



ARCADIAN ADVENTURES WITH THE IDLE RICH.

By Stephen Leacock; Toronto, Bell & Co., \$1.25 net.

Prof. Leacock's latest book contains his well-known mixture of cynicism and hoisterous joviality. It is sometimes difficult to say why one laughs with him, but certainly few books contain more hearty and whole-some laughter or are better for reading aloud. His latest volume is a series of sketches of life in the city of Plutonia, in which the chief institutions are Plutonia University and the Mausoleum Club. Though the scene is apparently laid in the United States, some of the sketches are so true to universal humanity that probably more than one of Mr. Leacock's colleagues and friends in Montreal will feel personally affronted. Such a story as "The Great Fight for Clean Government," in which the wealthy city merchants, finding that the city government is "absolutely rotten, corrupt and full of graft," resolve to hold a clean election and to elect an enlightened set of aldermen, which virtuous body, as soon as appointed, gives to the Citizens' Light company a franchise for two centuries, will be read by many people in Montreal with mingled feelings.

Here is a little sketch which some of us at Queen's might well take to heart:

"The meeting of the faculty that day bid fair to lose all vestige of decorum in the excitement of the moment. The proposal was nothing less than the permission of the use of lead-pencils instead of pen and ink in the sessional examinations of the university. Anyone conversant with the inner life of a college will realize that to many of the professoriate this was nothing less than a last wild onslaught of socialistic democracy against the solid bulwarks of society. They must fight it back or die on the walls. To others it was one more step in the splendid progress of democratic education, comparable only to such epoch-making things as the abandonment of the cap and gown, and the omission of the word 'sir' in speaking to a professor.

"No wonder that the fight raged. Finally, Chang, of physiology, who was known frequently to work for three or four hours at a stretch, proposed that the faculty should adjourn the question and meet for its further discussion on the following Saturday morning. This revolutionary sugges-

tion, involving work on Saturday, closed the meeting to a mere tangle, in the midst of which Elderberry, foolishly proposed that the whole question of the use of lead-pencils should be adjourned till that day six months, and that meantime a new special committee of seventeen professors, with power to add to their number, to call witnesses and, if need be, to hear de novo. This motion, after the striking out of the words de novo and the insertion of ab initio, was finally carried, after which the faculty sank back completely exhausted into its chair."

WHAT MEN LIVE BY.

By Richard C. Cabot, M.D., McClelland, Goodchild, and Stewart, Toronto, Publishers, 341 Pages.

A stimulating, refreshing book—one that lucidly and convincingly sets forth the doctrine of right living. Dr. Cabot, who is connected with the Social Service department of the Massachusetts general hospital and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard university, is doing a splendid work for humanity by teaching it how the mind and the soul can minister to the body. This book is a physician's contribution to the conduct of life. A doctor knows that people need more than medicine or surgery to put them on their feet. He studies to learn what picks them up when they have fallen down. He sees all sorts of remedies tried—rest, travel, solitude, nature-study, marriage, divorce, deep breathing, the simple life, the strenuous life, and many more. Out of the courses tried by men and women of all ages, Dr. Cabot selects four—work, play, love and worship—because in his experience they have proved their healing power. He shows in detail how work, play, love and worship should run side by side through the whole span of life, like four colors in the rainbow.

DELIA BLANCHFLOWER.

By Mrs. Humphrey Ward, McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, Publishers, Price \$1.35

Admirers of Mrs. Ward's work will find in this latest book of hers considerable pleasure, though it does not rank with her best. The hero, Mark Winton, is described as "a kind of heroic creature," just the sort to be the guardian whom Sir Robert Blanchflower chose for his impetuous young daughter, Delia. So Sir Robert left him in full charge, not only of his daughter but of her immense fortune, until she should attain the age of twenty-five, when the property should become hers, provided that she entirely severed her connection with the "Daughters of Revolt," a militant suffrage organization. Mark finds his ward quite a handful. Her attachment to Gertrude Marvell, one of the leaders and organizers of the militant campaign, to whom the father has taken a strong dislike, leads Mark into many a scene with Delia. The guardian, though he supposed himself to be immune, develops into the lover, and love triumphs over even suffragist principles. The novel is probably intended as a protest against the militant suffrage movement. It pictures the street meetings, the outrages, the committee work and plans of the vote-hunting women. The destruction of a beautiful old English house provides a fitting climax. Delia is finally convinced that not only is militancy wrong, but that Mark is perfect. The most impressive figure in the book is Miss Marvell, the feminist fanatic who is ready to sac-

crifice herself for the cause. There are also other suffragists of opposing types, and the anti-suffragists. The book is interesting and will afford a several evenings' pleasure.

WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

By T. C. Smith, The Home University Library, London, Williams & Norgate, Kingston, R. Uglow & Co., 35c.

In this book Mr. Smith gives an excellent account of the international relations between England and America between 1763 and 1815, pre-ceeded by a lucid summary of the old colonial system under which the American colonies had grown up. It presents the latest views of American scholarship, and cuts loose from the old traditions of the fourth of July oration. The fairness shown to Great Britain, the faults pointed out in the American cause and the American leaders, would thirty years ago have made even an enlightened American stare and gasp. Thus the Boston massacre, on which such floods of eloquence and of tears have merely "poured out," is for Mr. Smith a "riot in Boston between town rowdies and the soldiers." Indeed, Mr. Smith, in common with some other American historians, has swung so far over that he is at times a little unfair to the colonies, as when he says that "in the seven years' war they hung back from a full fight to do their share, but they were ready to let British soldiers do all the hard fighting." The Massachusetts politicians who won the praise of their British governor, the Massachusetts soldiers who died at Bunker's Hill, their fellows who after that repulse pushed on to the capture of Kingston, deserved higher praise than this. Mr. Smith wisely points out that the real cause of the American revolution and of the consequent bitterness was that a nation with different political and social ideals, and different economic needs from those of the mother country, his book may be commended as an impartial and interesting sketch of the troubled period which ended one hundred years ago, to be followed by a slowly but steadily increasing friendliness.

OUR JUST CAUSE.

By Prof. W. L. Grant, Queen's University, William Heinemann, London, Publisher.

There have been many books published concerning the causes of the present war, but for conciseness and systematic marshalling of facts, Prof. Grant's small volume is to be more highly commended. It is comprehensive, in that he has covered every aspect of the case; it is illuminating, in that he has presented his facts clearly and consecutively; it is admirable, in that its terseness and condensation make it especially valuable as a ready reference.

- Prof. Grant answers the question, "Why are we at war?" as follows: (a) Because of the swelled head of the German militarist classes, who have stamped the country. The ruthless theory of these men considered war to be a blessing and the best means of advancing progress. (b) Because of our plighted word to France, in virtue of which she had concentrated her fleet in the Mediterranean and left her northern coast defenceless, save for our aid. (c) Because of our obligations to Belgium. (d) For the safety of ourselves and of our Empire. (e) In the cause of civilization and liberty and of international law,

which the Germans have shamelessly violated. The author next shows the unanimity of opinion in Great Britain and Ireland as to the justice of our cause, and outlines the support afforded by the dominions and crown colonies. Various other aspects of the present situation are discussed in Prof. Grant's own inimitable style. The quotations in support of his arguments are from authoritative sources—blue books, addresses by statesmen, newspaper reports, extracts from German authors, etc. One instinctively feels, on laying down this book, that here is a succinct and masterly survey of the situation, and that thanks are due to the author for giving us all the facts in such brief yet convincing form.

POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM BACON TO HALIFAX.

By G. P. Gooch, History of Scotland, by R. S. Rait, The Ancient East, by D. G. Hogarth, The Home University Library, London, Williams & Norgate, Toronto, William Briggs, Kingston, R. Uglow & Co., 35c Each.

Mr. Gooch's book on "Political Thought from Bacon to Halifax" is an admirable sketch of the development of English thought in the keen and hard thinking 17th century, one of the best books in an extremely good series, worthy to rank with Mr. H. A. L. Fisher's "Napoleon," or the Hon. Maurice Baring's "Russian Literature." Mr. Gooch is equally vivid, whether dealing with Bacon, Hobbs, Halifax, or when describing the views which swept through the crowd, such as those of the Levellers or the Anabaptists. Wide as is his knowledge he never becomes obscure. It is interesting to note how the same thoughts recur in all ages; the quotations which Mr. Gooch gives from Bacon in the early 17th century might have come from Bernhardt in the early 20th. The opinion of some of the schoolmen is not to be regarded that war cannot be made but upon a precedent injury or provocation; for there is no question but no blow, given, is a lawful cause of war. Let us hope that the parallel proves that English political thought is now three centuries ahead of that of Germany.

MARtha AND CUPID.

By Julia M. Lippmann, McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, Publishers.

The two "Martha" books which preceded the present volume proved very popular, because the author had succeeded in creating in Martha a bright and lovely character. She became at once a favorite. In this third volume we have Martha married. There were two rivals for her hand—Sam Slawson and Peter Gilroy. The former, a hardworking honest chap; the latter, somewhat of a swell. Martha does exactly as we would expect one of her character to do—She chose Sam. With Sam went his mother, who was inclined to grumble at almost everything. It was not a pleasant situation that Martha found herself in at first, but she ultimately succeeded in making a real home. So much for tact and loyal love. We soon find the happy couple surrounded by a number of bright and entertaining children. "Martha and Cupid" is a wholesome, optimistic story, full of human interest.

RUSSIAN LITERATURE.

By the Hon. Maurice Baring, The Home University Library of Modern Knowledge, London, Williams & Norgate, Kingston, R. Uglow & Co., Price 35c.

This most interesting volume gives a great deal in a small compass. It is concise and yet vivid, giving a good general sketch of the subject, with sufficient detail, yet never degenerating to a mere list of names, and is made still more interesting by a number of excellent verse translations from some of the greater Russian poets. The immense literary achievements of Russia is one of the marvels of the nineteenth century, for the literary history can really be said to begin with the year 1800. In one century they have produced Push-

kin, a great national poet, indeed a class of "furgent" master of fiction; the giant Tolstol and others of international renown. Unlike as writers and as teachers their influence has been world-wide. They struck a new note. As Mr. Baring well says of Pushkin, "The chief characteristic of his genius is its universality; there appeared to be nothing that he could not understand nor assimilate, and it is just this all embracing humanity, this capacity for understanding everything and everybody which makes him so profoundly Russian." All readers of Tolstol know that the same note is found in him, the note of world-wide love and compassion, the note which finds nothing human aught else than lovable. That a nation which has produced a literature of which this is the dominant note is in the long run doomed to remain ground down under a narrow and reactionary government we refuse to believe. Mr. Baring's vivid sketch of this brilliant development we commend to every reader.

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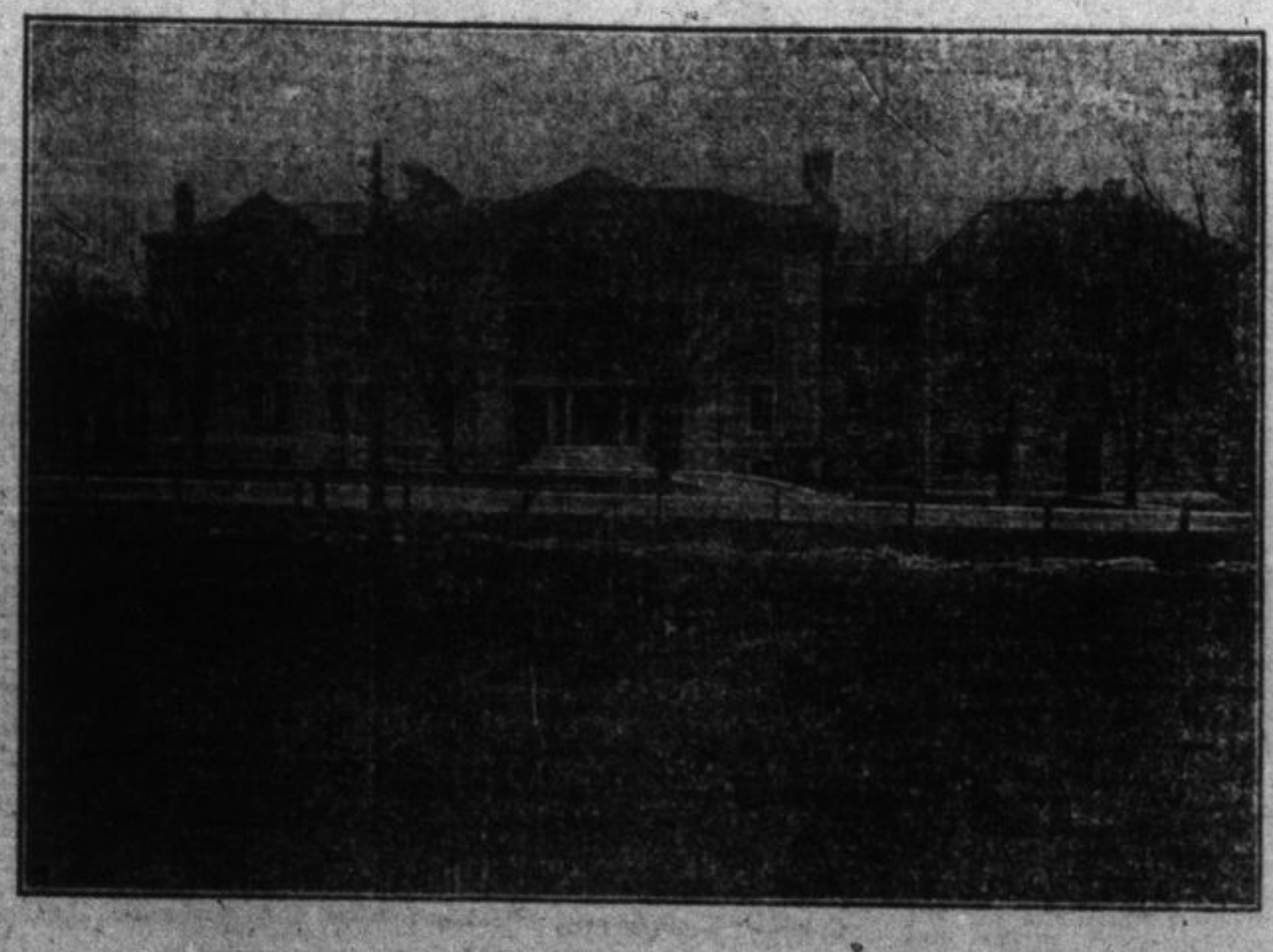
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL The KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

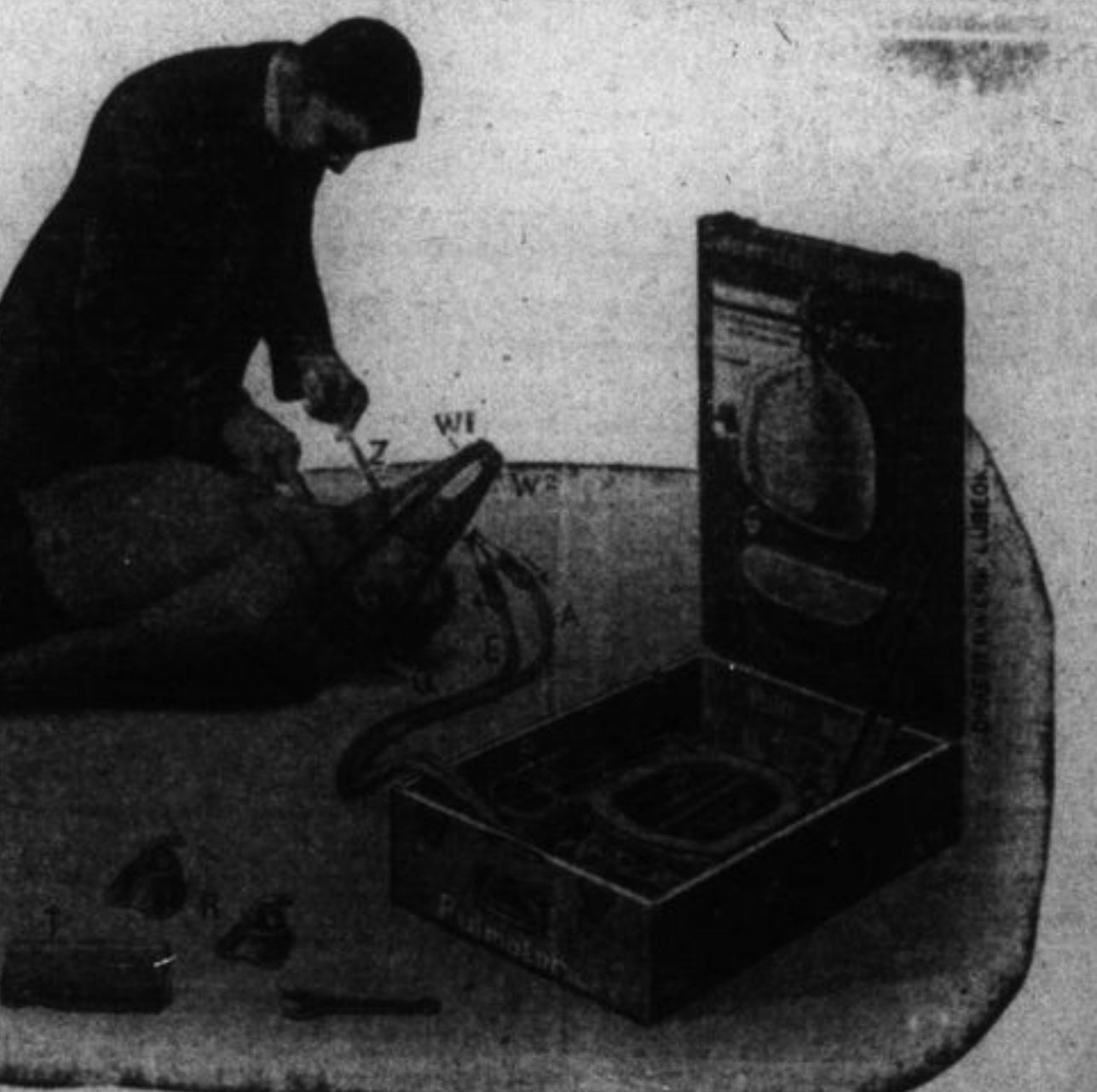
WHICH DEPENDS LARGELY FOR ITS SUPPORT ON VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS Appeals to you for a Liberal Response To Its Xmas Letter



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