

BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

(Continued from Page 17) that is the English poor man's notion of the way to spend the one great festival of the year. You may not agree with him. You may detest plum pudding and loathe meeting your family. You may prefer to spend Christmas Day skiing in Switzerland, or dining at the Metropole, Brighton, but don't make the mis-



DOUGLAS DURKIN, Author of "The Heart of Cherry McEain."

take of supposing that Charles Dickens invented the English Christmas. It would be as rational to suppose that he invented England. From "Charles Dickens," by Sidney Dark.

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The Battle Nobody Saw, by Byron H. Stauffer. Most people in Canada know the author as a clever story-teller, preacher and writer. He is presented here in most of his phases, and the book is chock full of the witty turn and epigrammatic phrase for which he is noted. Price, \$1.50.

The New Outlook, by W. P. Livingston. Men and women are groping after a clearer faith in view of the unsettlement caused by the war.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE. By Albert Durant Watson.

Thy peace, O God, our hearts implore! No armistice red-shot with gore; No list of steel with threat fear-clad, But peace that earth has never had With love sun-gilding every shore.

We spurn all peace that dares ignore Thy justice. Down the battle-roar, The cry rings clear, though stern and sad; Thy Peace, O God!

We crave no peace that has a score Of tyrannies deep at its core; No wealth and squalor, money-mad, But peace that makes the whole world glad— Thy Peace, O God!

Here, in this book, is the response to the need.

War Books. British Campaign in France and Flanders, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The last two volumes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's history of the war are now ready. Price, \$2.00.

Eastern Nights and Fights, by Alan Bott. This is the story which appeared in the Whig as a serial recently. Price, \$1.50.

Rough Talks of a Padre, by G. A. Studdert Kennedy, M.C., C.F. This book consists of a series of lectures delivered to officers and men of the C.F.F. The author deals with the moral aspects of the British soldier and the British nation, and suggests remedies. Price, \$1.50.

Soldier Hearts of France, edited by Agnes Maule Machar. This is a carefully selected volume of most interesting translations of letters written by the noble young soldiers of France. The letters are full of interest and intrinsic charm, and reveal the wonderful personalities of the French soldiers. Price, \$1.50.

Fiction. Arrow of Gold, by Joseph Conrad.

This is a book of unusual dramatic power, and is one of this brilliant author's best efforts. Price, \$1.75.

A Woman's Woman, by Nalbro Bartley. A book which gives in review the social history of a representative family from the early eighties to the present day. Price, \$1.75.

The Branding Iron, by Katherine N. Burt. One of the finest western stories ever written. Price, \$1.65.

The Builders, by Ellen Glasgow. "The Builders" is a picture of



W. A. FRASER Author of "Bulldog Carney," "Thoroughbreds," etc.

American home life during the past three years, dealing in part with the political problems arising out of the war. Price, \$1.50.

Also the following novels, which have previously been reviewed in the Whig: Chalmers Comes Back, by W. J. Dawson. Drowned Gold, by Roy Norton. The Gay-Dombey, by Sir Harry Johnston.

The Great House, by Stanley Weyman. Jimmy the Carrier, by Israel Zangwill. The Lamp in the Desert, by Ethel Dell. Mary Oliver, by Max Sinclair. Rainbow Valley, by L. M. Montgomery. Our House, by Henry S. Canby. Muff, by "Sapper."

yes, its weight in his suitcase, its clumsy balance in his hand. Choose, if possible, something approaching the pocket size; there are thousands of good things at your service.

As regards bidding, except for a standard book, of which several editions are available, we have, of course, to take it as we find it. One caution may be borne in mind, however; avoid glaring colours; a neutral, inoffensive shade is preferable, so that the book may harmonize with any ordinary scheme of decoration.

Consider, too, the occasion of the gift. For weddings and Christmas it is fairly easy to choose something appropriate. For weddings, popular classics and standard authors are always safe, providing you remember the literary tastes of the bride. For Christmas a book need not of course be "Christmassy"; you need only know your friend's tastes and his exciting library to pick up something acceptable. Parting gifts, however, require more thought. Only an intimate sympathy of taste, and a wide knowledge of the best in literature, will enable you to find something that symbolizes the best in your friendship.

Character in Fiction.

One of the most important features of any work of fiction is character delineation. The skilful writer creates living persons, and these are what the readers are interested in. But the complexity of the plot, the succession of incident, often draws the reader's attention away from the personality of the characters. If the reader hopes to become personally acquainted with the most out of the story and then get the most out of the book, he or she must cultivate the habit of careful and observant reading. For the old style of detail pen-portraiture and lengthy character analysis has gone out of fashion, and the present-day novelist reveals the individuality of his characters largely by their words and actions.

Indeed, the present-day reader has little patience with the writer who attempts to buttonhole him off to a corner, listen to a subtle analysis of the reasons why so-and-so did such-and-such, or what the heroine or hero would be likely to do under certain conditions. Watch, then, the actions of the characters in a novel. The shrug of the shoulder, the curl of a lip, the click of the teeth, the lifting of the eyebrows, mean more as a picture of character than pages of explanation as to the cause. Character in fiction is revealed by what persons say, by what they do, and by what others say of them.

Canada's Hundred Days. "August 8th, 1918, was the black day of Germany in the history of the war," says Ludendorff in his Apologia. In its official report of that crushing defeat to the German arms before Amiens, the German general staff said, "We were up against the elite of the French army and the celebrated Canadian Corps."

The battle of Amiens, which first broke the enemy line on the western front, was strategically and tactically a Canadian corps battle. How great was its part is brought out by J. F. B. Livesay in his book, "Canada's Hundred Days," just published by Thomas Allen, of Toronto. The author was present throughout these days of the war as a correspondent for the Canadian Press. "The breaking of the Hindenburg Line at Cambrai," says the London Times war correspondent, "was the biggest and most decisive victory that a British army ever won on the continent since the days of Cressy."

This great victory, which finally crushed enemy hopes of re-establishing a static defensive on the western front, was almost entirely a Canadian corps battle. This is clearly brought out in Mr. Livesay's book, and it shows why the King of the Belgians said at Mons, "There is no finer corps in Europe than the Canadian Corps."

The Writing of Poems. The writing of poems should be considered as natural and simple as the writing of letters. Children should make up poems without the slightest embarrassment, and the time spent in school in writing their own poems would be better spent than that consumed in learning arithmetic. Poetry is the most democratic of the arts, because no money is needed for long special training in learning how to compose it. It is the best antidote for the morbid repression that many of us have inherited from generations of Puritan ancestors. When everybody writes his own poems two-thirds of the misery of the world will flow away singing, like ice-locked rivers when the spring sets in.—Sara Teasdale.

On Giving Books.

It is a commonplace saying that "a book makes the best present" but observation shows that books are rarely given with any discrimination. One would suppose that Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" would strike even an illiterate person as not an ideal wedding present; yet, it has been given as such, and seriously too. If you wish your gift to be valued, choose something of permanent interest. A topical book on some transient question will only be a later embarrassment; one hesitates to discard a gift, yet a dead book is an eyesore in a private library.

Never give a third rate novel that you would not buy for your own reading; such a gift is an insult to your friend. To give books successfully, two things are necessary; first, a knowledge of the recipient's tastes, and existing library second, a knowledge of the book or author that you choose. The next consideration is cost, and herein lies a great advantage of using books as gifts. We can not only spend any sum from twenty-five cents to as many dollars, but we need not limit ourselves to one book. Having decided to spend, say, five dollars on a book present, it is quite unintelligent to limit our selection to books of that precise value. For such a sum one can have, something new and something old, something grave and something gay, making up a group of books of various kinds that could not fall to interest. Bulk, too, is an important question. A clumsy, padded cumbersome book of the old-fashioned type will impress the recipient favorably or otherwise according to his intelligence. As time goes on, however, the least discerning man will begin to hate a too bulky book; he will begrudge its space on the shelf.

WINTER ELMS. By Albert Durant Watson. Where lines of subtle harmony, In silent music fall, The old elms stand in majesty Leaf bare and grey and tall. The curving of each lofty arch Is bent to nature's theme, In symmetry whose graces march Like a triumphant dream. The earthward branches slenderly Droop down the misty air, As if caressing tenderly The wild flowers sleeping there. The breeze is still—you scarce hear Its breath upon your face, Yet down its stream the tender drip float. Their witcheries of grace, O spirit of the patient trees! I feel your restful legs too; In all the seven-foot unities, I am a part with you.

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THE BLACK DROP. By Alice Brown. "He had a black drop in his blood; God knows where he got it!" This is the keynote of Miss Brown's new story. Price, \$2.00.

THE SEA BRIDE. Ben Ames Williams' New Sea Story. A story of the stirring events that took place on a whaling voyage, by the author of "All the Brothers Were Valiant." Price, \$1.75 net.

The High Water-Mark in worth-while fiction this year indisputably is

MARY OLIVER

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Just picture your friend in an easy chair before the fire with a book—a book of your choosing, giving entertainment and pleasure. To enable you to choose the right one we have listed some of the best books we have ever offered, and feel sure that a selection from this list will enable you to give Christmas gifts that will be more than appreciated.

Girl of the New Day - \$1.75

Ellen M. Knox, Principal Haverhill College. You cannot turn the clock back. The girl of to-day must face opportunities that her mother never dreamed of, and that her eldest sister did not realize. Out of the ripe experience of many years as Principal of a Girls' College and the intimate acquaintance of hundreds, not to say thousands of girls, Miss Knox presents the chances for the girl of to-day. Intensely practical, soundly Christian, her book gives a vision of the ROMANCE OF LIFE, which beckons the girl of the new day.

Canadian Songs and Their Singers - \$1.50

Edward E. Caswell. This book gives Canadian poets in autobiography and portrait. It is an expansion of an earlier booklet and contains 75 portraits and another illustration with facsimiles of poems in the hands of their authors by 74 Canadian writers. The well-known favorite "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" is among the well-chosen number. This hymn enjoyed a wonderful popularity among our Canadian soldiers and in times of peace it will continue to be a favorite with men, women and little children. Included also are those famous lines "In Flanders Fields" that will never die. These lines, so beautiful in sentiment and so inspiring in theme, will rival Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address in historical value, and will be quoted with even greater frequency.

Leaves in the Wind - \$1.25

Rev. D. A. Casey, Editor of Canadian Freeman. "More convincing than Synge and Lady Gregory, perhaps because the poet knows better and sympathizes more deeply with the people of whom he writes"—Joyce Kilmer in "The Literary Digest." Many chords are touched to which the heart strongly vibrates; tender chords of Erin's love and sorrow; chords of adoration and homage that lift the soul to the very Throne of the Most High.

Bulldog Carney - \$1.75

W. A. Frazer. A wonderful story of romance and adventure in the great Canadian West. A man's book—a woman's book—BULLDOG CARNEY will live as one of the finest pieces of character drawing that has ever been done in Canada or any other country. With the genius of a master Frazer has given us some marvelous convincing realism. You shiver when you read of the blizzard; mentally you pay tribute to God when you get Frazer's splashes of mountain gorgeousness; you fall in love with Bulldog Carney, despite the fact that you discover in him the keen sense of honor that causes him to stake his life for the good name of a woman.

Joan at Halfway - \$1.50

Grace McLeod Rogers. Joan—the Canadian Sunshine Girl—dispelled the gloom of Halfway, mellowed the crabbed nature of a rheumatic uncle, broke down the formality of undemonstrative aunts and restored goodwill to the warring members of the Wisdom family.

Rainbow Valley - \$1.60

L. M. Montgomery. This well-known writer grips your attention from the first page. Staged in her native Prince Edward Island, this novel tells the simple yet sometimes dramatic story of men and women amid prosaic everyday scenes. The six children of Ann Blythe (of Anne of Green Gables fame) and their four young neighbors of the Manses are just the sort of lovable incorrigibles that keep a town agog at their irresistible mischief.

Burgess Bird Book for Children - \$2.50

Thornton W. Burgess. "Nothing that will come out in the way of books for children will be any more worthwhile than 'The Burgess Bird Book for Children.'" Mr. Burgess has many books to his credit, but this is the best of anything he has done, and it will undoubtedly receive the warmest kind of a welcome.

Sky Pilot in No Man's Land - \$1.50

Ralph Connor. Ralph Connor is one of the most universally beloved authors of to-day, because his romances of the Great Northwest, THE SKY PILOT, THE MAJOR, and BLACK BUCK have all held before us those stirring and ennobling qualities of courage and tenderness that move the hearts of thousands of readers. In this book he has poured out his own personal experience. Here is a fine romance, finely conceived and it leaves you with a stouter heart. Love, service and romance are its watchwords.

Dangerous Days - \$1.50

Mary Roberts Rinehart. What do men want any way? Mrs. Haverford asked. Audrey replied: "They want different things at different ages." Was she right? This book is a brilliant study of married life, written by America's foremost woman novelist. It is convincing and moving because it pictures the hearts and minds of men and women in their social and domestic relations.

Helena - \$1.75

Mrs. Humphrey Ward. An after-the-war romance, Helena is an impetuous girl whose natural wildness has been developed by war-time activities. Placed under the guardianship of Lord Huntingford, her will clashes with his until she finds she has fallen in love with him.

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