NEW BOOKS.

Brief Reviews of Important and Interesting New Publications.

Mr. W. H. Mallock's hand has forgotten its cunning in "Tristram Lacy, the Individualist" (Macmillans), and the reader will seek in vain for the brightness or the amusing paradoxes that enlivened some of his earlier work. The nastiness of mind that at first was kept under and later has cropped out more and more he will find, however, from beginning to end of the book. It is dragged in only in incidental descriptive phrases, for there is nothing improper in either the plot or the characters. The hero, a colorless young man, described as naturally a man of action, who has tried military service and politics and the part of a man-about-town successfully, but has stopped short in his career through seeing the hollowness of the ideals he pursues, comes unexpectedly in a roundabout way into the possession of a large fortune, which enables him to do whatever he pleases. For no ostensible reason, save to show the superior beneficent results of his pessimistic indifference, he is brought into relations with a set of persons who are pursuing various socialistic hobbies under a pretence of altruistic ideals, but for their own selfish ends. These Socialists, male and female, are all ill-mannered, middle-class persons and grotesque, exaggerated caricatures. The hero himself, in spite of his experience of the world—and in his past there have been intrigues with married and unmarried women—is an easy prey to any schemer who takes the trouble to victimize him. He is sponged upon by an absurd society adventurer, is frightened by a blackmailing attack on his fortune, is played with at will by female political intriguers, who lead him by the nose, and is married finally to a widow with a past, in whom he discovers unselfish pessimistic sentiments like his own. Before this happy end is reached, however, there is an unpleasant episode in which the hero grows mawkish over and flirts with a very young and gushing girl, which will make people uncomfortable who have read other books by Mr. Mallock and therefore cannot tell what he is not capable of writing. The many members of high society among whom the hero moves are mere conventional lay figures, who say disagreeable things about each other and whose utter lack of manners scarcely contrasts with the vulgarity of the middle-class people snobbishly held up to ridicule by Mr. Mallock. There is, as we said, nothing improper in the plot or in any incident or character even remotely affecting the plot, yet Mr. Mallock takes pains to expressly state or to imply unmistakably that every woman he introduces, with the exception of one absurd old lady, is of loose virtue, or at any rate ready to sacrifice her virtue in order to gratify her ambitions, and that every man among his characters is or has been or is likely to be a profligate. This he accomplishes usually by a brief descriptive sentence, uncalled for by the situation or the part the character has to play, apparently solely for his own pleasure. There is no evolution of character in Mr. Mallock's story, the incidents follow one another at haphazard, even the commonplace, melodramatic mechanism of the end being put to little use, while the little jibes against philanthropic and philosophic fads are delivered in a half-hearted sort of a way. Mr. Mallock is careless about his English and about his descriptions, and in his labored straining to be epigrammatic stoops to pretty cheap smartness like this:

> She showed the depth of her own belief in her party's principles by invariably losing her temper if any one questioned her sincerity. She would, indeed, though devoted to her husband and her husband's fortunes, have borne with a better grace that her virtue should be doubted than her Radicalism.
>
> Until culture makes the higher classes happy, you can no more expect it to bring happiness to the lower than a man can expect, if all his best claret is corked, to make it a sound wine by distributing it among his poor relations.
>
> In the hall were no less than four perambulators, married piety being always philoprogenitive.
>
> She was a tall, thin, solemnly sweet woman, dressed meagerly in black silk and wearing on her lips a smile of such ecclesiastical chastity that she seemed to have sprung from the union of a minster with some mortal mother.

These two are the brightest little bodies imaginable. One is a Christian Socialist; the other, who is writing some papers on the "Abolition of Class Distinctions," devotes herself in London to introducing amongst the female employees of the Post Office a proper independence of manner when dealing with the general public.

No one could have been more shocked at the thought of being suspected of any of the frailties which, when her friends were guilty of them, she treated with such vivacious leniency; nor could any one who knew anything of Mrs. Tilney's dealings with the poor—and few women were more philanthropic than she—have set down this leniency as a sign of moral indifference, for, treating the poor as she did, with the feelings of an ideal Christian—that is to say, treating them precisely as she would treat herself—she was as severe upon their moral failings as she would have been on her own, had she had any, and as active as she could have been in her own case in attempting to mitigate their consequences. Her charity, indeed, was so great that she found it necessary to divide it, giving her charity of action to the poor, and her charity of judgment to the rich.

This is far removed from "The New Republic" or "The New Paul and Virginia." It almost looks as though Mr. Mallock had collected materials for a story, and, feeling too little interest in it to work it up, had printed his half-prepared notes as they stood.

There are many well-known physiological conditions in woman which undoubtedly influence the action of her mind. Whenever an explanation of these was desired, the proper place to look for it used to be in medical and other scientific works. Of late years, however, under the guise of "psychology," the novelists, and especially the woman novelists, have exposed to public view pretty nearly every bodily ailment to which woman is subject, and what they have left untouched so far the writers of popular "philosophic" essays are sure to talk about. "Studies in the Psychology of Woman," by Laura Marholm, translated by Georgia A. Etchison (Herbert S. Stone & Co.), professes to be "the first attempt at a Psychological Study of Woman which has been laid before the public by a woman." The creature studied, however, is not plain, everyday woman, but the queer products of the Ibsenese north and the pathological exhibits of French decadent romance and of French investigators of hysteria. The studies are carried out in that earnest Scandinavian spirit that seems blind to any grossness or repulsiveness of images or examples, or if it sees their coarseness, does not permit that to stand in the way of "scientific" demonstration. The author's "psychology" deals mainly with sexual instincts and with social ambitions. For her classification of the women of to-day she uses a French nomenclature and divides them all into "detraquées" and "cérébrales," the hysterical and the strong-minded, although she describes also the "grande amoureuse," who is apparently neither, as an ideal, a rather fleshly and unattainable ideal to be sure:

> In her, all passive womanly qualities,—desire to love, devotion to man, reflective intelligence, faithfulness, solicitude, loyalty—have, as it were, stepped from their home in the spinal cord and formed a closer communion with the brain; and her whole being is so aglow with energy that we can almost see the red blood, the essence of life itself, gleaming in her, as when we hold a woman's hand before the light.

Several women who have attracted attention are described with embarrassing minuteness and frankness, among them Mrs. Besant. The effect on the reader is something like what might be produced by publishing the names of his acquaintances in full in the reports of medical cases. About these "seekers" the author says:

> This century has also made woman dependent upon herself, upon her finiteness, her ego, her consciousness. It might as well have stood her upon her head and commanded her hair to take root in the earth; the position and task would not have been more unsuitable for her than her present task and position in life.
>
> Well, woman is teachable! She understood that it was her moral duty to feel herself exalted and upheld by the new views, and she therefore felt elevated in the contemplation of her finiteness, her ego, her consciousness. Out of these three conceptions she began with her own hands to construct a life.

Some years, a decade, perhaps two, went by, and now we see the borders of every road strewn with those who die on the way. The hosts of these broken ones who have striven with an unsparing expenditure of strength, and have accomplished nothing, are legion. No one took them in when they could no longer help themselves. Their ego glided out of their hands, their consciousness forsook them, and their finiteness stared at them and reflected back to them their withered, tired selves.

Marie Bashkirtseff is "the only revealer of a young girl's soul," while Mathilde Malling, who later became prosaic and took to writing historical novels, "was one of these infrequent feminine creatures who have attained at eighteen years the height of culture, refinement and aspiration in their day." At that ripe age she wrote tales of self-revelation, but abstained on reaching years of discretion. The book presents a needlessly dismal view of woman, but the author is not satisfied. "There is still another direction of research," she tells us, "that of purely sexual psychology," in which she hopes to succeed later.

Gov. Roosevelt's enthusiastic articles in *Scribner's Magazine* on the doings of his regiment in the Spanish war are reprinted in a handsome volume, well illustrated, "The Rough Riders," by Theodore Roosevelt (Charles Scribner's Sons). The book is dedicated to "the officers and men of the five regular regiments which, together with mine, made up the cavalry division at Santiago." To the foreigner the lightning changes by which, in less than two years, Mr. Roosevelt passed from the office of Police Commissioner of New York city to that of Assistant Secretary of the Navy of the United States, then to Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel of a regiment of volunteers, and finally to that of Governor of the State of New York, will be as interesting as they will be puzzling. He claims no more than his due when he demands the credit, so far as it can be given to any one man, for bringing about the war for the liberation of Cuba. To his tenure of office in the Navy Department was the fact that the fleet was ready in every particular chiefly owing. The practical sense that made the rough riders efficient so soon is also evident. His book is the authoritative record of that picturesque body's doings, written by their commanding officer. Col. Roosevelt's testimony as regards a number of debated questions about Las Guasimas and the San Juan hill fight is of course historical evidence of the first importance.

"The essential motive of college stories is esoteric: to embody in literary form for the alumnæ of a particular institution memories and impressions of their college days." Miss Julia Augusta Schwartz informs us in the preface to "Vassar Studies" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). "Inasmuch as the important events of the college career are of an intellectual nature, stories treating with true perspective of that formative period must deal with character rather than with incident. Even as character studies, the scope of interest is strictly limited to individuals of the same sex and approximately the same age and possessing—broadly speaking—similar mental tastes and moral standards. Furthermore, the members of this roughly homogeneous democracy are deprived of a certain artistic variety by being separated from the often picturesque background of family relations." It will be observed that the hand of the professor of literature weighs heavily on Miss Schwartz. In spite of this and of the drawbacks enumerated in her preface, two or three of her dozen sketches (they are hardly stories) are not devoid of interest, perhaps owing to the use of the "picturesque background" she mentions. Some deal with relations between girls and will probably be better appreciated by them than by the general reader; those where the author drops her serious purpose in order to be sprightly, might well have been omitted. Vassar College and its peculiarities are so carefully kept in the background that the "studies" might apply to almost any girls' boarding school. They are really studies in girls.

"Border Lines in the Field of Doubtful Practices," by H. Clay Trumbull (Fleming H. Revell Company), to judge from the contents, is a misnomer, for the Rev. Mr. Trumbull has no doubts about the practices, and for him the lines are not on the border. To him drinking, smoking, card playing, the theatre and dancing are all equally objectionable, and his objections to each he backs up with lamentable instances that have come within his own observation of what excesses in any one of those practices may lead to. He takes great comfort in the argument that people think more highly of Christian ministers who abstain from one or all of these weaknesses than they do of those who indulge in them.

"A Study in the Warwickshire Dialect," by Appleton Morgan (the Shakespeare Press), is published in a third edition by the Shakespeare Society of New York. Many of the words presented as dialect forms are common to English wherever it is spoken, while still others can certainly not be limited to Warwickshire. Mr. Morgan's attempt to guess at Shakespeare's pronunciation from the puns in the plays is more fanciful than convincing.

"Leslie's Official History of the Spanish-American War" (Gen. Marcus J. Wright, War Records Office, Washington) is a folio volume containing the greater part of the illustrations printed in *Leslie's Weekly* during the war, many of them full page, with a consecutive narrative of events.

Another interesting town is added to Messrs. Dent & Co.'s series of books on mediæval towns in "The Story of Nuremberg," by Cecil Headlam (Macmillans). Mr. Headlam seems to have written a very complete and careful guide to what in many respects is the most important of the old German free cities, neither history, art, literature nor antiquities being neglected. The home of Albrecht Dürer and Hans Sachs thus can be studied pretty thoroughly at home. The pictures are very attractive.

We have also received:

"Dante Interpreted." Epiphanius Wilson. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

"The Bee People." Margaret Warner Morley. (A. C. McClurg & Co.)

"History and Manufacture of Floor Coverings." (Review Publishing Company.)

"The Messages of the Earlier Prophets." Frank Knight Sanders, Ph. D., and Charles Foster Kent, Ph. D. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

"Masques and Mummers." Charles Frederic Nirdlinger. (The De Witt Publishing House.)

"Everything About Our New Possessions." Thomas J. Vivian and Ruel P. Smith. (R. F. Fenno & Co.)

"The Making of a Man." New edition. James W. Lee. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)

"Cœurs Blessés." Fernand Massonneau. (Meyer Frères & Cie.)

"From Comte to Benjamin Kidd. The Appeal to Biology, or Evolution for Human Guidance." Robert Mackintosh, D. D. (Macmillans.)

"Ethics and Revelation." Henry S. Nash. (Macmillans.)

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HARPER'S WEEKLY

It is something you should not miss—this vigorous portrayal of the parts of the world most before the public eye at the moment.

INDIA

JULIAN RALPH, the leading American correspondent, just returned from India, is writing, under the title of *An American Sovereign*, a series of articles on the vice-regal life of Lord and Lady Curzon. Next week the series is broken to give place to a remarkable article, by Mr. Ralph, on the Plague in India.

HAWAII

CASPAR WHITNEY has recently returned from the Hawaiian Islands, where he went especially to prepare his series of articles on *Hawaiian-America*, and the industrial and commercial possibilities open there, which is now appearing week by week in this periodical.

THE PHILIPPINES

JOHN BASS, the now famous young war correspondent, is sending articles and photographs each week which give, as no other periodical has even attempted to give, the progress of the war now drawing to a close there.

CUBA

FRANKLIN MATTHEWS, who has become famous as the author of "Wide-Open Chicago" and "Wide-Open New York," is publishing articles week by week which give as frank and truthful a picture of the New Havana as the former articles gave of the two great American cities.

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THE ESKIMO'S GOOD HEAD.

Optimistic View on the Arctic Man—Medico-Psychological Association.

The final session of the American Medico-Psychological Association was held yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria. Richmond was decided upon as the place for the next meeting, and the first week in May as the time. Dr. Frederick Peterson, who delivered the annual address to the convention, was elected delegate to the British Medico-Psychological Society, and Dr. A. E. Macdonald, delegate to the British Medical Association.

A paper was read by Dr. Hrdlicka on the subject of the Eskimo brain. Dr. Hrdlicka described the brain of Kushan, one of the Eskimos who was brought here by Lieut. Peary. Kushan, who was chief of his tribe, was bigger than the ordinary Eskimo, weighing 170 pounds at the time of his death. He died of quick consumption, to which his race are very subject in this climate. Kushan's brain was found to be larger than that of the average white man of his stature. It was uneven, the left lobe being the larger and of superior development to the right lobe. Dr Hrdlicka believes that the Eskimo is capable of greater intellectual development than is commonly supposed. In the afternoon the members of the association visited the Bloomingdale and Morris Plains asylums.

MOVING DAY FOR THE HIPPOS.

No Trouble in Getting Them Into Summer Quarters in the Absence of Cyrus.

The hippopotamus family moved out from its tank in the lion house in the Central Park menagerie to its summer quarters in the open air yesterday. The moving was accomplished without the trouble formerly caused on these occasions by Cyrus, the young hippo that was recently sent to Germany.

A barricaded passageway was built between the lion house and the open air tank and pieces of bread were scattered along the way the animals were expected to go. The hippos were so pleased at the prospect of getting out into the fresh air, however, that they did not stop to pick up the bread.

Caliph, the head of the family, trotted out as soon as the bars were removed and dashed into the water as soon as he reached the new quarters. Iris, the two-year-old, quietly followed her father, and the two were put in one tank. Mrs. Murphy, Caliph's spouse, was put in an adjoining tank.

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