

A THRILLING STORY OF ART IN CALIFORNIA

We like handsome heroes, mainly fellows who fill the eye, not infrequently the feminine eye. In Harold Bell Wright's story "The Eye of the World" (The Book Supply Company, Chicago), as the Golden State Limited enters southern California young Aaron King is seen standing on the observation platform. Aaron is very good looking. Catching fire, the novelist says, "he would have attracted attention in a crowd." Tall and athletic, broad shouldered, his "fine head poised with that natural unconscious pride of the well bred, he kept his feet on the unsteady platform like a man with that easy grace which marks only well conditioned muscles and is rarely seen save in those whose lives are sanely clean."

SOME NEW FICTION.

A Mississippi steamboat runs on a regular line between New Orleans and St. Louis. The "Story of Duchesne" (Macmillan), which enables the author to introduce to the reader a company of interesting people who are on board. They have assembled by accident, but all have a share in the story that is to be told. So all are described minutely, personal appearance, clothes and even character. The captain seems to be singularly lacking in authority, but he is a man who is to leave the steamer in the northwest and to camp out in a deserted mansion which belongs to one of the party and had belonged to the ancestors of another. This is necessary in order that hidden treasure and documents involving the title to the property may be discovered. "Simultaneously a former Confederate officer escaped from a lunatic asylum who knows the secret hiding place, reveals it unconsciously to a band of river pirates. The treasure is saved for the rightful owner in the nick of time and the mystery story is over. The title of the book is descriptive of the domestic troubles of a very wealthy man, ingeniously brutal to his wife; with her the reader will sympathize till he is removed. Up to that point there are humorous touches and coherence of treatment. Then the author seems to make up her mind to leave the reader suddenly; there is a needless murder that turns it to tragedy, the mansion is swept away, the heroine becomes vulgar and catty and we are left in ignorance of what becomes of the issue officer and of the folled bandit. It is a laborious performance, which the author seems to grow tired and to wish to end anyhow. At the end she grows careless about her English. The book is readable in spite of the fantastic conclusion, but it will not add to Miss Murree's reputation.

rose garden. The player was Sibyl Andros, who dwelt in an embowered cottage with Myra Willard, a good and faithful woman of middle age, whose once beautiful face had been frightfully burned with acid. Sibyl also played in church. Conrad Lagrange took Aaron up into the mountains, correctly divining that their noble influence would do the young painter good.

OTHER BOOKS.

The second volume of the excellent "Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture" (Macmillan), edited by L. H. Bailey, has appeared in the revised and enlarged edition. It begins with "Cabbage" and ends with "Extinction Teaching." The cyclopaedia is intended for the practical agriculturist; while it provides the scientific information regarding each plant, it also gives in each article an account of the cultivation, the medicinal and agricultural uses of the plant and other matters the farmer should know. The articles are not limited to botanical terms, but include all subjects that pertain to agriculture. A notable section in this volume, covering many pages, is that dealing with "Diseases and Insects."

Pace of College Preparatory Boarding School for Boys

By S. J. McPHERSON, Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N. J.

It is interesting to recall that boarding schools are widely scattered over the civilized world. In England they are numerous and influential. In Germany they are increasing. Our Commissioner of Education reports that they are now multiplying at a more rapid rate than in part to the increase in wealth and to the congestion of population in cities. But the change by no means consists wholly of a scramble upward by newly rich. Wise fathers instinctively seek out what they consider the best schooling for their sons. It is moving to the westward, and the range of quality among them is very wide. There is too much talk of educational opportunities strive to mate up this loss to their sons. Educated parents have naturally a clearer prevision of how their sons should be trained.

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