do not know that language, ideas that are translated literally instead of into their real English equivalents; and second, more consideration of the needs of American readers, which would involve the rejection of some matters that are not essential to the forms of administration and which the author seems ready to exclude in his preface, and the explanation of some things that are not familiar to persons who have not been about in Germany. The author has said that the general public does not need material to be digested further. When foreigners visit the United States in recording their impressions their first duty to their countrymen is to be sprightly. This generally makes it difficult for the American who reads their books to discover whether they have really seen anything or have simply generalized from what they knew before or have chosen to listen to. There is a certain amount of obvious truth in B. Van Vorst's "La Pourriture au Boulevard aux Etats-Unis" (Hachette et Compagnie, Paris) mixed up with epigrams and with translations from the funny papers. A great part of the book is about the American woman and the American man's relations to her. It has been said before by Frenchmen who have been in the United States and by some who have not, it is said again in this book brightly and agreeably. Some day perhaps a French visitor will take the time and trouble to really try to understand the United States and the people dwelling therein. The devotees of the game of checkers who wish to perfect themselves have the opportunity of doing so by studying one of three little manuals published by Frederick Warne and Company. As they are of British origin they all give the same draughts. We have before us "The Game of Draughts, Hill's Pocket Manual," by James Hill, in a new edition; "The Game of Draughts," by J. L. Richmond, in a second edition, and "A Complete Guide," by James Lees, in a ninth edition. All these little books were published originally by Joseph Gould of Middlesbrough. A brief manual for trout fishermen has been prepared by Samuel G. Camp in "Fishing with Floating Flies" (Outing Publishing Company). It seems to give all the information needed by beginners at any rate, and also gives helpful suggestions about the difference of English and American streams. These may enable the owner of English books on fly fishing to modify their statements so as to suit American conditions.



PRICE COLLIER'S Fearless Criticism and Trenchant Characterization Give Vital Interest to His New Book

Germany and the Germans From an American Point of View

All Price Collier's writings have a quality perhaps unique—just as the biographer or novelist presents the character of a person, so he presents the character of a people. This and his justice of view and wit and vigor in expression have given him an international reputation as a commentator upon the life and customs of a country; his "England and the English" and his "West in the East" are known all over the world. But it seems likely that this new book will stir more interest than either of the others—every page is made eventful to the reader by some pointed comment or bold criticism.

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All the charm of the exploration of unknown seas by the sixteenth century mariners. It was the nineteenth century that distinguished it from the regular navigation. The maps are chiefly intended to show the changes of half a century, for Europe certainly the scale is too small to be very useful, and it holds good for Asia and America in a lesser degree. A large scale map shows the boundaries in Africa agreed to by France and Spain.

There is nothing revolutionary in the amiable sketches of "Notable Women in History" that Willis J. Abbot has written (The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia). There are more than seventy of them, almost all names that are household words, from Cornelia, the mother of the Gracchi, to Martha Washington and Susan B. Anthony. About them Mr. Abbot is careful to say nothing that the general public does not know, and his comments are likewise commonplace. Some were good or great, others were naughty, to say the least. As a record of common opinion about these noted females this compilation has a certain value. It can neither aid nor harm the cause of woman, for by the side of Isabella the Catholic, and Elizabeth and Joan of Arc we have the Duke Barry and a gallant soldier, whose military talent and greater services have been overshadowed by the memory of the famous charge his division made. The shorter account of him that his widow published recently is more personal and touching, but this longer and earlier book supplies the full details that the student of history requires.

The praiseworthy object of the publication of "The Diary of a Free Kindergarten" by Lilien Hardy (Houghton Mifflin Company), for which Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin writes an introduction, is to raise money to spread the usefulness of the little school the author has taken in hand. The kindergarten is attached to old St. Paul's Church in Edinburgh; it is in the Canongate and draws its little children from the poorest quarter of the city. The author explains the character of the work done and how all means, which will appeal to those interested in charitable organization and settlement work. Her book, however, is a real diary in which she has noted the sayings and doings of the children, and this part is charming and will please all readers. The baby Scots learn a painful lot about the hard things of the world in the slums and let it out unconsciously to their teacher in their quaint dialect. The stories are funny and pathetic at the same time, and there are many of them. The book is illustrated with photographs of the children.

In the matter of efficiency, which seems to be the modern panacea for most ills, particularly the management of public business, there is much to be learned from autocratic governments, where the requirements of theoretical perfection are not disturbed by the popular will. Nowhere have science and autocracy combined so perfectly as in

University and Historical Addresses: "Some Influences in Modern Philosophical Thought," Arthur Twining Hadley, Yale University Press; "Frederic R. Conder," Appleton; "Henry Churchill King," Macmillan; "The Wedding of Glendalough," (Henry Holt and Company); "Introduction to the Study of Indian Music," Gerald Stanley Lee, (Doubleday, Page and Company); "The Unrest of Women," Edward Sanford; "A Busy Time in Mexico," Hugh R. C. Pollard, (Duffield and Company); "The Poor Blind," H. B. Bashford, (Henry Holt and Company); "Michael Earle," S. J. Benziger Brothers, New York; "The Platen Drum," Dudley Sturrock, (John Lane Company); "Little Mamselle of the Wilderness," (Little Hieland, (Sturges and Walton Company); "The House of Thane," Elizabeth Dejean, J. B. Lippincott Company; "James Hurd," R. O. Proctor, (William H. Murray and Company); "Lo, Michael," Grace Livingston Hill, (John Lane Company); "The Witch of Golgotha," B. Peck-Mallan, (Sherman, French and Company, Boston); "Liberty and the Great Liberator," Charles F. Sprading, (The Author, Los Angeles, Cal.); "Within," Sir Francis Younghusband, (Duffield and Company); "The Land of Washington," Dr. Diomedea Carlo, (Dutton and Reishall, Naples); "Medical Union Number Six," William

Books Received. "The Game of Draughts, Hill's Pocket Manual," by James Hill, in a new edition; "The Game of Draughts," by J. L. Richmond, in a second edition, and "A Complete Guide," by James Lees, in a ninth edition. All these little books were published originally by Joseph Gould of Middlesbrough. A brief manual for trout fishermen has been prepared by Samuel G. Camp in "Fishing with Floating Flies" (Outing Publishing Company). It seems to give all the information needed by beginners at any rate, and also gives helpful suggestions about the difference of English and American streams. These may enable the owner of English books on fly fishing to modify their statements so as to suit American conditions.

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Our Own Weather

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The Sun

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