

GOSSE WRITES  
Life of Jeremy Taylor.

WHAT evil days are these that we moderns have fallen upon and what a lacking have we of the riches of classical prose. True scholars admitted, how many are there of the readers of to-day who know who Jeremy Taylor was; or whether he wrote "Holy Living" and "Holy Dying" or "Ships That Pass in the Night"? Yet he needs not the eulogy of Edmund Gosse, just published, to make his name the brighter to those few who have known the joy of sipping a big volume on knee and doling in the stately rolling periods of his prose. We may not bend implicitly to his scheme of theology, but it is our boon to gather from his rare old sermons the beauties that appeal to the ear—the rhythm and the beat of his surpassing word building.

Since Coleridge wrote his critique upon the old churchman there has been no attempt at a biography or an appreciation so worthy as this patient and subdued work of Edmund Gosse's. It is as if the living man of letters had made of himself a Boswell to the shade of Jeremy Taylor so successfully that at times the gentle spirit of the Royalist preacher, now dead these 150 years, seems to be breathing again through the pen of its biographer. His effort is directed more toward an exposition of the sweet life and inspirations of thought which made Jeremy Taylor what he was in the seventeenth century than a review of the position which his writings hold in the world of letters to-day. It is more a biography of the theologian than of the writer. Mr. Gosse finds a fertile fund of thought in the analysis of Taylor's mind and the moral philosophy which emanated therefrom.

What Coleridge dwelt upon with a somewhat morbid interest—Taylor's very vigorous definition of future punishment—Edmund Gosse very discreetly disregards. Even though the uncompromising theology of the old school of Taylor, Butler and the rest, which limned in the Pit with definite boundaries, has softened its severity somewhat in these latter days, the biographer makes statement near the close of his work of his purpose in steering a wide course about these hidden reefs of controversy.

From the standpoint of literature alone Jeremy Taylor is the most interesting of all the old rhetoricians whose pulpits were wont to ring again with the thunders of their logic. This is because of his remarkable depth and the sincerity of his moral sensibility. Life is singularly close to him; it seems to thrill him through and through with its manifold mysteries. To this magnetic thrill Taylor responds, with thought which for its scope and oft-times its daring seems to be in inverse ratio to the impulse which set it free. For he is never man only with a definite view, but always the poet whose horizon of thought is boundless.

As Gosse truthfully points out, no prose writer in our English literature has been so much of the poet as Taylor. If poetry is the language of the soul and prose that of the intellect, Jeremy Taylor in some of his grandest flights is poetic else but the poet. With true poetic insight he is ever ready to clothe the thought in the words which will best suit the harmony, to seek out the simplest and yet the strongest figures by which to bring out the thought clear cut. Like a poet, too, the vicar of Golden Grove is sensitive to the profound significance which lies behind all life; not the theological significance is this, but the true poetic. He feels the change from life to death with a surprising poignancy, but it is not a philosophical deduction which he draws from that, but one poetic.

It is Gosse's task in this biography of his to show wherein lies the secret of the power to produce such grandeur of concept and beauty of diction. By a painstaking analysis of the character of Taylor—his innate force, his simplicity of faith and the masterful purpose that was his—the biographer is able to picture for the first time Jeremy Taylor, the man.

FOLK SONGS  
And English Ballads.

OLD-FASHIONED poetry but chocky good—that was the praise that Isaac Walton, the gentle fisherman, had for the songs and the verses of the countryside, sung at the Maying or Harvest Home. It is upon such homely poetry of the people, which comes first and is something rudimentary, elemental, that the polished fabric of a national literature is reared. As the barbaric sacerdotal dance of the Pelasgians was the inspiration from which sprung the classic Greek drama, so the ballads, the English formed the base of all the wealth of perfect poetry which was to come. Nor has the song of the people passed with the full accomplishment of our national English literature; there remains to-day and ever will remain the strong force of the primitive in letters, expressing itself through the medium of the simple poems of home, of patriotism and of love. It is with a view to bringing all this sturdy wealth of Doric verse into a volume which shall express both its development and its affiliation with the historical movements and national sentiments that Professor Charles Gayley and Professor Martin C. Flaherty of the University of California have prepared the book, "Poetry of the People."

In this unique compilation of verses of the people the joint editors have drawn material from English, Irish, Scotch and American folk songs, ballads and battle hymns, covering a range which makes it complete. Reaching far back into the early days of English literature, when the poetry they have schools was yet forming, they have opened their work with the rare old ballads of "Sir Patrick Spens." "The Battle of Otterburn" and selections from the "Quest of Robin Hood." Then follow the stirring English battle songs, according to their historical epochs, and songs of sentiment from ballads, both of the old and latter

The same arrangement is followed with Irish, Scotch and American verse, until the latest worthy writings of the class serve to close the volume. To elucidate the archaic diction in some of the older ballads and to supply a necessary context of comment upon the subjects of the poems and songs collected, the editors have devoted fifty pages to glossary and notes.

In a foreword Professor Gayley has something to say about the value, heretofore underestimated, of the study of these poems of the people. He feels that this golden treasury of rhyme, from all ages of the history of our English language is a part of our literary inheritance no less than the more classical works of the great poets. They should make an appeal, he rightly believes, to the simple sense of the romantic, the sentimental and the patriotic that is in us all, for poetry of this kind is far more the poetry of the heart than that of the highly polished literature of the intellect which we call classics. Such verse as that which the editors have collected has a lesson of pure esthetic pleasure which can be more readily felt than that derived from the higher forms.

For those who can remember with sorrow the agony, once endured in school days, of committing to memory the then unintelligible "Thanatopsis" or of "analyzing" bit by bit "Tintern Abbey," Professor Gayley would carry a soothing balm, for he believes that this "ground-grinding" of our masterpieces by youthful minds not capable of full understanding and appreciation is an egregious sin—as do all of us who have passed through that fiery furnace and still—marvel that it is—have any love for good literature left in us. Says Professor Gayley:

"If this little book can contribute somewhat toward exploding the fallacy that poetry is something other than poetry—material, forsooth, for translation, parsing, trope-hunting, rhetorical exercises, plattitudinous preaching or anything else extraneous to art—it will have accomplished at least half the purpose of the editors. Of course good poetry has a lesson for him who can feel it. Like all good things it cannot help blessing those who take it on faith. The favors are not for those who conquer, but for those who surrender. The best way to study it is not to study but to enjoy."

(Ginn & Co., Boston; price, 50 cents).

JAPANESE  
System of "Jiu-Jitsu."

ALMOST every cable is humming with accounts of the startling agility of the Japanese in their struggle with Russia. Even those in Europe who are not ardent sympathizers with the little brown men are forced to applaud the lightning strokes of their strategy and the telling blows which they have landed upon their ponderous adversary even before he has begun to pull himself together for the fray. This is the Japanese "Jiu-Jitsu" put into practice upon a grand scale. This is the direct manifestation of a system of bodily training more perfect than was ever taught in Doric schools, which has been used in Nippon for more than 2500 years for the training of her warriors. To read the recent book upon "Jiu-Jitsu" from the pen of H. Irving Hancock is at the present time to supply oneself with a key to the proper understanding of the Mikado's campaigns up to date and to an appreciation of the spirit which moves Japan's fighting men.

Mr. Hancock says that he undertook the task of writing "Japanese Physical Training" in order that he might demonstrate why it is that the diminutive Japanese possess the greatest endurance of any people upon earth, and are likewise the strongest and happiest men and women in the world. Besides revealing all of the intricacies of this unusual system of bodily culture, the author shows how it is that the dietary standards, the free use of water and love of fresh air affected by the Mikado's subjects result in their almost perfect physique and lightness of spirit. Without the simple rules of right living and proper dressing followed by the Japanese the remarkable muscular development attendant upon assiduous practice of "Jiu-Jitsu" cannot be obtained.

One has only to read the opening chapters of Hancock's book to discover the cause for the rapid successes which have come to the Japanese arms, which have been "Jiu-Jitsu" discovered and practiced by the old Samurai warriors of the earliest Japanese dynasties, who occupied a position toward the common people somewhat similar to that of the ancient Spartans to the helots and were of a consequence forced to maintain their position by strength of arms. From that time "Jiu-Jitsu" became more and more popular until at the present time there are schools of the art throughout the whole of Japan, and it is made compulsory in both branches of the mili-

tary. The effects of it upon the Japanese army were shown in the advance of the allies in China in 1900 when they outnumbered our own American troops by 50 per cent, and Russia will doubtless witness such results again and to her sorrow when serious land operations are commenced.

The grand work of "Jiu-Jitsu" is based upon a proper diet and the practice of a perfect hydropathy. The Japanese believe that we meat-eaters and full livers work our stomachs altogether too much. A handful of carefully prepared rice, some fish, a little salad of greens and fruits, according to their idea, are ample to support the body and give the greatest play to an active and healthy mind. This frugal diet, coupled with constant draughts of pure water and innumerable baths, serve to bring the beginner in "Jiu-Jitsu" up to the very pink of condition. Not only that, but the author claims that such a system admits of no pulmonary or digestive disorders and that rheumatism is known only to the very old.

The secret of the actual practices of "Jiu-Jitsu" lies in the constant application of every muscle to a hardening and tightening process which permits of the greatest expenditure of force with the least tax of energy. Muscular development is attained through entirely different means than those employed in Western gymnasiums. All paraphernalia is dispensed with. By the simple process of the struggle between two contestants, modified in various forms wherein hand grips, leg holds and falls are the only mediums for development utilized, a "Jiu-Jitsu" student weighing 120 pounds may learn to wrest an English or American athlete half again as heavy. He is quick to cause the very efforts of his opponent to reflect back upon their source with redoubled vigor. He knows how to paralyze his adversary by a blow with the edge of the hand so that he may become utterly helpless. A pinch in the muscle, a quick trip from behind and the heaviest man can be put on his back in an instant.

As war bulletins read now it looks as if little Japan's scheme for the perfection of the body and the alertness of the intellect is doing all that Hancock claims for it. One reading his book cannot but feel that he has made out a good case for "Jiu-Jitsu," and that it might be introduced into our own country with profit to the race.

(G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York; illustrated).

CORPORATIONS  
Subject of Legal Tome.

VERY few additions to the science of the law have equaled either in scope or importance the remarkably exhaustive work upon "Corporations" which comes from the pen of Judge Seymour D. Thompson in the form of volume 10 of the American Law Book Company's Cyclopedia of Law and Procedure. This comprehensive study of a peculiarly knotty problem of the law, the result of twenty years of labor on the part of the leading legal authority of the present day, may be said to be monumental both in its compass and in the authority which the author's name imparts to it.

It is now about nine years since the first volume of Judge Thompson's "Commentaries on the Law of Corporations" was given to the public. By that work the author, whose fame was already established in this country, achieved international reputation. The work has taken a high place in countries where a knowledge of the language in which it is written is considered to be the erudite. This work is now out of print. On this account, therefore, the publication of the new treatise by the same author, citing as it does the recent cases, and tracing the later development of the law, is a matter which must be of the greatest interest to the profession, both here and abroad.

embraced, except that which properly falls under the head of foreign corporations and which will be treated under its own title in a later volume by the same author.

Some idea of the exhaustiveness of the treatment and of the carefulness with which the detail is worked out may be gathered from the fact that the analysis covers 142 large octavo pages. The writer has taken whatever space seemed to be necessary to the full and clear statement of the law. The notes are voluminous and include everything useful and necessary by way of explanation and illustration. The examination of the authorities cited must have involved a tremendous amount of labor, since the citation embraces on a conservative estimate about 25,000 decided cases. Owing to many recent cases in corporation litigation special interest attaches to Judge Thompson's chapters upon "Consolidation or Amalgamation of Corporations," "Liability of Shareholders to Creditors of Corporations," "Rights and Remedies of Shareholders," "Torts and Crimes of Corporations," and "Actions by and Against Corporations."

When the layman attempts a review of a work of this character, unlettered in the law though he may be, he cannot fail to note with wonder the remarkable amount of knowledge which has been brought to bear upon its preparation. Before such a heaping up of citations, opinions of Judges and decrees of courts the untutored mind shrinks and turns back upon itself as if suddenly brought face to face with the revelation of another world.

(American Law Book Company, New York; sold only with entire cyclopedia.)

REVIEWS  
In Form More Brief.

WE all remember that delightful member of the trio in "Three Men in a Boat" who greedily devoured the pages of doctors' books until he was not certain whether he was possessed of locomotor ataxia or housemaid's knee. Any one reading "The Aristocracy of Health," by Dr. M. F. Henderson (femme), will be in a far worse plight than the third man in the boat, for if ever the sins of frail mankind were called up to torture craven souls with their grisly shapes this is that time. All of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union lectures of all time rolled into one cannot begin to approximate the overwhelming condemnation of human vices which rolls its sonorous message from "The Aristocracy of Health."

"The human race is ill. The human race is anaemic; and the world, which is a paradise, but by man converted into a hospital, is seen and judged through the eyes of the invalid"—this, the opening paragraph of Dr. Henderson's book. To this cheering declaration is added oftentimes, "Human life is but an apology, a makeshift, a compromise. The decenter condition of human life is such that some kind of a poison habit is supposed to be necessary in order to live presentably and comfortably." "Woe's me that I should read Dr. Mary Henderson's book and still have a care to live," says the trembling "drug-soaked wretch" who hears all too late this high clarion call of the life beautiful.

The author prefaces her general survey of the "poisons" to which human frailty has fallen heir by defining health. "Health," she would have it, "is more than mere consciousness of the existence of one's body; it is positive pleasure in having a body." No one will dispute the author upon the profit and pleasure which comes from the possession of those "rainments of the soul" which are ours, save possibly the spiritualists. But it is when the lady doctor launches into the terrifying aspects of general unhealth that the mind of the average reader, stunned and bewildered, follows haltingly.

Tobacco sauce, candy, rum, pepper, kerosene, ammonia, tea, "old times

chaw" and Virginia pickings, beer, choral, wines, milk punches, yen shee—these are poisons to which degenerate humankind turns for sweet reprieve. These are the drugs which would kill a guinea pig in three minutes, but which only serve to bring lingering decay and final sudden dissolution to the highest animal in the scale.

"It is first to enjoy the pleasures arising from irritation and then the pleasures derived from semi-paralysis that the human race is willing to mortgage itself—to enslave itself to a poison."

Scientific as all this may be it is unfortunate that the subjects touched upon in the first part of this book have become so hackneyed from long use on the lecture platform and have, as a consequence, become associated to such an extent with corkscrew curls and blue goggles that even a less hysterical treatment of them than Dr. Henderson's would not gain many readers. Upon the subjects of diet, immunity from contagion and the happiness which comes with a healthy body and mind, the author has written more restrainedly and, it would seem, to better purpose.

(The Colton Publishing Company, Washington, D. C.)

"Her Infinite Variety," by Brand Whitlock, is the first novel of the year to be brought out by the Bobbs-Merrill Company. It might better be called a novelette if that word were not of somewhat doubtful worth, for the tale itself is not long enough to be classed as anything but a short story and marginal decorations and copious illustrations by Howard Chandler Christy have to serve as very artistic padding in order that the book covers may not be too near together.

Whitlock, who will be remembered as the author of that strong story of political life, "The Thirteenth District," has cast this story into a political mold, the scene being laid in the legislative halls of Illinois' capitol. A very handsome and rather self-important young State Senator who wishes to bring to the eyes of his beloved a somewhat loftier conception of the game of politics vigorously espouses the cause of woman's suffrage at the Legislature. A dashing young lady attorney who is pushing the cause succeeds in so entangling the Senator in her meshes that he is not certain whether it is for the cause of many women or one that he is working. Finally he awakens from his dream of enthusiasm to find that he has all the society women of Chicago, including his own fiancée, about his ears. By the clever manipulation of one of these matrons the young Senator's own lady love is the innocent cause for the loss of the suffrage bill, but she herself is satisfied that her senator meshes well at least and everything is serene.

Whitlock has not written much of a story in "Her Infinite Variety," for at first blush it cannot readily be seen to which of the ladies in the book the "Her" refers, nor wherein lies any infinite variety in either. It would seem that the story was modeled after some of Paul Ford's shorter skits, say, "Wanted, a Matchmaker." The borders and Christy drawings serve to carry out the idea, but the keen-edged cleverness of the late Ford is lacking in this book.

Edgar Stanton Maclay, author of "The History of the American Navy," is preparing a unique series for the Baker & Taylor Company, which promises to be of great popular and historical interest. The first volume of this series will be "Moses Brown, Captain, U. S. N." Not even Mr. Maclay, who has written the most authoritative and comprehensive history of the United States navy, knew of Captain Brown's two sensational victories over British ships in the war of the Revolution. The record of these seems to have been lost save in England, although Captain Brown has thousands of descendants who have radiated from his Newburyport home. He was one of the stern old privateer captains of the Revolution, who afterward entered the regular service, commanding the Merrimack and conducting himself for many years with great valor. The general title of this series will be "Unknown Heroes of the Navy," and Mr. Maclay promises enough of them to startle the average student who feels that he knows the history of the navy.

At least one of Frederick Palmer's friends takes issue with the reviewers who say that the idea of "The Vagabond" is too romantic to have occurred in real life. Certainly if any one knows real life either at home, where the scene of his novel is laid, or abroad, it is Mr. Palmer himself, who, at 30, has been in five wars, has encircled the world both by India and Siberia and has roamed the length and breadth of his own country as a correspondent.

BREVITIES  
About the Authors.

FOLLOWERS of Isaac Walton will welcome a book on Putnam's new list, entitled "The Angler's Secret." The author is Charles Bradford, who is already known for his earlier volumes, "The Wild Flower" and "The Determined Angler." The latter work, which was called by Crover Cleveland "the most pleasant and practical and sensible volume I have ever seen of its kind," was devoted to brook trout only. This new book, which is fully illustrated, treats of the sporting species of both fresh and salt water fish—from the tiny mountain trout to the mighty striped bass of the ocean. It contains a full description of various tactics and the methods of catching these fish, together with notes of their habits and habitats.

The latter part of the book considers, not so much the methods of actual fish-killing as the glory of the chase—the lovely scenery, pure air, the natural exercise and the general exhilaration. All these things are appreciated by the true and chivalrous angler more than the actual killing of the creel.

May it be taken for a good proof of a gracious Providence watching over a gracious person that one of the three literary persons that were shot at in 1903 was even hurt? The lady who was cruelly said to stand for the heroine of "Letters de Femmes"—a very arduous post—missed M. Marcel Prevost; Mr. Kenneth Grahame's erratic assailant succumbed to the influence of the Bank of England's water hose, and Dr. Max Nordau, the fearless champion of our own poor country, was equally fortunate in his escape. None the less, this shooting at literary persons is a new and disquieting sign. In the case of royalties, we have it on the authority of one of themselves that assassination is one of the perquisites of the position. Perhaps literary persons begin to pay the penalty of the popular fame bestowed by paragraphs and illustrated interviews.

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He is now in Japan reporting a sixth war. His method of working is to write a month and then "load" a month. It was by moving himself that he kept his hero moving so rapidly through the pages.

The answer to the reviewers is that there was really such a boy and there is really such a man as the Vagabond. The original is to-day a celebrated mining engineer, whom Palmer met on a Pacific liner.

A correspondent of the Literary World makes a plea for the historical novel in the February number. Among other well chosen arguments the writer says: "Now it is quite true that the writers of historical novels are not always expert archaeologists, and so cannot be implicitly relied upon; but as they nearly always deal with periods whose history is tolerably well known to the educated they are not likely to injure them, and as for the ignorant—or, in other words, the average girl—they at least learn that Queen Elizabeth and Henry of Navarre were contemporaries, which is something to the good. It is surely better for the fiction-devouring 'young person' to read of gallant knights than gilded youths; the poorest of the historical novels are safer companions than 'Wooded But Not Mated,' or 'Broken Vows.' Sometimes historical novels even lead to the reading of sober history. Then, too, the historical novel has in a measure rescued us from the 'problem novel' and the novel of character dissection, which usually meant the attributing of all actions to the very meanest and lowest motives."

The identity of the author of "A Keystone of Empire" and of "The Martyrdom of an Empress" is the subject of many letters that reach the Harpers, who publish these books. In accordance with the author's wishes her publishers must respect her anonymity. But the question is frequently put to them, "Is the author's authority on these subjects genuine? Is she really a woman of title, who has known the royal personages of whom she writes?" To this question the publishers are free to reply. The lady has personally known the nobility of whom she writes, and has an intimate knowledge based upon actual experience of the Austrian and other courts. Though now residing in this country, she is still in close touch with some of the most eminent crowned heads of Europe.

Among books relating to the present war in the Far East is Archer Butler Hubert's romance, "The Queen of Quelparte," a story of how Russia by intrigue and deceit conquered Korea in 1897 in order to have something to throw over to Japan to keep her from precipitating war over the announcement of the lease of Port Arthur. Mr. Hubert went to the Far East in 1897 as a representative of several American newspapers and located in Seoul, Korea, then, as now, the pivot in eastern politics. He gained close and intimate knowledge of Russian politics and of Korean life. This knowledge he has incorporated in his romantic novel, "The Queen of Quelparte," published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

The Bookman announces an interesting series of articles on the making of a newspaper. This series will describe the lives and work of the men whose zeal and highly trained intelligence have brought the American newspaper to its present state.

The first paper in the series will deal with "The War Correspondent." It will tell who the war correspondent is, what his qualifications are, how he starts for Japan, or for the Balkans, at a moment's notice, what his equipment is, how he gets the news of a great battle, and, more important still, how he gets the acquired news on the wire and transmits it to his paper. It will be a narrative teeming with the intimate side of great events that have made history.

A volume of considerable importance to students of philosophy will be published shortly by J. B. Lippincott Company under the title, "The Educational Theory of Immanuel Kant." The author is Professor Edward Franklin Buchner, who is connected with the University of Alabama, and the work is a formulation of the conceptions of the great philosopher, as exhibited in his lecture-notes on pedagogy and his selections from other of his most thoughtful writings.

This week the Macmillan Company will publish "The Adventures of Elizabeth in Rugen," the new book by the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden." Elizabeth is as charming as ever in her new volume, which tells the story of her adventures and experiences during eleven happy days which she spent driving around the beautiful island in the Baltic.

To those who appreciate dainty collections of dainty verse Miss Ruth Lawrence's little volume, "The Best of the Garden," will be one of the most satisfactory books of the season. It contains selections breathing both love of outdoor life and intense patriotism; besides one or two poems which suggest Austin Dobson. It has been got out in a most attractive manner, with a cover of pale green cloth and a spray of apple blossoms in their natural color. The book comes from the press of Brentano's.

New Books Received.

JEREMY TAYLOR, Edmund Gosse; The Macmillan Company, New York.

HER INFINITE VARIETY, Brand Whitlock; The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis; illustrated by Christy.

POEMS OF THE PEOPLE, Gayley and Flaherty; Ginn & Co., Boston; price 50 cents.

THE ARISTOCRACY OF HEALTH, Mary Foote Henderson; Colton Publishing Company, Washington, D. C.

MILITARY POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, Major General Emory Upton; Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

NEW MODERN WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY, published by Laird & Lee, Chicago; price 50 cents.

CORPORATIONS, being Volume X of Cyclopedia of Law and Procedure, Judge Seymour D. Thompson; The American Law Book Company, New York. Not sold singly.