

NEW BOOKS SEEN THROUGH REVIEWS AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

"Home" a Smoothly Written and Interesting Book - Henry K. Webster's Amusing Mystery Tale.

New Fiction by Mary Roberts Rinehart, Zane Grey, Grace MacGowan Cooke and Others.

Two Encyclopaedias - Books on Science, Art, a Motor Tour in Canada and Other Subjects.

The didactic purpose of "Home" (The Century Company) is made rather inconspicuously apparent and the author seems inclined at times to drop the story for the sake of pleading, but the book is written so smoothly that the reader will not mind this. The main idea seems to be an amplification of Dr. Hale's "Man Without a Country," for the various excursions, willing and unwilling, all have to return to some place from which they are banished. It is not the family romance, the British ideal, that the author looks upon as home as much as the town where the family has grown, and the pretty description of the decayed settlement on a New England hilltop will appeal to many Americans throughout the land. It is a plea to keep the old homesteads as a place to return to. The clan feeling for which the author also pleads is pretty widespread, we imagine; at all events in the many places where there are families a generation or two older than their neighbors. It was hardly necessary to make the two young men misbehave as badly as they do in order to put it to the test. The Brian and Zane, though curious, and needed to fill time, hardly fits in with the rest of the story; the young man who seems to be the hero is too much of a black-guard to be attractive outside of the family circle. The women are a bit better, but they too rather lack life; the author is more successful with the secondary characters. It is an interesting book with a youthfulness of outlook and an earnestness that carries the reader along.

After a surfeit of dime novels, a society belle goes to a ranch on the Mexican border and in a marvellously short time by the use of money and business ability turns the desert into a garden through irrigation. She is unable to get rid of an obnoxious sheriff and of a community of offensive greasers. These spend most of their time in endeavoring to capture her and play hide and seek in an extraordinary manner in her houses and her grounds. They are filled, however, by a heroic cowboy, who performs chivalrous deeds between intervals of intoxication and whose behavior to the young woman is remarkable even in the wildest West. The title of Grace MacGowan Cooke and Caroline Wood Morrison's book, "William and Bill," (The Century Company), is misleading, for it tells chiefly of Bill, and William is merely a foil. The two are cousins, one brought up by a coddling mother, the other allowed to have his own way. His adventures are told from boyhood till he finds the right girl. As the cult of infantile independence now prevails Bill appears as a hero in all his escapades. These occur in a Southern town and are generally amusing, but the young man's vocabulary is that of the streets of the metropolis. It may indicate the kind of English that prevails in the rising generation throughout the country. We wish the authors had given William a fair showing; he seems to have had many instincts and to have been a pretty decent fellow, even if he did

edge. The analytical indexes at the end are full and thorough. The encyclopedia within its technical range will be found serviceable by all who have to deal with educational questions.

Other Books. One of the most interesting volumes in the "History of the Sciences" series published by G. P. Putnam's Sons is the little "History of Geography" by Dr. J. Scott Keltie and O. J. R. Howarth. It is of uneven merit, but is on the whole a satisfactory summary of what the authors call "the mother of all the sciences." For the period of antiquity devoted to the crusades it is fairly complete, covering a number of the subject, after that it becomes chiefly a record of exploration, with perhaps undue emphasis put on the nineteenth century. As the story advances marks of hurry to get everything into the assigned space become apparent, reducing the narrative to a skeleton. Nevertheless, the little book gives an excellent birdseye view of an important and attractive branch of science.

An unusually attractive special number of the International Studio is issued by the John Lane Company under the title "The Great Painter Etchers from Rembrandt to Whistler," the text by Malcolm C. Selaman. This is a pleasant, chatty summary of the art of etching, with too many references to living persons and a good deal of personal reminiscence which is not always relevant. It serves well enough, however, as an introduction to the plates, of which there are more than 220 pages. The proportion of examples of each etcher seems determined by accident, but no one will quarrel with the number of Rembrandts, Whistlers, Seymour Hudsons and Meryons. A few specimens of Rembrandt's precursors from Albrecht Durer down, are given; some also of Goya, Canaletto and Piranesi; the rest are Dutch, French and British, a somewhat haphazard selection in which fame as a painter seems to have had as much influence as the merits of the etching. The plates are generally satisfactory; the quality of the pictures is as gratifying as is the large quantity offered.

There is an indescribable charm about the writing of Charles Halsted Mages that makes it provoking that he does not use his gift more seriously. Most of the papers in "Some Other Things" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) are informal accounts of athletic incidents relating to Columbia, which would hardly seem to be of much importance even when told in conversation, yet they hold the attention. In the few papers where he speaks about women he seems to be on the point of telling a story, but he stops short. All the same his good natured chat about things in general makes pleasant reading. Another book written by the author to please himself is "John Bull, Limited," by George W. Hills (the author, Philadelphia). Mr. Hills is above all a humorist, with a retentive memory and a fondness for practical jokes. He also is an American of the rampant kind that seems to have had the fur brushed the wrong way by foreigners and foreign customs. His book is not so much an account of a visit to England, though the bits of description that turn up occasionally show a pretty thorough knowledge of the country, as it is an explanation of what things in England Mr. Hills does not like, of American superiority in that respect, and especially of the facetious ways in which Mr. Hills strove to disturb British complacency. He must have been a delightful traveling companion. The third and final volume of "A History of Russia," by V. O. Kluzevsky, translated by C. J. Howarth (J. M. Dent and Sons; E. P. Dutton and Company) should end with the nineteenth century, so far as we can make out, however, from the confusion of this volume it stops somewhere before the accession of Peter the Great. The difficulties of the author's arrangement are increased in terms as though they were understood by his readers. It is a hard book to read save for some one already familiar with Slavic history, and if it is to be made intelligible to Western readers it must be provided with an ample supply of explanatory notes. It is the automobileist rather than the traveler who will be interested in the remarkable trip that Thomas W. Wilby describes in "A Motor Tour Through Canada" (John Lane Company). The author started from Halifax to make his

way across the continent to Vancouver and beyond on British territory. The trip may be made much more comfortably by rail and so far as the pleasure of motoring is concerned should be restricted to certain districts. It was a definite feat that Mr. Wilby wished to perform and his description of its successful accomplishment we hear more of the state of the roads, of motor troubles and incidents of travel than of the scenery and the country. Needless to say, he believes Canada should build highways running east and west. A small boy interested in natural history is lucky enough to have an affectionate uncle crammed full of needed information. Together in Margaret Warner Morley's "Will o' the Wasp" (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago) they study very thoroughly the habits and life histories of wasps and hornets. The book is helpful and the illustrations are pretty.

A new translation of "The New Testament" has been prepared by Prof. James Moffatt, D. D., Litt. D., of Mansfield College at Oxford, which is a Congregational institution (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company). He has endeavored to translate the original text into good and accurate English, just as he might any other Greek word, and his object is "to make the New Testament more intelligible to some readers." It is an interesting translation in itself, because it takes into consideration the views of modern criticism. From the point of view of mere English the author's effort to break away from the phraseology stamped on the language by the King James version is noticeable. The manner in which the study of English has become specialized in our colleges and the sort of verbiage with which fairly plain and simple matters are invested with philosophy, psychology and all the scientific apparatus required for instruction are well demonstrated in "The Modern Short-Story," by Lucy Lillian Nostein and Waldo Hilary Dunn (The A. S. Barnes Company, New York). The hypenation denoted by Prof. Dunn, the instigator of the book, regards the short story as a form of literature by itself, we gather that he is in the habit of teaching classes how to write it at the University of Wooster, Ohio. One form of composition is as good as another, we dare say, in training college students to write English, but a 200 page improvement of Prof. Brandor Mathews looks like an inflation on youth.

The rapid changes in bridge or auction, or whatever the game may be called next, carry with them equally frequent changes in the manuals describing the game and laying down the rules. One of the most authoritative of these handbooks, R. E. Foster's "Royal Auction Bridge with Nullus" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) appears in a revised edition, "brought completely up to date," with all the new frills and refinements. Almost in pocket size, appropriate for the school desk or the traveling bag, appears "The Concise Standard Dictionary of the English Language" (Funk and Wagnalls Company), abridged from the larger work by James C. Fernald. The little book will prove a convenience to many. Travellers to Europe this winter will be able to take with them two of the Baedeker handbooks that are most important for the Mediterranean trip, "Baedeker's Egypt and the Sudan" (Karl Baedeker, Leipzig; Charles Scribner's Sons) with 200 pages of introduction, appears in a seventh remodeled edition. The Sudan part takes the adventurous traveller beyond Khartoum to Lado and the Belgian Congo. For those who are content with the Riviera and Monte Carlo "Baedeker's Southern France, Including Corsica," is ready in a sixth revised edition (Karl Baedeker; Charles Scribner's Sons), covering all of France south of the Loire.

NEW BOOKS FROM THE VARIOUS HOUSES. The Macmillan Co. have a long and interesting list of new books issued this week, January 21: "The Principles of Greek Art," by Percy Gardner; "How to Sing," by Lilli Lehmann; "The Fight and Other Poems," by George E. Woodberry; "The Reformation in Germany," by H. C. Vedder; "The American Doctrine of Judicial Supremacy," by Charles G. Haines; "The Industrial Training of the Boy," by W. W. Markham; "Notes on Politics and History," by Lord Morley; "The Battle of Peace," by Dean George Hodges; "The Heresy of Cain," by Dean George Hodges; "The Christianity Between Sunda," by Dean George Hodges. New books announced for early publication by Edward J. Clode include: "The Land of Promise," by William Somerset Maugham; "On With Torchy," by Sewell Ford; "The Time of Surrender," by Louis Tracy; and "The Greil Mystery," by Frank Forest. Harper & Brothers announce that they are putting to press this week for reprinting the following books: "The Ivory Gate," by Walter Besant; "Highland Cavaliers," by William Black; "A Pair of Patient Lovers," by William Dean Howells; "Japanese Homes and Their Surroundings," by Edward S. Morse; "The House of the Seven Gables," by Nathaniel Hawthorne; "The Revolt of Democracy," by Alfred Russel Wallace, the well known social reformer. Dodd, Mead and Company are issuing today the following new books: "Dark Hollow," a characteristic mystery story, by Anna Katherine Green; "The Law of Life," a first long novel, by Carl Werner; "Monte Carlo," a novel set in the famous gambling resort, by Margaret de Vere Staurope; "Betty Stanish," a novel dealing with the results of grafting Oriental ideas on an Englishman, by A. J. Anderson. Two new editions are simultaneously issued by the same house: "Every Day in the Year," by James L. and Mary K. Ford; and "The Bay Psalm Book," a facsimile reprint of the first edition printed by Stephen Daye in England in 1640. John Lane Company announces the publication this week of a piece of verbal horripilation with a purpose by Gilbert Chesterton entitled "The Flying Inn."

New books announced for immediate issue by Houghton Mifflin Company include: "What Men Live By," a contribution to the philosophy of living, by Dr. Richard C. Cabot; and "Handbook of Styles in Use at the Riverside Press," a little volume of interest to writers and editors. The same house reports a second printing of Charles S. Osgood's literary travelogue "The Country of St. Walter Scott," and a third printing of Jessie B. Rittenhouse's "The Little Book of Modern Verse."

Two Encyclopaedias. The remarkable "Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics," edited by James Hastings (T. and T. Clark; Charles Scribner's Sons), has reached the sixth volume, which includes articles that are in alphabetical order between the subjects of "Fiction" and "Hyksos." As we have said in noticing the previous volumes, the title almost discloses the real character of the encyclopedia; religion is interpreted in so wide a sense as to include every form of myth or superstition and every action that has the semblance of religious observance, while the term ethics is made broad enough to cover every phase of thought or literature that involves the idea of right and wrong. There is fully as much matter that relates to ethnology and folklore as there is dealing with theology or philosophy, and the articles are so objective and so complete that any volume can be dipped into for entertainment as well as instruction. The first article on fiction, is characteristic of the whole work; it is a summary review in a dozen pages of imaginative writing in all ages and lands that fully justifies its inclusion in a compendium of human thought. Later we find seven columns devoted to an astonishingly objective estimate of Heinrich Heine. A few titles taken in alphabetical order will give some idea of the peculiar interest of this volume: Food for the Dead, Forgiveness, Fortune, Friendship, Society of Friends, Gallicanism, Games, Gifts, God (sixty-three pages), Graeco-Egyptian and Greek Religion and Greek Orthodox Church, Gyves, Hand Head, Heredity, Heresy, Heros, Thirty-six pages), Hindulism, Holiness, Hooliganism, Hospitality, Human Sacrifice, with the usual proportion of biographical and geographical articles. The work has an individuality of its own like the original "Encyclopaedia" and Larousse; it is a reference book that can be read for pleasure.

With volume V. "A Cyclopaedia of Education," edited by Prof. Paul Monroe of Columbia University (Macmillan), is completed. It is a very respectable and conscientious compendium of information and modern views concerning the science of pedagogy, a science regarded by many as somewhat top-heavy. It supplies in convenient shape a mass of information that will be helpful to school teachers who are harassed by the often arbitrary requirements of Boards of Education; also the bibliographical annotation that may start the ambitious to seek for further know-

JANUARY BOOKS

ANOTHER MAN'S SHOES By Victor Bridges 12mo, Net \$1.25

Many a man leads a double life—this man lived the life of a double in a desperate attempt to cheat destiny. Suddenly falling heir to the thrills, the adventures, the romance and luxury of another man's life, Jack Burton masquerades as his own double through the most amazing scenes of this most amazing story.

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JOHN LANE COMPANY NEW YORK

of "One Generation of a Norfolk Family" by A. Joseph D. D.; and "18,000 Words Often Mispronounced," a revised and enlarged edition of "12,000 Words Often Mispronounced," by W. H. P. Pyffe. Prof. W. A. Adams of Dartmouth College has edited, with notes and vocabulary, Roger's "Der Grosse Frenschkoenig," an interesting life of Frederick the Great, which is about to be published by D. C. Heath and Company. The following new books are announced by Funk & Wagnalls Company: "The Country of the Ring and the Book," by Sir Frederick Treves; "Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope," an illustrated account of her life and love affairs, by Frank Hamel; "Life and the Way Through," a discussion of the critical things of life by the Rev. P. B. Merer; B. A. D. D., and "The Revolt of Democracy," by Alfred Russel Wallace, the well known social reformer. Dodd, Mead and Company are issuing today the following new books: "Dark Hollow," a characteristic mystery story, by Anna Katherine Green; "The Law of Life," a first long novel, by Carl Werner; "Monte Carlo," a novel set in the famous gambling resort, by Margaret de Vere Staurope; "Betty Stanish," a novel dealing with the results of grafting Oriental ideas on an Englishman, by A. J. Anderson. Two new editions are simultaneously issued by the same house: "Every Day in the Year," by James L. and Mary K. Ford; and "The Bay Psalm Book," a facsimile reprint of the first edition printed by Stephen Daye in England in 1640. John Lane Company announces the publication this week of a piece of verbal horripilation with a purpose by Gilbert Chesterton entitled "The Flying Inn."

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THE ADVENTURES OF A DARING YOUNG LADY

George Gibbs's story of "Madcap" (D. Appleton and Company) is spirited and entertaining. The heroine is characterized immediately. Hermia Challoner came storming in. "Down, Domino!"—this to her affectionately aggressive dog, "Quick, Time, my bath!"—this to her French maid, who had been laying out silk stockings and small suede slippers. Miss Challoner's hat was stove in. Her face was scratched and stained with earth. She had been out riding before breakfast on a vicious horse. He snatched me into some bushes," such was her explanatory word to Titine. She entered her bath, splashed vigorously for some moments, emerged radiant, allowed her maid to administer a lotion to her injured countenance and despatched breakfast with a splendid appetite. She was an outdoor girl, athletic, venturesome. John Markham, the artist, was painting a picture on an island which he had rented for the season. It was his wish to be retired. A whirl, a crash, Hermia in blouse and leggings rolling on the ground. She had come over in a flying machine and descended with a bang. It was after this that Markham, who had gone to Europe for a vacation and was walking in New York, saw an automobile leap upon a railroad track just in front of a freight

HOME The anonymous novel whose serial publication in The Century Magazine attracted wide attention. HOME At all booksellers Price \$1.30 net, postage 10 cents THE CENTURY CO.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY

The MOTOR AND THE HIGHWAYS

By Sir Henry Norman The Alpine Road of France. Illustrated



By Henry B. Joy President Lincoln Highway Association

Transcontinental Trails. Illustrated



By Rollin W. Hutchinson, Jr. Motor-Vehicle Expert and Engineer

Motorized Highway Commerce



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