

BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

AGAINST THE WINDS

By Kate Jordan. 348 Pages. Price \$1.50. William Briggs, Toronto, Publisher.

Kate Jordan has a reputation for writing stories of a rather unusual type. Her latest effort, "Against the Winds," is no exception to the rule. It is a novel of great strength, and of a powerful analytical type. The heroine, Naomi Tway, lives with her mother in a dingy, dirty house in Lanetown. Full of youth and beauty, her soul cries out for congenial companionship and love, but neither come her way until by accident she meets Andy Caren, who thereafter takes a large part in her life. Her spirit responds to his effervescent good nature, but she looks on him, not as a lover, but as one who can help her to reach better things. The discovery that her mother is engaged in a revolting business compels her to leave home, and she goes to New York to work. After a hard struggle she falls ill, but before losing consciousness, she sends for Andy, who provides every comfort for her, and on her recovery she marries him. Thus closes the first episode.

The married life is all happiness for a time, until she makes the discovery that her husband, whom she has married not so much for love as for the reason that she was helpless in a strange world, is a habitual drunkard, who has taken position because of his violent drinking spells. Naomi intends to leave him, but changes her mind after she realizes his need for a strengthening influence. But he does not improve, and Naomi lives a miserable, lonely life until Gilbert Hampton, a young millionaire, meets her in her husband's home town, where they have gone in order to cheapen their cost of living.

This meeting changed all things for her. The young Gilbert, although he has had affairs with many women, falls under her spell, and determines to make her his mistress. They meet many times, but Naomi has high ideals and resists his pleading, and remains true to her husband, despite although he was. But one day, after he has had a drinking spell, she

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finds him in the house with two of his former girl friends. That is the last straw, and she meets Gilbert and confesses to him that she loves him. But her idealism wins out in the fight for the fulfillment of his desires, and she keeps him at arm's length. Finally she gives in, and promises to go away with him to Italy, where he will make her his wife after the necessary arrangements have been made. But the purity of Naomi's soul has touched the hardened Gilbert, and he backs out of the bargain and leaves her unattended, although she pleads with him to take her. Her heart seems broken when he goes, but when he sends her a tremendous sum of money with which to make herself comfortable, she sees things as they really were.

Her husband goes from bad to worse, and she is on the point of leaving him when she finds out that he is doomed to an early death from cancer. Then she clings to him, and using the money sent her by Gilbert who is at the front in the French army, she takes Andy off to a seaside town, where he makes a fight for life and cures himself of the drink habit. All the while the heart of Naomi is longing for the lover overseas, but she does her duty as a wife until the end. The story finishes with a last message to Gilbert from her, a message which leaves the reader with the hope that after the dread disease has ended the life of her husband, the martyred Naomi may find happiness in the love of Gilbert, who has been cleansed by the fire of war of all his former wrong ideas.

This is a novel full of the dramatic qualities which appeal to the majority of the book reading public. The sufferings of Naomi, and her final triumph, are described in vivid, terse language, and the whole story is invested with a quality of romance and suspense that carry the reader on from page to page in irresistible fashion.

THE WAR STORY OF THE C.A.M.C. 1914-1915

By Col. J. G. Adami, M.D., F.R.S., C.A.M.C. 286 Pages. Price \$1.50. The Mussion Book Company, Toronto, Publishers.

The work of the fighting units of the Canadian army on the field has been told in many volumes, but it has remained for Col. Adami to write something of a semi-official history of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. There is a feeling that this book has been published as a sort of reply to Col. Bruce's book "Politics and the C.A.M.C.," but as one goes on and finds that it was commenced during the summer of 1918, and is devoted more to the actual work of the hospital units than to their administration, it is seen that there was no such intention in the mind of the author.

The opening chapters give a splendid historical sketch of the beginnings and rise of the Canadian Medical Forces, from the time of the Riel Rebellion up to the call to arms at the

beginning of the great war. This is of great interest to Canadians and the pity is that more space could not be devoted to this part of the story. But one travels on until the story is told of the mobilization of the field ambulance units and the hospitals in 1914 and the subsequent part they played in the early stages of the war. The work of the corps at Valcartier, and at Salisbury is detailed in an interesting fashion, and then the scene changes to the bloody battlefields of Ypres, where the first Canadian V.C. was won by Captain Seringer, the medical officer of the 14th Canadian Battalion for his splendidly heroic efforts to bring in all the wounded. From that time on the history of the medical corps of Canada is full of heroic, and some thrilling stories are told in vivid language, which helps the reader to visualize the scenes which occurred in tending to the wounded men at Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy. Many C.A.M.C. officers come in for special mention, notable amongst them being Kingston's one notable soldier, Brig-Gen. A. E. Ross, C.M.G.

Passing from the work of the units whose duty it was to collect the wounded on the field, the author tells of the work of the medical units of the first Canadian hospitals to be founded overseas, tasks which were performed with great devotion to duty and with magnificent results for the wounded men who passed through the hospitals. In fact, the story gives a very fine description of the treatment of the wounded from the time they were picked up on the field of battle until they were discharged from hospital as recovered or sent back to Canada as invalids.

In the words of the author, "This is not the full history of the C.A.M.C., with all documents provided and every move of every unit carefully traced and recorded. Rather it is, to employ Lord Beaverbrook's phrase, a 'contemporary history,' the first object of which is to recall to those interested the good work accomplished by the Army Medical Service, before through the lapse of time their interest has been dulled." After reading this volume, one feels that the author has written such a history as will ensure that their work will never be forgotten so long as the English tongue exists. This is only the first volume of what promises to be an interesting, a thrilling and very valuable story, and the others will certainly be awaited with much eagerness and interest.

RAINBOW VALLEY

By J. M. Montgomery. 341 Pages. Price \$1.60. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, Publishers.

Here we have back with us the irrepressible "Anne," the lovable heroine of half a dozen Montgomery books. Now settled down with her husband, and with six children as lovable as herself, she takes a hand in the destinies of her friends of Four

Winds Harbour, and the story which winds itself around these friends is every bit as attractive and pleasant as the former works which tell of the life of Anne Shirley.

The chief characters in the story are the children of Anne, and those of Rev. John Meredith, the widowed Presbyterian minister of the district. The children of the minister, deprived of a mother's love and care, and severely noticed by their studious and pre-occupied father, are constantly doing things which incur the horror and indignation of his parishioners, although their misdeeds are only the pranks of children without a strong guiding hand. Mary Vance, an orphan home girl, comes into the story dramatically, and remains one of the leading characters, and through her outspoken advice and frequent lectures, she does much to set the manse children right. The romance of the story centres around the minister, a brilliant, but studious man, who is so grief-stricken at the loss of his wife that he never thinks of his responsibilities to his children, and scorns all suggestions that he should re-marry. But his views undergo a change when he meets Rosemary West, a woman of the same type, who is so grief-stricken at the appointment all comes well, and he marries her, to the great delight of the children, who love their step-

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Allow the profuse diarrhoea, the vomiting and purging to continue for a day or two and you will become weak and prostrated. Just as soon as the bowels become loosened up, get a bottle of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry and check these unnatural movements, and thus prevent the system from becoming weakened.

Mrs. E. J. Althea, wife of the well-known wholesale and retail Fish Dealer, 44 Hill St., Amherst, N.S., writes: "I have four children, the oldest being eight years old. Every summer they were troubled with Summer Complaint. Doctors' prescriptions did not seem to help them any. One day a friend asked me to use Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. I at once got a bottle, and to my surprise and wonder, I soon saw a change in them. I now keep a bottle of it in the house all the time, and will recommend it to any mother."

"Dr. Fowler's" is 35c. a bottle. Get the original which has been put up for the past 74 years by The T. Millburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

mother and have no fear that she will be the cruel person described by Mary Vance.

This is a novel which is full of splendid wholesomeness, a delectable humour and pure romance. The six young children of Anne Blythe, and their four young neighbours of the manse are just the sort of loving incorrigibles that keep the town agog at their mischief while it secretly gloats over their irresistible natures.

Miss Cornelia (now Mrs. Marshall Elliott) of previous acquaintance is still as quaint, humorous and plain-speaking, and as much interested in the doings of everybody in the community. John Meredith, with his family presents just such a problem as Miss Cornelia likes to handle, and she helps toward the correct solution. In regard to this story, it only remains to be said that it is typically a Montgomery book. Those who have read the others will understand what that means, and those who have not could not do better than get acquainted.

THE BOMBING OF BRUGES

By Captain Paul Bowsher, D.F.C., R.A.F., 81 Pages. Price \$1.50. Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, Publishers.

Another notable war poet has put before the public a book of war verse that is worth while in "The Bombing of Bruges," by Captain Paul Bowsher, an aviator who served with much distinction in the Royal Air Force. His verse is all of the air, full of the emotions which flooded his mind as he soared above the clouds, bent on missions of death and destruction, and it is remarkable for its splendid thoughts and ideals. His descriptive poems never descend to the level of mere narrative. The title poem, "The Bombing of Bruges," while it is descriptive of a night raid on the docks and railway stations of that city, tells not of the incidents which befell the raiders on their dangerous task, but of the thought that passed through their minds as they neared the city, as they dropped their missiles of death and then made their way homewards through the hail of bursting shrapnel.

"The Sacrifice" is a notable effort, a poem expressing the author's emotions as he thinks of those who have fallen victim to his prowess as an aviator, and of the women who wait at home for those who will never return. Of the shorter poems, all have beauty and high sentiment in them, although the heroic in the lives of the fighting airmen is felt between the lines.

"The Stars," one of the shorter poems, is typical of the poet's style. "Before I climb above the shadowed land Borne on my winged ship, I often gaze Upon the dim blue sky whose shadowy ways Are strewn with stars like flowers. Ah! how grand Seems all that mighty host! With ready hand Orion holds his sword, which is ablaze With twinkling gems, and in that glittering maze I love to see the mighty warrior stand. I feel the stars protect me as they fly

Upon my lonely voyage through the night. Dear quiet guardians of the midnight sky, Which gaze upon the world with eyes of light! With you above my head all will be well. For somewhere your radiance God must dwell."

"As a more sublime effort of poetic expression, his "Night Hymn," is also worthy of quotation. It was written in the air sixty miles beyond the German lines.

"Above the hostile lands I fly, And know, O Lord, that Thou art nigh. And with thy ever-loving care Dost bear me safely through the air.

Thou madest the twinkling Polar star, Which guides me homewards from afar; And Thou hast made my greatest boon, The radiant visage of the moon.

And if I did not love Thee, Lord, I could not sit here reassured With level mind, and soul at ease, Amidst the cool, refreshing breeze."

These are only two of the gems with which this little volume is filled. The future work of this officer, who, happily, still survives, will decide whether or not he is to take the place of some of those who paid the supreme sacrifice and impoverished the world of its poetic geniuses. From the work published in this book, it is quite likely that he will.

Biographies.

L. M. Montgomery, Prince Edward Island, Canada's "Million Acre Farm," comes one of the best known of Canadian authors, L. M. Montgomery (who in 1911 became Mrs. Rev. Ewan MacDonald of Leaskdale, Ontario). Lucy Maud Montgomery was born at Clifton, P.E.I., where her father, Hugh John Montgomery, a son of Senator Montgomery, was a merchant.

Owing to the death of her mother when she was only a few months old, she was brought up by her grand-parents at Cavendish, P.E.I. Her education was completed in the Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, and the Dalhousie College, Halifax. She taught school for a few years. It was while at the Prince of Wales College that her first work was published—a poem—in an American magazine, although she says, "As far back as my memory runs I was writing stories and verse for my own amusement." Her first "Anne" book grew out of a request for a serial for a Sunday School weekly. It was based on an entry on an old note book, "Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy; a girl's sent to them." The proposed serial grew to a book, and from that arose a whole series of "Anne" books. In "Anne's House of Dreams," comes the happy ending of the romance between Anne and Gilbert Blythe, which began on the day when she cracked a slate over his head at the country school, and continued through their

careers at college. Gilbert becomes the doctor of a sea-coast community and is involved in many of the community happenings.

President Navis of the Detroit American League club has refused to be a party to the attempt to oust Ban Johnson from the Presidency of the American League.

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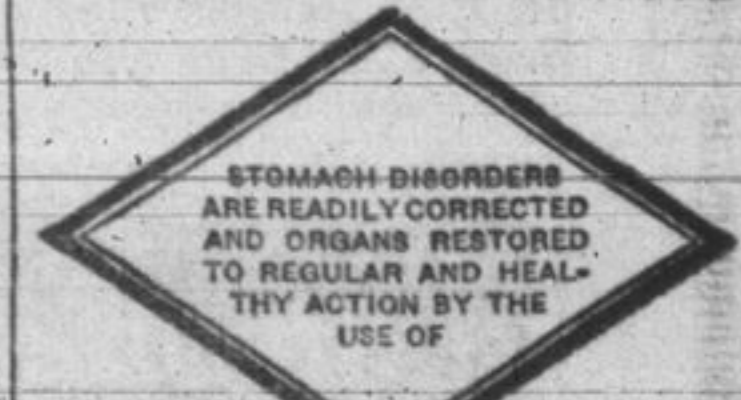
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