

ON THE REVIEWER'S TABLE

THE APPLE OF DISCORD. By Earl W. Walcott. Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, publishers. \$1.50.

This book is a thrilling tale of California, the "Apple" being the "Heathen Chinese."

The book shows how California began making rapid history when she herself began, and she seems to have had the faculty of keeping it up even to the present time. It also presents glimpses of the most picturesque as well as the most thrilling stages of her history—although perhaps not so well known—that in which the god-like Ralston and the statesman Latham, the much-loved Fremont and the miser-hated Terry, Sharon and Hayward; Pierce and Coleman; with a host of others, fought the mighty fight to see whether San Francisco should control her only available water supply or forever be the "back of the hand." It makes plain the fact that with the failure of the city to win, came the Nevada bank failure and the death of the man California worshipped and still mourns.

It further explains the clipping upon the heels of all this lapping over and comingling with it, came the "Sandlot" riots with Dennis Kearney at the head, and the attempted Chinese expulsion.

It holds the interest of the reader because through all these tribulations runs the thread that never grows old—the golden thread of love.

BY NEVA'S WATERS. By John R. Carling. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, publishers. \$1.50.

A new romance of great interest, dealing with the secret history of Alexander First, Czar of all the Russias. The wife of the Czar, Alexander, plays a prominent part in the love drama of the story, and the book is filled with adventure and diplomatic intrigue. This romantic story will be a worthy companion to the author's master work, "The Shadow of the Czar."

THE BROKEN LANCE. By Herbert Quick. Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, publishers. \$1.50.

"The Broken Lance" is bound to be compared with "Robert Elsmere." However, it is not precisely and it has the quick vibrance of modern life. Robert Elsmere, at its widest interpretation, was a question of the "old" and "the new." "The Broken Lance" is a question of present-day life itself. The author's contention that Christ meant to found an earthly kingdom, and that his precepts if followed to-day would amaze and terrify all our contemporaries, is a most interesting and intense discussion.

The story is American in scenes, situations and character, and the pictures are graphic. The heroine, Olive, will undoubtedly be pronounced Olive Fremsted, Edna May and a succession of others, the judgment of the reader depending on which history he happens to know best. The idealism of the hero, Courtwright, makes him a striking figure. Moran, Yeager, the outcast, comes on to the stage a candidate for a "thrashing" and leaves it having metaphorically speaking, "thrashed" everybody who got in his way. Mrs. Dearwater is more delicious than the famous Mrs. Wiggs. She has more wit, is never "stuffy," and her philosophy is of a more universal order.

BETEL NUTS. Rhymed in English by Arthur Gutterman. Published by Paul Elder Co., San Francisco, 75c.

"Here's Frolic Trind in Oriental guise; A verse may find him who a sermon flies."

A meaty little book—full of betel nuts, cracked and hulled, ready for chewing, and, if you will, even "digested."

These "nuts" are piquant and pungent proverbs of the Orient. More than mere proverbs—they are really shrewd condensations of stories illustrative of life in India. As the betel nut—the chewing-gum of the Orient—gives the breath and reddens the lips, so these folkwords and jest-rhymes, leaping from mouth to mouth in the gossip of the bazaars, give spice and color to the native speech. They are naturally far more lively than the proverbs of the West, for they are of the living speech of the people; the Hindu is gifted with a free and picturesque fancy, and his tongue is a scabardless sword; and yet, different as they are, they show that the "unfathomable Oriental mind" grasps the fact of life in much the same way as the American or European intellect.

This collection consists of typical sayings, wise, witty, sarcastic, passionate and sentimental, from every quarter of the great Empire of Hindustan, rhymed in English couplets and quatrains with skill that has preserved the full spiciness of the originals.

"Forbear to kill him for the sake of all the wisdom that would make!"

THE CRUCIBLE. BY MARK LEE Luther, Macmillan & Company, New York, publishers. \$1.50.

Mark Lee Luther's novel, "The Crucible," which has been appearing serially in the Cosmopolitan, has appeared in book form. Mr. Luther, who has hitherto been best known as the author of a capital political novel, "The Henchman," has certainly been successful in evolving an unusual situation. "The Crucible" is the story of Jean Fanshawe, a tomboy of imagination, but fine instincts, who, through a perversion of justice, is committed to a State house of refuge for women, where she remains for a few years in contact with the novel degenerates of every type. The moral she shows not only how she preserves her self-respect through these years, but it also depicts her struggle afterward to live down the stigma of the reformatory, which confronts her at every

turn. Her experiences in making her own way in New York are varied and dramatic, and the final test of her character reveals at its true worth the metal which her fiery ordeal has purged from dross. The book is illustrated by Rose Cecil O'Neil.

DONALD MACDONALD. By Josephine Holt Throckmorton. Published by Murdoch, McPhee & Company, Washington, D. C.

This is an interesting story of early life at West Point before the war between the States; of the stormy period during the war, and of quiet family life twenty years later.

One feels that the author either knew the characters and incidents, or heard them from the lips of those who did know them well. The love of old man Tracy for his son John; the death of Sheffield, to save the life of his friend; the strong, noble character of the hero; the lovely character of the beautiful and brave Kentucky girl who became his wife, her midnight ride on Black Bob to save the life of her lover, are a beautiful and inspiring, but, perhaps, nothing is more beautiful than MacDonald's story of Red John to Red John's daughter.

THE LION'S SHARE. By Octave Thanet. Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, publishers. \$1.50.

This novel marks the entrance of another popular novelist into the ranks of those who attract the readers of our modern captives of romance. Her's is a spectacular attack, emphasizing the family-made homeless, the women reduced to starvation or worse, and the men driven to suicide, through the sleight of hand manipulation of stocks in vogue.

Although the plots are entirely dissimilar we are reminded of "The Lion and the Mouse." In the book, as in the play, the Lion weakens, seeks some sort of atonement, and all ends happily for the Mouse. This ending may not be true to life, but the reality of the characters makes it seem so.

THE DANCE OF LOVE. By Dion Clayton Cathrop. Henry Holt & Company, New York, publishers. \$1.50.

Picturesque and humor are the strongest features of this romance of medieval France and England. It is a tale of an ideal love quest, on which the hero meets a dozen women, to each of which the author has given a distinct individuality. His skill at the art of the reader's charm of some of these dames of yesterday has been pronounced worthy of Hawthorne. The dominant qualities of the eternal feminine are strikingly portrayed.

MAGDA, QUEEN OF SHEBA. By Hugues Le Roux and Max John Van Vorst translators. Funk & Wagnalls, New York, publishers. \$1.20.

"Magda, Queen of Sheba," says the publishers, was translated into French from the original Gheese, the language of the Ethiopian priests, by Hugues Le Roux, member of the Academie des Belles-Lettres, and from the French into English by Mrs. John Van Vorst, with an introduction especially prepared for this edition by Hugues Le Roux. "Magda" is the story of the visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon, and the early life of their son, told in the form of fiction, but with an historical basis, the facts being those which have been believed in Abyssinia for many generations. Experts have given the opinion that the date of the original manuscript is probably somewhere in the fifth century of our era, and that some learned Abyssinian person, possessed of all the historical data, put them into this form under the influence of the literary culture of Byzantium. This extremely curious story forms part of an ancient manuscript entitled, "The Glory of the Kings," in which is contained the genealogy of the Ethiopian Kings from the beginning of their known history. No full translation of "Magda" has ever before been made into any European language. It is illustrated with quaint drawings by a native Abyssinian artist.

"Magda" has always been an interesting personage to the imagination of the reader of history and of Bible and Hebrew history in especial. So this book contains much that the searcher after curious and hidden history and romance will be delighted to explore.

GREATER ENGLISH POETS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. By William Morton Payne. Henry Holt & Co., New York, publishers. Pp. 400. \$1.50.

A study of Keats, Shelley, Byron, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Landor, Browning, Tennyson, Arnold, Rossetti, Morris and Swinburne, having for its purpose the discussion of their relation to the world of thought and action.

Although their persons and artistic qualities are by no means ignored, the chief aim of the book is to set forth their outlook upon life rather than their literary achievement. The treatment is popular rather than scholarly. The work is enriched by many quotations, both from the poets themselves and from those who have written about them with the clearest understanding and the deepest sympathy.

ARETHUSA. By F. Marlon Crawford. The Macmillan Company, New York, publishers. \$1.50.

Mr. Marlon Crawford's latest novel, "Arethusa," carries one back to the days of "Mr. Isaacs" and "A Roman

Singer," the fertility of this "prince of story-tellers" being one of the most astonishing facts in literary history.

"Arethusa" indeed is more in the style of Mr. Crawford's earlier books than in some of his later stories, where he has turned his attention to psychological analysis. It is pure story, and nothing but story, with no pretense beyond that of showing the reader a group of entertaining characters in the meshes of a plot that carries them without halt from incident to incident up to a dramatic climax. Constantinople in the fourteenth century is the scene, and the story plays about the efforts of a little band, half patriot and half mercenary, to expel the usurper Andronicus from the throne and restore his father Johannes. The principal actor in the plot, as it happens, one Carlo Zeno, "gentleman of Venice, ex-clerk, ex-gambler, ex-soldier of fortune, ex-lay prebendary of Pauras, ex-duelist, and ex-Greek general, being about twenty-nine years of age, and having in his tough body the scars of half a dozen wounds that would have killed an ordinary man."

But it also happens that the plot comes to involve Arethusa, supposedly a Greek slave, who had come into the possession of Messer Zeno, but actually, as the story shows, a person of very different standing and quality from the ordinary slave.

This is only the barest outline of the story, which is as full of the color and romance of the time and place as it is of the exciting incidents proper to a real story. "The story-teller of the bazaar dedicated to the Constantine temple his dear daughter Eleanor." The book contains some very effective illustrations by Gertrude Demaine Hammond.

GUNHILD. By Dorothy Canfield Henry Holt & Company, New York, publishers. \$1.50.

The scene of this book, a Norwegian-American episode, is laid in Norway about the year 1900.

The story is concerned with the experiences of a small group of American tourists, notably with Gunhild, a striking Norwegian girl, whose early youth had been spent in Kansas. An unusual love attraction exists here of the locality, the humor and clearly defined characters, which the author's success as a short story writer would lead the public to expect, are the features of an interesting book.

YOU AND SOME OTHER POEMS. From Paul Elder & Company, New York, publishers. By Agnes Greene Foster. 60c.

Bound in Italian handmade paper of delicate buff and old rose, with a frontispiece in the colors of Correggio's Madonna of St. Sebastian, are some of the details of an exquisite example of book-craft.

A dainty little book of short poems, almost slim as to size, but so full of music and inspiration as to lift one above terms of mere measurement. There is in these lyrics a subtle power difficult to define yet directly reaching the heart, compelling one to repeat certain lines over and over again. This is conspicuously true of "You," "The Weaving of Life's Fabric" and "All."

From the same publishers comes "A Child's Book of Abridged Wisdom," by Child Harold. This little volume is brightly printed, in four colors and black. It is remarkably bound in Binder's tar boards and blinged with heavy hemp. It should be found in the library of every child, as it is, in a sense, a book of "Don'ts." A child's life is too full of "Don'ts," especially when they are "Don'ts" of an exciting nature.

It seems to have been the author's intention to admonish the very young against performing feats they would never dream of performing, thus saving the imagination, and, at the same time, strengthening the character.

Paul Elder & Company are also publishers of "101 Quizzes," compiled by May E. Southworth. 50c.

The old saying of being as "dumb as an oyster" cannot apply to this dainty little brochure, for it speaks loudly and eloquently of its homely self, arrayed in all sorts of fancy and gorgeous dress. There are one hundred and one, mostly new and thoroughly appetizing, ways of serving this succulent bivalve, each more palatable than the other. The page to the end of the index the appetite is lured on to absolute hunger, longing for a month with an "E" in it.

A very unique little volume which this firm has issued is "The Blottentots," by John Prosper Carmel. One has no idea of how to make "Blottentots," or in what various shapes they may appear, until the suggestive shapes given by Mr. Carmel are looked over. The book is bound in blue and silver as a background for the "Blottentot" cover design.

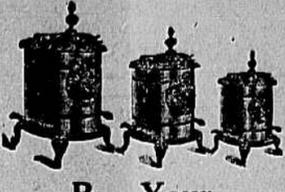
Walter Taylor Field, the editor of the "Abbey Classics," has written a critical introduction on the history of the series "The Cotter's Saturday Night," by Burns, and Milton's "Ode on the Nativity," published by the Paul Elder Company in rubricated text and Fabrian boards for 60 cents. It is the editor's purpose to present in this series the best of the great English and American poems.

Juvenile Publications. Among the delightful juvenile publications that are already beginning to give bookshelves a festive holiday must be reckoned "Merry Rhymes from Mother Goose," illustrated by G. G. Wiederstein, and published by Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York. In this volume illustrations are works of art, by Peep, Margery Day, Humphy Durny, Simpla Simon Kelly's Royal Coat (the finest), 3.85; Kelly's Copper Distilled (bottled in bond) 3.20; Kelly's Medicinal Malt (bottled in bond) 3.90; Miss Tempting (finest Maryland rye) 4.50.

From Duffield & Company, of New York, has come "Chilwood," written in verse by G. H. Sowerby, and illustrated by Milton Sowerby. The verses beginning with "The Little King" are beautiful in thought and expression, and the illustrations in color correspondingly so. This book sells for \$1.50.

Anna M. Upham is the author and Mrs. M. M. Upham the illustrator for "The House of the Red Fox," brought out in excellent style by Frederick A. Stokes Company, of New York. The story tells about Mary Ellen, a dear little girl who had to work hard and had to give up her play days, and gave her a holiday. So it is that Mary Ellen's coast in the chopping bowl, her journey to the Princess of the Ice Castle, her fight with the snow soldiers, and the experience of the red-headed boy are very thrilling reading.

Presidential year will soon be here. Various prominent men are being mentioned for the nomination, political clubs are being formed, and before long torchlight parades will all out



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buy streets. Should the nominee be decided on only by the grown-ups? H. M. Caldwell Company, publishers, of New York and Boston, think not. With the help of L. J. Bridgman, the well-known author and illustrator, they have just issued "The Santa Claus Club," in the clever verses and colored pictures which Santa Claus is tendered the nomination by the youngsters in Child Land. It is a timely book and sure to be popular with the younger readers this Christmas.

Owing to the large success last season of Alice C. D. Riley's child book, "The Voyage of the Wishbone Boat," H. M. Caldwell Company, of Boston, have brought out this year, especially for the holidays, a new edition, fully illustrated in colors by L. J. Bridgman, and with attractive border designs in tint. It makes a charming gift for children, dealing with the little princess and her court jester on their travels through toyland, is one of the best and most interesting for children published during the last few years.

Gertrude Smith, who wrote "Doris and Julie," contributes to the holiday book output "Little Girl and Philip," Rachel Robinson is the author's illustrator and Harper & Brothers, of New York, send the charming little volume through the Bell Book and Stationery Company of Richmond. "Little Girl and Philip" were such neighbors, friends and comrades that what they

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did and said cannot fail to be interesting to all the other little boys and girls who read about them.

George W. Jacobs & Company are further responsible for "The Peppers," the text of which is told by Izola L. Forrester, and the pictures done by H. Cory Kilvert. The cover design and frontispiece are actually suggestive and realistic, and the stories are most entertaining because so true to life.

A short time ago a live Teddy Bear was found roaming around Oyster Bay; we have Teddy Bear dolls, Teddy Bear pine and Teddy Bear automobile horns; now comes the Teddy Bear A-B-C's by Laura Link's Johnson, illustrated in color by Margaret Laiders Sanford and published by H. M. Caldwell Company, of New York and Boston. This book for the little ones is most attractively printed and bound. The verses with extreme musical swing will easily be learned by the younger children and the various antics of the bears, from playing managerie behind a wire bread-tender to the period of ease with head resting on the woolly lamb and with milk bottle in hand, will give long periods of delight to the "happy child."

An ideal boys' book written from the best standpoint and in the most entertaining manner is "The Young Tradescant," written by Harold Bindess and published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. The story turns on the adventures of two English boys in Western Africa. Its price is \$1.25.

Another bright book that will be read with special appreciation comes from the same house under the title of "Sunnyside Tad." It is written by Philip Verrill Phelps, who a year or two ago, caused the popular fancy with "Bruner Jim's Baby."

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