

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

Barry Pain Picks His Stories He Thinks the Best Angela Morgan's Short Stories. "Justice in War Time," Robert Herrick's European Impressions, and Other War Books. Text Books on Punctuation, Spanish Business Terms, French Juvenile Plays—Other Themes.

An author's judgment on his own work will be found in the volume of "Collected Tales" (Frederick A. Stokes Company), the baker's dozen that Barry Pain has picked out as those he thinks the best among the many he has written in twenty-five years. He has been very industrious in that time and his stories have found a ready acceptance, for they are always carefully constructed and well written. He has excluded in his selection all stories that were intentionally humorous, following the advice of the late W. E. Henley, which is rather to be regretted, for Mr. Pain's natural inclination is to be humorous. Nearly all in this volume turn on a supernatural, mystical or fanciful theme, and all are very interesting. They have to do with a distinct literary quality, with none of the affectation, whether in language or in psychology, which afflicts the latest generation of English story writers. The second volume promised around the expectation. Perhaps later Mr. Pain may lift the ban on his own humor.

It is a decidedly youthful story that Dorothy Fisher Gilman has written in "The Bloom of Youth" (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston), a story that may open the eyes of parents to the peculiarities of twentieth century children. There is a good deal of mild satire about the ways of Boston women, who, apparently, except in externals, remain the same from generation to generation, and there is a sketchy background of Harvard and of Radcliffe, which will satisfy those familiar with these institutions and will not mean much to strangers. The heroine is a young girl of the blue-blooded sort who is swept away by Boston blood, and decides to go to college instead of taking her place in society. At Radcliffe she shows her democracy by consorting with a plebeian Italian girl and a negress and avoiding her natural associates; she takes courses in economics and eugenics and sex feminism, she is a level-headed girl, however, and by the time she is ready to graduate has had most of the nonsense knocked out of her; she is also healthily insensible to all kinds of love making. The freshman socialist on the other hand, a wealthy youth who is fond of hearing himself talk and of being conspicuous, is incoherent in the pretty but commonplace love of perception is properly mysterious, but Columbine is charmingly matter of fact and prosaic. The two take charge of the love affairs of some ordinary mortals; a delicate young girl who is fitted by a coarse creature and is rescued by a very nice boy with a nice mother. The scenes between these three in a beautiful garden and those enacted in Columbine's dairy are charming. The author's charity extends even to the evil-doers, whom she makes happy after doing her best to prejudice the reader against them. She is far too liberal in descriptions of interior decorations and of women's dresses and some of the effronteries might be pruned adventurously, but the story is pretty, the characters attractive and the love making delightful.

The disease which afflicts the narrator of W. Riley's "Netherlight" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) also interferes with his story. It is some mysterious affection of the heart, which has kept him on his back for twenty-five years and which, after he starts to move about at the beginning of the story, brings him down unexpectedly from time to time as it goes on. This is irritating, for the reader does not know what the matter is with the narrator and it imparts a tone of querulous invalidism to the account of the pretty Yorkshire country and of the village people. The pathos of the invalid's struggle with his love does not justify this. The story is well worth reading, for there are delightful people in it, a lovely girl, an affectionate little boy, a sensible maid and other amiable country people, and best of all the invalid's matter of fact father. It would be far more enjoyable if the despondent tone did not dominate; neither is there any reason for dragging the war in.

The seven stories included by Angela Morgan in "The Invisible Splendor" (The Baker and Taylor Company, New York) are all written with great intensity and are effective. The author in each tries to describe an impulse or an inspiration, with no great regard for probabilities or psychological subtleties, and is generally successful. The tales of the mother who gets the better of her ungrateful offspring and of the girl who fetches his sweetheart to the man she herself loves are good stories. Most of her characters act on impulse and that usually gets them into trouble. A young woman's fight against the "booze" drink is described by Sally Nelson Robins in "A Man's Reach" (J. B. Lippincott Company). The youth she loves is the son of a drunkard, but apparently the vice is not hereditary; he simply drinks because he chooses to, perhaps out of good fellowship, without regard to his mother or the girl he loves. When this has gone on for some time the girl tries some form of mental science on him and cures him. There are other people in the story, vicious and otherwise, who seem irrelevant and there is a court scene, absurd from the legal point of view, in which the hero is eloquent. The scene is in Virginia, but might be in any other place where young men give way to drink.

"Booze" also stirs up Phoebe Gray in "The Golden Lamp" (Small, Maynard and Company) and she does not allow the reader to forget it throughout the melodramatic ory in which she indulges. An insane nurse steals the child of a rich young couple and also another infant and leaves the fisherman and his wife. They decide to bring them up as their own. The fisherman is the only person of importance in the story who drinks, but every time he does till his lamentable end the author lets loose her vials of wrath on drink, the saloons, the politicians and so forth. The heroine is the daughter of the richest man in the county, but she is good to her, but emboldens himself at the sins of the capitalist class, he oppresses the poor, pays starvation wages, owns bad tenements, keeps the saloons open and the politicians busy, blocks beneficial legislation and so on. The girl naturally takes to settlement work in which the parents of the lost child join her and in time they reform the community. The child is saved from the perils of the streets by an eccentric sea captain and when the time is ripe is restored to his parents. The moral might be drawn that sensational literature is almost as dangerous as "booze."

In "Hossomy Cottage" (The Abingdon Press, New York) Montague Perry tells very pleasantly how a precocious but charming little boy and a very nice young school teacher overcome a cantankerous old farmer. The boy's parents are worn out settlement workers, who, as they regain their health in the country, begin to do neighborhood work quietly and effectively. The people are all natural, there is no preaching and the result is an entertaining and unpretentious little story that most readers will like.

A publisher's notice accompanying I. A. R. Wiley's story of "The Temple of Dawn" (George H. Doran Company) calls it a "tale of the mysterious India of a century ago," but as we read we find passages indicating a more recent period of time. For instance, we find Seymour saying to Mrs. Ardale that perhaps he is a little old-fashioned, to which accusation that very interesting lady replies, with a shrug of her handsome shoulders: "Old-fashioned? Hyper-modern—post-impressionist, dear young man—bordering on futurist almost!" The acknowledged mystery of India would be unbelievably increased if ladies residing there 100 years ago said things of this sort.

Again, we find Mrs. Willoughby declaring that she was frightened "of shadows, whereas it is next to certain that a century ago she would have been frightened "by" shadows. If Hamlet had lived and conversed in England in these days and received impressions from the novels that are written in England he might have said that the King, his uncle, was frightened "of" false fire, but his word was that the King's Majesty was frightened "with" it. It is since Dickens and Thackeray that in cases of fright the "of" has ousted the once respectable "by."

There are other things. At the opening of the twentieth chapter Dr. Elliot, an excellent though crabbed practitioner, may be heard expressing the hope that the humble person with whom he is conversing will meet with violence at the hands of a native physician. The doctor's language at this point runs in part: "Take him your damned toothache and see what he'll do for it. Hit you on the head, I hope, and serve you jolly well right." "Here you can take it, I don't care. I've done. I could have knifed you too—but I've finished. You can send for the pike." The very handsome young woman who said this to Derog, the dead merchant's non-in-law, took



OWEN JOHNSON, AUTHOR OF 'THE SPIRIT OF FRANCE' (LITTLE, BROWN)

often interesting. He has added one more book to the war literature. Two interesting pamphlets are issued by Chapelot in Paris, in "Le Role de la Suisse" Edouard Chapuisat tells how gallantly and at what a cost Switzerland is maintaining her neutrality, while Gen. Malletierre in "De la Marche à l'Yser" describes the series of great battles. A batch of philosophers who emit their opinions on the war demonstrate that in France as in Germany scientific habits are relegated to the background for the time being. Henri Bergson of the French Academy, the fashionable philosopher, lectures on "La Signification de la Guerre," Victor Delbos on "L'Esprit philosophique de l'Allemagne et la pensée Française," Prof. Maurice de Wulf on "Génère et Philosophie" and André Beaumier on "Les Surcroûtes," all pamphlets in the "Pages Actuelles" series (Blond et Gay, Paris). J. Paquier in "Le Protestantisme Allemand. Luther, Kant, Nietzsche" (Blond et Gay) demonstrates the iniquity of the German mind from the beginning.

By repeating the story of Italy since Napoleon's time in "Italy and the Unholy Alliance" (Andrew Melrose, E. P. Dutton and Company) W. O. Pitt resurrects the Austrian bugaboo that was employed to force Italy into the war. By dwelling on 1848 and 1859-60 through nearly the whole book he is obliged to condense the present conditions so much that he has little room to explain why Italy should have felt hostile to France and why she should feel under great obligations to Germany. The book explains why some Italians wished to fight Austria; it throws very little light on Italy's attitude after the war broke out and at present.

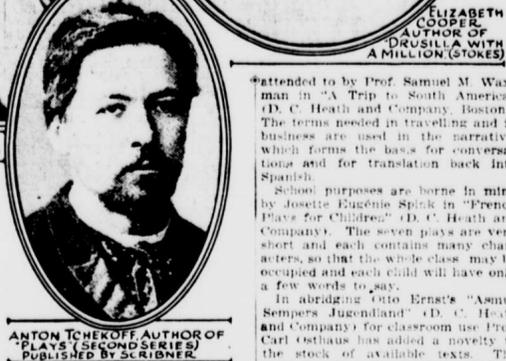
SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS. A whole volume is devoted to a well nigh lost art by William Livingston Klein in "Why We Punctuate" (The Lancon Publishing Company, Minneapolis). With the increasing tendency in an age of hurry to dispense almost entirely with punctuation

A STIRRING ROMANCE OF MYSTERIOUS INDIA

from under her shawl the knife she had employed and flung it "clattering into the grate." But Derog did not hand her over to the police. He allowed her to go free and let it be thought that it was he who had killed Sir John.

After this, when we come to India, we find matters strange and complicated. The British General Singh has dared to take to himself an English wife. He parades with her in bold contempt of the outraged sentiment of the English. And who may the lady be? She is Anne Steele, the beautiful shop girl who murdered her employer, Sir John Arundale. Capt. Willoughby, now the husband of Sir John's daughter Jean, whose first husband was the Capt. Derog, who saved Anne Steele from the police, strikes an insulting bargain, whereupon the mob attacks him. Willoughby bears some guilt upon his shoulders. His conscience is bad. At bottom he is a coward. He backs up against the mad wall of a native novel. "A frightful agony of desire of life swept over him—a horror too of what pressed against him on every side. He shouted and in his own ears the shout became a scream and the scream covered the whole affair. The next instant a hand gripped him by the shoulder and he was jerked back over writhing, struggling, cursing bodies into a sudden silence and darkness."

Who was he? Willoughby asked this question and the giant replied: "I am Putak Sahib, by the grace of God, a very drunken English gentleman who now offers you the shelter of his home, the remnants of his fortune." But within a few minutes Willoughby knew that he was Capt. Leitch Derog, the original husband of Mrs. Willoughby. It will be seen that there is strong plot in the story. It is full of exciting interest and it has also chapters of excellent humor.



ELIZABETH COOPER, AUTHOR OF 'DRUSILLA WITH A MILLION' (STOKES)

extended to Prof. Samuel M. Waxman in "A Trip to South America" (D. C. Heath and Company, Boston). The terms needed in travelling and in business are used in the narrative, which forms the basis for conversations and for translation back into Spanish. School purposes are borne in mind by Josette Eugénie Spink in "French Plays for Children" (D. C. Heath and Company). The seven plays are very simple as those described here is a question. The book is provided as are the other language text books, with abundant notes and a vocabulary.

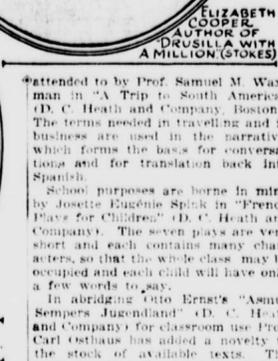
DESCRIBING BUSINESS. Whatever his own opinions may be about the reforms he describes in "The Operation of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in Oregon" (Macmillan, Prof. James D. Barnett manages to keep them well concealed. Rarely have we found a subject treated in a more objective manner, holding strictly to the facts. The author relates the history of the movement and of the adoption by Oregon of the innovation. He describes the mechanism that was constructed, the agencies that secured the legislation. Then he tells how the mechanism has worked, explaining with perfect candor the motives of those who set it in operation in each case. He shows how personal and sordid influences have prevailed among the reformers just as much as they did on the politicians whom they hoped to oust. The book is an unpartisan description of how the innovations have worked in actual practice so far.

It is a romantic as well as an interesting story that Antonio Cortes tells in "The Authentic History of the United States Steel Corporation" (The Moody Magazine and Book Company, New York), which is rendered still more attractive by the biographical sketches of the men who shared in building up the great corporation. The author has the good sense to deal frankly with some of the accusations which have been brought against the corporation and against individuals, which takes away from his account the tone of eulogy that is common to most official reports.

A very complete description of an important business will be found in "Life Insurance" (Appleton) by Prof. Solomon S. Huebner, Ph. D., of the Wharton School, which is designed for a college text book. The author barely touches on the history of the business, but he expatiates most fully on the advantages of life insurance in all its forms. He also examines the principles on which the business rests and for this portion has drawn largely on the assistance of Dr. Bruce D. Mudgett. The book is clear and authoritative.

An account of an important political and industrial experiment is given in "Fred L. Hoim's Regulation of Railroads and Public Utilities in Wisconsin" (Appleton). Wisconsin has tried her system for ten years now, and the author, who believes in it and has been watching it from the start, describes how it has worked and indicates faults that may be remedied. The book will be helpful in the discussion of like questions in other States.

In his account of "The Industrial Development and Commercial Position of the Three Scandinavian Countries," prepared for the Carnegie Foundation (Oxford University Press) Povl Drachmann unfortunately has followed legislation too closely and is more concerned with making the actions of the three Governments fit standard economic theories than in informing foreigners about what was actually done. It is possible to pick out, with some difficulty, the commercial history of each country, but the study is intended for special students and not for the general public. Dr. Harold Westergaard, who edited the book, has not wholly eliminated the clumsiness of the English.



ANTON TCHEKOFF, AUTHOR OF 'PLAYS' (SECOND SERIES) PUBLISHED BY SCRIBNER

marks the author might have been more polite in accepting instead of criticizing the rules of his predecessors and in following their example by condensing as much as possible. He makes his meaning very clear, however, and his advice is generally sensible. There is no lack of auxiliary readers. The littler scholars are encouraged to read by Emma Serf's "Work-a-day Doings on the Farm" (Silver, Burdett and Company, New York), in which the farmers are two bears, who employ other animals, and the happenings are described in words of one syllable for the most part. A collection of sayings, with very few stories, will be found in "Ethical Readings from the Bible" by Harriet L. Keeler and Laura H. Wild (Charles Scribner's Sons). These are arranged according to subjects, and though the Revised Version is used the phrases are those which have become a part of our common speech. Something like a return to the ideas of Miss Edgeworth and of the "Fairy Tales of Grimm" appears in "Stories of Thrift for Young Americans" by Myron T. Pritchard and Grace A. Tarkenton (Charles Scribner's Sons). The didactic tone and morality of the elders who impart lessons to youth seem unchangeable; the spirit of "Standford and Merton" and of the Holo books permeates these tales, but the authors tell also of many modern expedients for encouraging thrift in children.

The practical requirements of those who wish to learn the Spanish language for business purposes are

paratively little about the author's own doings, and a great deal of complaint and criticism of the conditions that turn men to criminal life, and especially of their treatment by the officers of the law and in jails. The volumes seems designed to aid the "prison reform" agitation. Various accidents have delayed the publication of the proceedings of the 25th anniversary of the Brookfields in Massachusetts, now appearing under the title "Quabaug, 1869-1916" (Davies Press, Worcester, Mass.). The celebration was held in West Brookfield under the care of the late Hon. Theodore C. Bates, and the event which filled up the afternoon was the delivery by Roger Foster of New York of an oration that gives the volume a permanent value. It is in substance a detailed historical account of the settlement in which his ancestors shared and of its subsequent development.

Books Received. "Science and Sentiment of Europe" by George C. Hartwell (Funk and Wagnalls Company). "Frank Danby" (Dodd, Mead and Company). "Health" by Dr. Hubbert (Whitcomb Hill, Philadelphia). "The Ethical Secretary" by Ellen Lane (Appleton). "The Ethics of Business" by Gilbert K. Chesterton (John Lane Company). "The Outlook" by Jackson Gregory (Dodd, Mead and Company). "Don't Get and Take Your Own Part."

OTHER BOOKS. The story of "Seventeen Years in the Underworld" by Wellington Scott (The Abingdon Press, New York) has com-

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paratively little about the author's own doings, and a great deal of complaint and criticism of the conditions that turn men to criminal life, and especially of their treatment by the officers of the law and in jails. The volumes seems designed to aid the "prison reform" agitation. Various accidents have delayed the publication of the proceedings of the 25th anniversary of the Brookfields in Massachusetts, now appearing under the title "Quabaug, 1869-1916" (Davies Press, Worcester, Mass.). The celebration was held in West Brookfield under the care of the late Hon. Theodore C. Bates, and the event which filled up the afternoon was the delivery by Roger Foster of New York of an oration that gives the volume a permanent value. It is in substance a detailed historical account of the settlement in which his ancestors shared and of its subsequent development.

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