

Conducted by Una H. H. Cook

BOOKS REVIEWED

- 'Mr. Crewe's Career,' by Winston Churchill
'The Under Groove,' by Arthur Stringer
'The Master Criminal,' by G. Sidney Paternoster.
'The Supreme Gift,' by Grace Denio Litchfield.
'Big Game at Sea,' by Charles Frederic Holder.
'Love's Logic,' by Anthony Hope.
'Beauty and Health,' by Cora Brown Potter.
'Old Mr. Davenport's Money,' by Thomas Powell.
'Hannele,' by Gerhart Hauptmann.
'Love Me Little, Love Me Long,' by Charles Reade.

'Mr. Crewe's Career' By Winston Churchill, author of 'Richard Carvel,' 'The Crisis,' 'Coniston,' etc. Published by the McClure Company, New York. Price \$1.50.

One need not have read "Coniston" to enjoy Winston Churchill's second novel, a contemporary American political, "Mr. Crewe's Career," but acquaintance with the latter story can hardly fail to inspire desire for knowledge of the other. Again New Hampshire is the scene and, as before, it is the Boston and Maine railroad, though grown more powerful, that furnishes Mr. Churchill with a text. Jethro Bass, the iron boss of "Coniston," is 20 years dead, but the state is still governed from a bedroom suite at the Pelican house by and for the railroad. Corporation methods of administering public affairs have, however, been improved upon and systematized. The same boss, bargaining with the legislature grabbers and delivering to them councils, courts, conventions and legislatures, has given place to the "chief counsel" of the railroad, running the corporation's law department with one hand and the politics of the commonwealth with the other.

It is curious to note how the political and corporation groundwork of Mr. Churchill's story fits California as well, almost as in the case of New Hampshire. Hilary Vane might be Herrin; the Northeastern might be the Southern Pacific; the Pelican hotel might be the Golden Eagle or the Capital. There is the same string of kept newspapers and the same retinue of subservient editors in the same press bureau for the dissemination of tainted news—and the likeness runs further than that, even to individuals, in so far as their functions are concerned.

Mr. Churchill's craftsmanship improves as it matures. The least observant reader will note the story touch and the greater ease of this story over "Coniston," its richer coloring, its more generous depth and range of perspective. The method is the same—the intimate, confidential relationship with the reader; the whimsical touch in character drawing; the half veiled satire, the suggestions, but it is bolder and the likeness by any process of analysis or comparison is to lose it.

Underneath the romance and behind the easy satire is a deep and earnest purpose. Mr. Churchill has studied his machine from life. If he brought nothing else back from his personal excursion into politics, still that adventure would be a most fortunate one for his period, for it has equipped him to be in the innermost of the time, one of the reformers of American politics, one of the founders of the road back to popular government. "Mr. Crewe's Career" is no forthright arraignment of the state, but a deep and earnest purpose. Mr. Churchill has studied his machine from life. If he brought nothing else back from his personal excursion into politics, still that adventure would be a most fortunate one for his period, for it has equipped him to be in the innermost of the time, one of the reformers of American politics, one of the founders of the road back to popular government.

The practices by which you have controlled this state, Mr. Flint, and elected governors and congressmen and state and national senators are doomed. However necessary those practices have been from your point of view, they violated every principle of free government and are destined to ruin the nation to which we belong. We would inevitably do so and we would do so because we are the scum of the world. These practices depended for their success on the ignorance and the stupidity of the people. The ignorance and the stupidity of the people is the most serious of ills in a republic. You have but to read the history of the world to see that the day of such conditions is past, to see that the citizens of this state should be alive to the danger and determined to do something to prevent a more despotic and more corrupt government than we have now. You have but to read the history of the world to see that the day of such conditions is past, to see that the citizens of this state should be alive to the danger and determined to do something to prevent a more despotic and more corrupt government than we have now.

It is Mr. Churchill's gentle foolery to make the career of the rich, aggressive, thick skinned Mr. Crewe in reality not the major motif of the story, but a sort of background against which to set the real actors, who are few. Flint, the president of the Northeastern, his daughter, Victoria; Hilary Vane, the chief counsel, and Austen Vane, his son. The love story, woven in with politics and "big business," is fine enough to stand by itself. Austen and Victoria are the kind of lovers a sentimental world will ever love. The roughness of their path are to be inferred from Austen's rupture with his own father on the question of politics, a rupture which brings him into open warfare with Victoria's father; that they should in the end find happiness together is to be inferred from the fact that, as a novelist, Mr. Churchill knows his business, the chief factor in which is to know the public taste—and to gratify it.

'The Under Groove' By Arthur Stringer, author of 'The Wire Tappers,' etc. Published by the McClure Company, New York.

The species of homesickness which afflicts the average New Yorker after a period of absence from the vicinity of the white lights, the clamor and the rush of the metropolis, is of a peculiar brand. None but a New Yorker can know the sensation and none but he can sympathize with the hero of Arthur Stringer's new adventure story, "The Under Groove," when the call of the city sounded strong within him. He voices the longing thus: "I wanted to go east. I began to get homesick and peevish for New York. I wanted to sniff the familiar old ferry smell, to hear the rush and gurry of water in the narrowing slips when the piling yields and shudders against the bumping paddle boxes, to catch the metallic and familiar tink-a-lank of pawl and ratchets as the landing floats lower to crowded deck lips. I ached for a sight of that old cypress thrower of a town, where its skyscraper teeth bit up into the morning smoke, and it seemed to whisper, with one eye winked: 'Feed me or I'll feed on you! I wanted to see Litch and his bunch behind his sly old rags. I wanted to hear his eternal whine for more gold, its growls and oaths against the arm of the law. I wanted to get a sniff of the law's dust, against the crowd's. Soft modeling clay, oiled impression, hundreds of—one must confess—interesting details. But, if a reader happens to have a slight crook in his brain, which only needs a suggestion to sidestep directions given very explicitly by Harry Orchard in his confessions—and blowing himself to bits by reason of his inexperience.

'The Supreme Gift' By Grace Denio Litchfield, author of 'In the Track of the Arctic,' 'Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Price \$1.20.

The almost forgotten case of Waggonman, the Washington financier whose failure caused such widespread distress a few years ago, furnishes the basis of fact for this novel, and nothing more. The heroine, Joan Kilden, is the daughter of a rich man. She has always been deeply interested in the poor and has busied herself in countless charities. When her father fails she begins to sacrifice herself for the people who had invested with him, and also to save her father's name. One rude awakening follows another. She bears up under them with superhuman fortitude, moving steadily to the unbelievable and artistic climax, which exacts from her the ultimate and supreme self-sacrifice. It is an interesting story, but out of fashion, for the time has gone by when in order to succeed a novel needed at least one "good cry" in it. Nowadays readers ask and the fictionists give them more that is cheerful and hopeful.

'Big Game at Sea' By Charles Frederic Holder, author of 'The Log of a Sea Angler,' 'Life of Charles Darwin,' etc. Published by the Outlook Company, New York. Price \$2.

For the fisherman this book by Charles Frederic Holder cannot fail to be most entertainingly written. Mr. Holder is the president of the famous Tuna club of southern California, and the publication of his book calls to mind the fact that within a comparatively few years a book sport, that of sea fishing with the rod for gigantic fish, has come into vogue. The book contains 23 chapters and each one is more interesting than the last. Particularly good are those on the shark and the other dreaded monster of the deep, the devil fish or octopus. According to Mr. Holder, many sharks are harmless and the octopus quite so. He, it is claimed, wants crab and other sea delicacies to eat, and scorns man.

Mr. Holder has evidently spent most of his time in the Florida and California waters. At Santa Catalina fish over 600 pounds are taken with what is technically known as the No. 9 thread line, the tip of the rod five feet in length and weighing not over six ounces. The book claims that the No. 21 and 24 thread line used heretofore, with a 16 ounce rod.

Much interesting information about the swordfish is given, and exciting descriptions of their capture. A chapter is devoted to the new game fish, the yellowfin tuna, which first appeared in American waters in 1905.

Much of this book appeared as magazine articles, but has been revised and collected and added to until it is the most attractive volume.

'Love's Logic' By Anthony Hope, published by the McClure Company, New York. Price \$1.50.

This latest book by Anthony Hope is a collection of 13 short stories and two bits of dialogue intended for acting, or rather for recitation—they have little action. These tales are readable and clever, but the conviction forces itself that this author's forte is hardly the short story. Most of these tales are of love, some few having a gay note, but most of them too full of cynicism to really please.

One of the two dialogues is remarkable and deserves special mention. It is entitled "La Mort a la Mode," and it is as gruesome a picture as one can imagine. It tells the tale of a duc and a very last chapter. The book is written in an unusual style. The heroine, Pauline Davenport, is a lonely child, brought up in the country by her

'Beauty and Health' By Cora Brown Potter, published by Paul Elder & Co., San Francisco and New York. Price \$1.75.

Mrs. Cora Brown Potter, who has been known on the stage as Mrs. James Brown Potter, and also as Mrs. Cora Urquhart Potter, has written a book—not about the stage or society, though she has had more than the average woman's experience with both—but about health and beauty. She calls her book the "Secrets of Beauty and the Mysteries of Health," and explains that it contains practical suggestions for the right care of the person, together with "a collection of valuable receipts pertaining to health and beauty gathered during the author's stage experiences and travels in all parts of the world."

Mrs. Potter has compiled enough in these receipts(?) to fill a large book and she has filled in the spaces between with bits of advice about the care of various parts of the body.

'I CAN MAKE YOU GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE' FROM 'MR. CREWE'S CAREER' BY WINSTON CHURCHILL

'SHE STOOD FACING ME, WITH HER LEFT HAND PLUNGING TO THE UNDER GROOVE' BY ARTHUR STRINGER

'FROM "SIDE-STEPPING WITH SHORTY" BY SEWELL FORD

'FROM "THE SUPREME GIFT" BY GRACE DENIO LITCHFIELD

'FROM "BIG GAME AT SEA" BY CHARLES FREDERIC HOLDER

'FROM "LOVE'S LOGIC" BY ANTHONY HOPE

'FROM "BEAUTY AND HEALTH" BY CORA BROWN POTTER

'FROM "OLD MR. DAVENANT'S MONEY" BY THOMAS POWELL

'FROM "HANNELE" BY GERHART HAUPTMANN

'FROM "LOVE ME LITTLE, LOVE ME LONG" BY CHARLES READE



'FROM "SIDE-STEPPING WITH SHORTY" BY SEWELL FORD

grandmother and having no friend to make her girlish confidences to she begins by keeping a sort of diary, written as though the diary were the person whom she calls "Ellen Walters." Every few chapters we are given a few "Ellen Walters" confidences, making the story partly told by the innocent little heroine herself.

The scene of the tale is Long Island, and most of the characters are Davenport; none of them very closely related but calling each other aunt and cousin.

The part of the family living in Long Island is very rich, and the heroine, from the country, is very poor. She is invited to visit the rich relatives and somehow her coming seems to precipitate the climax that has been closing in on the family for years. The love story is charming, the picture full of force and charm, and the plot is amusing and the characters are all alive. The finest thing about the book is the fact that the author never explains her mystery to the reader. It has been indicated so plainly that it would be an insult to the reader's intelligence, but few authors would have been able to resist the temptation to tell. The story is full of force and charm, and let us be thankful, has no "purpose" but to amuse and beguile the weary hours.

'Hannele' By Gerhart Hauptmann, English version by Charles Henry Meltzer, published by Doubleday, Page & Co.

This version of "Hannele," which was written by Gerhart Hauptmann in being written in the spring of 1894 at the Fifth Avenue theater, New York, when the play was performed for the first time on the English speaking stage, with the approval of Hauptmann himself, who was present. From that fact it is safe to conclude that this translation is in every way adequate and can therefore be critically considered with perfect fairness to the author.

The play is the history of the soul of a child. It is also a scientific study of the brain of a poor little outcast, who, in dying, passes through a series of trances caused partly by the delirium of her fever, and these visions of the child's brain are seen by the audience. The language is so simple, the story is so meagerly told, that one cannot but marvel that so much can be conveyed by it.

There have been many expressions of opinion on the play. It was even forbidden to be acted for awhile, for the reason that it was blasphemous. The cause of that charge was the suggestion of supernatural glory about the school master when he preaches to Mattern, the wicked mason; but we must remember that this whole second half of the play is a creation of the

'RAIN OF THE DYING CHILD; THE PICTURE IS IT OF THE DELICATE OF THE CHILD AND HER LOVE AMOUNTING ALMOST TO ADORATION OF THE SCHOOL MASTER, MAKES HER GIVE HIS FEATURES TO HER SAVIOR. SHE HAS NOT ENOUGH RELIGIOUS TRAINING TO CONNECT HER DEFEATER WITH OUR LORD.

'CERTAINLY IT IS ONE OF THE MOST ARTISTIC PRODUCTIONS OF THE PEN OF THIS GREAT AUTHOR, AND WE CANNOT BUT FEEL GRATEFUL TO THE TRANSLATOR FOR SO ADEQUATE AN ENGLISH VERSION.

'LOVE ME LITTLE, LOVE ME LONG' By Charles Reade, published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. Price \$1.50.

'Love Me Little, Love Me Long' first appeared in 1859 and was supposed to be a picture of life a quarter of a century ago then. The publisher is compiling a "large print library," and this book is a most attractive volume of the series. Readable Scotch faced type, high grade paper and dignified library binding are the distinguishing features of this edition. A condensed account of Reade's life and a most incomplete bibliography are prefixed.

'NEW BOOKS BRIEFLY NOTED' Sewell Ford's sequel to "Shorty McCabe" is just out. It bears the title "Side Stepping With Shorty" and is just as welcome as its predecessor was. (Mitchell Kennerly, New York.) We have come to associate Mr. Dooley with the humor and philosophy of the Chicago streets and before long "Shorty McCabe" will occupy the same place in New York, for he is a genuine creation full of real humor.

Dr. A. A. Willits at the age of 37 is still on the lecture platform. "Shine, or the Secret of Happiness," his favorite lecture, was originally delivered some 60 years ago and has been repeated countless times since then before thousands of men and women in various parts of the country. It has been growing and ripening all these years and is now published for the first time by his friends among the young people, who intend that the profits from its sale shall go as a tribute to the author whom they wish to honor. (Pearson Bros., Philadelphia.)

'Three Weeks in Holland and Belgium' by John U. Higginbotham (Reilly & Britton company, Chicago), is a complete volume to the same author's "Three Weeks in Europe." It is an invaluable little book for those about to make a first journey to Holland and Belgium, being full of condensed information, but told in a delightful readable narrative form. The book is also a plea for and to the despised class of people we call tourists. It will be found interesting and valuable.

'The Belle Isles,' by Richard Brinsley Newman (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), is the keenly humorous account of life in a country town as experienced by the family of a minister of simple hearted honesty. The shrewdness and hypocrisy of the unimpassioned characters is shown in many of the individuals of the book. The deep underlying purpose of the author is by ridicule to teach mean human nature a lesson and shame it into better fashion. The book is also a plea for and to the despised class of people we call tourists. It will be found interesting and valuable.

'Money Hunger,' by Henry A. Wise Wood, is a vigorously written book which works through an analysis of the low state of our commercial morality into an optimistic prophecy of better things to come. It contends that Americans of finer grain will increasingly refuse to set up wealth and the power it brings as satisfying ends in themselves, and will tend to make things more desirable than these their quest. The author insists on the principle that it is every man's duty to lose no opportunity to arouse in others a revulsion of hostility to the sordid chivalry of industry that are now this country's heaviest curse.

'In a Virginia Feud,' by George Taylor Lee (Neale publishing company, New York), we have a history of the Shiftett-Duncan feud which shows that the author knows the life of the Virginia mountaineers perfectly. Step by step, through scenes exciting and pathetic, one follows the murder and crime and suffering involved by this traditional hatred, and understands how these terrible feuds grow and are nourished. Aside from the story of the pretty heroine and the city lover, the book is valuable as a picture of life in the Blue Mountains. It is a good story if somewhat crude, but truthful and sincere.

'Outline for Review in American History,' by George W. Jacobs & Co. (Neale publishing company, New York), is a very complete and brings out all the essential facts of American history. Brief summaries are given, in chronological

order, of the leading facts and events. In the index battles, laws and wars are grouped, both chronologically and alphabetically. It will be found excellent as a final review.

'Cossip of Books and People Who Make Them' George W. Jacobs & Co. have established a loan library plan in connection with their book selling business. A number of open shelves have been set up and new books of fiction are arranged alphabetically in them, so that a prospective borrower can make a selection any day it will appear at the "hurry book" counter. The idea in combination with a book store seems to be new. It is enjoying much popularity.

Clara Novello, the singer to whom Charles Lamb dedicated a poem—"O, Tuneful Daughter of a Tuneful Sire," he sang—died in Rome several weeks ago at the age of 90. There is another literary association with her name, she was the heroine of that highly sentimental musical novel, "Charles Auchester."

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Houghton, Mifflin & Co. announce the forthcoming incorporation of the firm under the name of Houghton Mifflin company. The business was founded by Henry Oscar Houghton more than 50 years ago. This will involve no change in the management or conduct. The present partners retain their full interest and active participation. Mr. James Duncan Phillips, Mr. Stephen B. Davol, Mr. Roger L. Scaife, Mr. Edward C. Houghton and Mr. George Harrison Mifflin, Jr., who have been actively associated for several years, will be members of the new corporation.

An interesting cartoon showing a big California redwood tree, cut from its roots to its topmost branches, some of the important historical events and discoveries that have occurred during the growth of one of those forest antediluvians, recently appeared in "Life." The picture was drawn by G. Broughton and is about to be published by one of the Pacific railroads as an advertisement of the wonders of California.

Mr. William de Morgan's career should be an inspiration to all young lads of 50 to take up the work of writing novels. After years of devotion to the making of artistic tiles, beginning at the age of 16 to publish novels, though he is now yet 70, he has given us three exceptionally long and, to the lover of good literature, very interesting books. The shortest of them, "Somehow Good," contains 270,000 words. Levered Dickens gave his name in connection with De Morgan's books, and admirers of Trollope find the quiet meandering stories suggestive of those which Trollope penned.

The first volume of Anatole France's new life of Jeanne d'Arc has just been brought out in Paris. Its appearance is regarded as something of a literary event.

The distinguished actor, John Hare, is about to publish his reminiscences in serial form. It is stated that a quantity of uncommonly interesting sketches and photographs will accompany his chapters.

A new novel by Mary Austin will be among the fiction of early spring. The story, "The Land of the Living," is set in California, with the difference that it is the newer suburban California in the vicinity of San Francisco, and not the city proper, which supplied "Ancestors" to Gertrude Atherton, or which offered the early camp fire coloring to Bret Harte.

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