

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

NEW NOVELS AND MORE SERIOUS WORK COVER MANY THEMES

James Stephen's Delightful New Irish Tale—Five Tales of Terror—"Happy Hawkins" Again. Historical Romance of the Dumas Order—A South African Story—Stephen Leacock's Satires. Illustrated Books of Many Kinds—Babylonian Records—A Helpful and Condensed Cyclopaedia.

It is a charming and poetical tale that James Stephens has written this time in "The Demi-Gods" (Macmillans), with the peculiar English and the incoherence of plot that the new Irish school affects.

They wander about the country, for the open air has invaded even the New Irish, and meet with various persons. An outcast woman, who attracts men and whom the vagabond loves; a miser who has cast away his money and roves about the land; the wrath of an Irish bandit and the angel who robbed him; all occasions for much humor and poetry and a little mysticism, including the psychology of the donkey.

SOME NEW FICTION.

Five short stories by Algernon Blackwood, three of which are fairly long, will be found in "Incredible Adventures" (Macmillans). In all he exercises his art of arousing vague terror successfully; in all he suggests forces in the world around us which are not precisely supernatural, but are not clearly apprehended by man.

He who lands in Victor Hugo's sewers. The author splashes more or less incorrect history around recklessly. He has written a fairly exciting tale of its sort, but it is far below some work that he has done.

The old time historical romance with all its faults is revived by J. C. Snaith in "Anne Feversham" (Appletons). The fair daughter of a noble prison keeper flees with a youth condemned to death for treason to Queen Elizabeth.

A Boer young woman with much sense is the heroine of F. E. Mills Young's "Valley of a Thousand Hills" (John Lane Company). She seems to have her own way pretty decidedly, so that it is difficult to understand why she does not send her unworthy suitor about his business when she discovers that she does not care for him.

A young Southerner studying for the priesthood gives up his vocation to help his family in Esther W. Nellis's "The Red Ascent" (P. J. Kennedy and Sons, New York). His father and sister are hard to deal with and he is unpractical enough to let his pride stand in the way of securing the aid he needs.

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Victorious sketches of life among the Tennessee mountaineers are the delectable feature in Edith Stow's "Nancy the Joyous" (The Rellly and Britton Company, Chicago). The heroine's conduct is eccentric, the reader must accept the author's word for her admirable qualities; she seems to drift with the current. The story reads as if the author had not worked it up for her tale and had not worked it up.

SOMETHING NEW AND ORIGINAL IN BRIDGE BOOKS

It is not often that one finds an old subject, such as games of cards, which have been written upon for more than fifty years, presented in such an entirely new way that one is led to believe that the matter itself, as well as the arrangement, must be entirely original, yet this has been successfully accomplished in "Whitehead's Conventions of Auction Bridge" (Stokes).

The theories of bidding and play which are presented to the reader are those which are to be found, somewhere or other, scattered through the various authorities on the game of auction, but in the volume before us these scattered principles are gathered up, classified, properly labeled and put where they can be found at a moment's notice.

Many persons who imagine they have assimilated all the wisdom of the standard text books on the game will probably be astonished to find in Whitehead's Conventions a multitude of minor details that they have completely overlooked. This is done in the manner in which the principles of the game are presented, as if were, for the reader's benefit.

In the average text book one may have to wade through several chapters in order to discover the convention governing a given situation. To find a trifling variation one may have to go all over the same ground again. Even then one is never sure that an important point has not been missed through some detail which has not been sufficiently insisted upon.

the chapters than with the full page pictures. These, however, will appeal to the sentimentality that has made the book popular.

Again a play that has met with success is turned into a story in Edward Peple's "A Pair of Sixes" which has been "novelized" by Lilian Lauferty (Moffat, Yard and Company). The illustrations are from the play.

British characteristics are generally exaggerated in the loyal self-governing colonies and it is perhaps to be expected that Stephen Leacock, when he decided to be a humorist, should do so in ponderous, the Pater style of funniness. He turns his satire in the eight stories of "Arcadian Adventures of the Idle Rich" (John Lane Company) against the manners and the modes of thought which he chooses to attribute to the very wealthy and those who fawn upon them.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

It was Rosalind that sent George Wharton Edwards into "The Forest of Arden" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) to gather with pen and pencil spoils that will please the reader. Those Ardenian forests are being despoiled just now in a far more savage manner and some few of Mr. Edwards's pictures may have the accrued importance of preserving the semblance of places that have been destroyed. The greater number, however, depict sylvan scenes that render the spirit of "As You Like It." The etchs in color are very pretty, but the others are fully as interesting. The text is just as attractive as the pictures; it tells in part of personal experiences of travel and of the ways of the people, which the author chanced to see; in part it recites the legends and history of the strange places he came across.

A conscientious and thorough study of the beginnings of German art within the limits of painting and sculpture has been made by Helen A. Dickinson, Ph.D., in "Masters of German Art" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), a handsome quarto with over 100 illustrations, a few in color. The author, the chief attraction of her book reflects the most recent views of German scholars on the subject, presenting them to English readers in a convenient and intelligible form. She ends with Albrecht Duerer and Hans Holbein, the younger, which is considerable for there follows a long interval in which it would be difficult to find art that is worthy of being written about. It requires some education to be able to appreciate the beauty of these German primitives; they all call for explanations such as the art critic's delight in, but those who once take to them attain that higher aesthetic elevation that enables them to look down on the less attractive beauty that simpler people enjoy, such as, for instance, the Italian renaissance.

A very pleasant guide to a region that is attracting many visitors has been written by Lawrence J. Burpee in "Among the Canadian Alps" (Bell and Coakburn; John Lane Company). The author confines himself to the national parks of the Dominion, of which he gives an interesting account. He describes the scenery and the attractions for mountain climbers and stoops to the practical details that help the traveler. The chief attraction of the book, however, is the beautiful photographs, a few of which have been colored, that show wild scenery which will tempt any lover of nature to start at once for Banff and the other points of entry.

No fitter book could be selected to be decked in holiday dress than Kenneth Grahame's delightful, fanciful "The Golden Age" which deserves to be known by a much wider circle of children and of grown-up readers than that which has enjoyed it for fifteen years. It is now issued in quarto form by the John Lane Company, with a green line around the pages and twenty colored illustrations by R. J. E. Moody. The artist seems to have a more matter of fact point of view than the less abstract beauty that is drawn and highly colored, with a marked preference for vivid greens; but both figures and landscapes are void of the fanciful, poetic feeling which gives Mr.

able to be abandoned long before arriving at any satisfactory conclusion. Turning to the table of contents in Whitehead we find under the caption "Where Dealer Calls a Suit" several sub-heads covering all the possibilities of second and third hand's bidding or passing in various combinations. Second and third hand both passing is the one we want, and on turning to page 196 we find the whole thing in a nutshell. "Fourth hand should pass unless hand contains unmistakable game going possibilities, defended against a possible switch by opponents."

The chapters on the conventions of play, the management of trumps and no trump, the handling of the discard and the advantages of the echo are particularly well done. An extremely useful feature is the index to the type and paragraphing, so that the exact law governing any particular point can be instantly found.

The convenience of the book is increased by its being printed in two colors throughout the type and paragraphing being so arranged that the eye quickly catches the point for which one is searching. Take it altogether it is the most complete and satisfactory work on the subject that has so far appeared.

Earl Derr Biggers' new novel, "Love Insurance," is even better than "Seven Keys to Baldpate." It's a prime quality, all-wool-and-a-yard-wide yarn. —Boston Globe

Mr. H. G. Wells' New Novel THE WIFE OF SIR ISAAC HARMAN By H. G. WELLS Author of "Tono Bungay," "Marriage," etc.

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The many ludicrous situations in "Love Insurance" are deftly handled by Mr. Biggers, author of "Seven Keys to Baldpate." This book is sure to be popular. —Sly's Times

LOVE INSURANCE

a novel by Earl Derr Biggers, author of "Seven Keys to Baldpate." \$1.25 net. At all booksellers. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Publishers

Graham's stories "Attraction." It is a very pretty holiday book, all the same. For children Frederick Trevor Hill has written "Washington, the Man of Action" (Appletons), which has been illustrated in color by Count J. Onofrey de Breville, better known by his signature, Job. Though he discards the early nineteenth century Weems traditions of the cherry tree and the like, Mr. Hill applies the twentieth century coloring of the open air and present day thought to Washington and dwells chiefly on the picturesque incidents; for the presidency he cares little. The illustrations are pretty, they take up the whole page including the borders and will remind many of the form of art that was mounted on canvases to foil the destructive fingers of infancy. The handsome getup of the quarto, the typography and the decorative borders seem out of place in a book for young children.

Strictly a nursery book is "The Mary Frances Housekeeper" (The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia), by Jane Evans Freyer, for which Julia Greene and Albert C. Mowitz have provided the pictures. The book is one of a series containing pictures to be cut out; in this one they represent dolls and furniture, and the text is only an excuse for the pictures. The border illustrations are very good.

THE MORGAN BULL.

By the publication of the "Babylonian Records" in the library of J. Pierpont Morgan these historical documents are brought within the reach of Semitic scholars in a form more practical than handling the objects themselves would be. The editor of the series is Albert J. Clay. Part III, which has just been issued, contains "Cuneiform Bullae of the Third Millennium B. C.," by Dr. Clarence E. Kelsey of Yale University (New York, privately printed). It is a handsome quarto, containing an introduction describing the bullae, followed by the translation of the inscription on each, a vocabulary, indexes and so forth. Then follow many plates of transliteration of the cuneiform inscriptions as Dr. Kelsey reads them and of other plates with photographs of the bullae themselves. The number of these is twenty-five.

A NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA.

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J. Charles Davis, whose unique collection of books on American sports is to be sold in the Anderson Auction Galleries early next month, is known to thousands of sportsmen and newspaper men. Soon after he was admitted to the New York bar, in 1875, he turned his attention to literature and became a contributor to the "Herald," "Civic Spirit," "Democratic News," "Journalist," "Frank Leslie's" and the "New York and Chicago dailies." In 1880 he went into the theatrical field, and after the election of Cleveland, returned to the United States in 1884. In the Presidential campaign of that year he managed the campaign of the Republican ticket and had charge of the transportation and reception of distinguished guests at the great benefit performance in New York City for the Actors Fund of America, and by his personal efforts secured the presence of Gov. Cleveland, then President-elect, bringing him to New York on a special train. In 1885 he became assistant manager of Harry Miner's amusement enterprises and retired as general manager.

Upon quitting the theatrical field Mr. Davis resumed his active newspaper and magazine work, writing largely on sports and sportsmen. He was famous as a marksman and had hunted and fished all over the world. His stories of the rod and gun and his syndicate articles on travel in the Far East were widely read. Among his some very desirable miscellaneous works are included the catalogue of sale is mainly of interesting and important books relating to outdoor sports. Among the subjects covered are horsemanship, camps and camp life, big game, fishing, tackle and its manufacture and

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