

Books And Their Authors

RECREATION.

By Viscount Grey of Fallodon. Thomas Allen, Toronto. Price \$1.45.

This book is adapted from an address of the same title which was delivered by Viscount Grey at the Harvard Union on December 8th, 1919. Everyone is well acquainted with the work and achievements of this man, who is probably the greatest diplomat ever in the service of Great Britain. In this address the popular *old* gave a sketch of his idea of recreation and the various mediums through which it may be obtained. He speaks of sport, games, gardening and many other pastimes, but maintains that books are the greatest and most satisfactory means of recreation. Next to books he is personally most fond of the study and observation of fly-fishing. Viscount Grey gives quite a long account of his friendly acquaintance with the late Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and of that gentleman's favorite recreations. The book is a recreation in itself.

RHYMES OF A HOMESTEADER.

By Elliott C. Lincoln. Thomas Allen, Toronto. Price \$1.65.

Some people have no liking for poetry and pass every book of poems which comes in their path without even turning the covers. It is fortunate, however, that there is still among general readers a class which never loses an opportunity to read good poetry.

In this collection of forty or fifty poems by Elliott C. Lincoln we find the type of verse which leaves a good impression. The phraseology is simple and in some places delightfully colloquial. As an example read this quotation from "Temptation"—

"They work me every minute I kin spare—
I've been a sort of private Wild West show—
But as a team mate in the marriage yoke
I'm jest a bow-legged, leather-colored joke."

This sounds like a man with a grouch, but in reality is the talk of a Western philosopher. The book is brimful of these quaint couplets. It gives one of the best descriptions of the typical homesteader, one of the

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best glimpses at his real character, ever written.

LE PETIT NORD, THE ANNALS OF A LABRADOR HARBOUR.

By Ann Grenfell and Katie Spalding. Thomas Allen, Toronto. Price \$1.45.

With an introduction by Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, who illustrates the story with his own sketches, comes this interesting and entertaining story of that land of which we hear and know so little, Labrador. The book is just a description of life in a harbor on the coast of that northern country, telling of the inhabitants and their ways in a way which is at once simple and all-embracing. The writers make no attempt to set up Labrador as the only country worth while living in, but, as Dr. Grenfell says in his introduction, it has been their home for a quarter of a century and they do not think it is such a bad home either. The book gives the reader a valuable store of knowledge of that country where:

"The squat-legged Eskimo
Waddies in the ice and snow,
And the playful polar bear
Nips the hunter unaware;
Where the air is kind of pure,
And the snow crop's pretty sure."

ONLY BY THE ABOLITION OF NEUTRALITY CAN WAR BE QUICKLY AND FOREVER PREVENTED.

By Luigi Carnovale. Italian-American Publishing Company, Chicago.

This little book by the author of "Why Italy Entered the Great War" and many other Italian-American books is intended as a follow-up or sequel to his previous book which is quoted above. At the time of the publication of the former, some of the author's ideas on neutrality were not as well accepted by the readers as he might have wished. The reason for this, he claims, was the fact that the United States had not yet entered the war and was therefore unimpassioned. Now, when the war is long over, he offers his ideas once more in a shorter form, in the hope that they will meet with greater consideration.

Carnovale does not carry the idea as far, nor to such a meaning, as the title would lead one to believe at first glance. He does not wish to keep the world at war all the time but his aim, rather, is to ensure world peace. To do this he maintains that the primary methods of making nations keep the peace must be such that fear of them will restrain any country with too thin a skin or too high ambitions from provoking useless bloodshed.

Valuable New Work at the Public Library.

A new literary work has just been received at the Public Library which promises to become valuable to readers, both as an interesting record and as a reliable fund of information for reference purposes. It is the National Biographical Dictionary, which comes in twenty-six volumes and contains authoritative biographies of outstanding figures in the history of the British Empire, from the time of the semi-mythical kings of Ancient Britain until the present. The editors of this work, which has taken years to compile, are Leslie Stephen and Sidney Lee. It is published by Smith, Elder & Co., London, England.

Biographies of Well-known Authors.

HOW O. HENRY WON SUCCESS AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE. In Greensboro, North Carolina, on Sept. 11, 1862, there was born a boy who grew up to be called "actually that rare bird of which we so often hear false reports—a born story teller."

Sometimes compared with Francois Villon, Dickens, De Maupassant, Mark Twain and others of the elect, many a critic has ended, as does Forman: "It is idle to compare O. Henry with anybody. No talent could be more original or more delightful. The combination of technical excellence with whimsical sparkling wit, abundant humor and a fertile invention is so rare that the reader is content without comparisons." The "freshness and originality amounting to genius" which professional jaded critics as well as casual readers find in O. Henry's stories, did not come, however, by accident. It seems likely they were not born with him. For, contrary to the belief of

many who knew little about O. Henry, he worked hard for years to win the success that came to him.

Indeed, during the five years he spent as a clerk in his uncle's drug store in Greensboro, no one thought of plain Will Porter as a budding author. Almost everyone prophesied that he would become a cartoonist, for he was forever catching the odd, the ludicrous, the distinctive in pencil sketches which often were the delight of the town.

Never very strong, and with the shadow of consumption upon some of his ancestors, the young man eagerly accepted the opportunity to go into Texas and work on a ranch for two years. The wife of the ranch owner said "his thirst for knowledge was unquenchable." Webster's "Unabridged Dictionary" was his constant companion. "I carried it around with me for two years," O. Henry said, "while herding sheep for Dick Hall."

But even here O. Henry's fame was that of an artist in pencil, for Joe Dixon, who had written a book and wanted someone who knew the life of the rancher to illustrate it, sought him for the purpose. "Will," Dixon writes that he said to him one day, "why don't you try your hand at writing for the magazines?" But O. Henry had no confidence in himself and destroyed his stories as fast as he wrote them. "Well, all right," Dixon begged, "try your hand at newspaper work." But he couldn't see it, and went on writing and destroying.

The boy was but 20 then, yet he was striving to learn to write, and he possessed enough judgment not to accept the plaudits of even good friends, but to rely upon his own critical faculty to tell him whether or not he had hit the mark for which he was aiming. In later years he worked on a newspaper, got out a sheet of his own, then was married and turned to banking. Yet all the time he wrote, perfecting his product.

Through the years that followed, including those when his wife died and other great personal troubles came to him, O. Henry worked hard with his pen. At last dire necessity drove him to send some of his stories to meet their fate. It is said that O. Henry was 35 years old when his first short story was accepted, paid for and published.

But it was in New York city—to which he went at the suggestion of a magazine editor in 1902, that O. Henry "found himself." To his second wife he said when he was trying to win back health in Asheville, "I could look at these mountains a hundred years and never get an idea, but just one block downtown and I catch a sentence, see something in a face—and I've got my story."

And so O. Henry returned to the city and to work. But he had not recuperated as much as he had thought. He died in New York city on June 5, 1910, at the age of 48.

Notes of Interest to Booklovers.

Ida Tarbell, who long ago established her reputation as an authority on the personality and career of Abraham Lincoln, has written a companion volume to her little book "He Knew Lincoln," which, published several years ago, has been one of the most popular of the smaller accounts, see something in a face—and I've got my story."

MOTHER!

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HEART STRINGS

By Juanita Hamel



You have seen, no doubt, a fair, ambitious maiden draw with gracefulness and ease the bow across a sweet toned violin, and you have heard it answer to her skill—her will—with sad and melancholy strains or lilting sounds as light and airy and as glad as the froth on the waves of the summer sea. Some maids are that way with the hearts of men. They play upon the strings of the human heart as easily as she who has studied, plays upon her violin, for they have studied—there to sound the melody of their own sweet will.

he grows to manhood in a city in New Jersey. The author is given as

A collection of abridged novels edited by Edwin A. Grosier, editor of the Boston Post, is being prepared for early publication by the Harpers. It will be in four volumes under the general title, "One Hundred Best Novels Condensed," and will include among the authors represented Dickens, Tolstol, Defoe, Stenckiewicz, Blasco, Ibanez, Booth Tarkington,

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This is the statement of Mr. Johannes Reinson, a well-known resident here. "When he started to take them," Mr. Reinson continues, "there was not much hope of him. Soon after starting to take the Dodd's Medicines he began to improve in health and now he is well."

He advises everybody who has shaking or pain in the heart to use Dodd's Kidney Pills and Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets.

The Dodd's Medicines act on the two essentials to good health. The Tablets help to digest the food and produce good blood. The Pills act on the kidneys healing and strengthening them, thus ensuring that the blood is kept free from impurities. For the work of healthy kidneys is to strain all impurities out of the blood.

Ask your neighbors if Dodd's Kidney Pills do not heal and strengthen the kidneys.

Rupert Hughes and Margaret Deland. The condensations have been written by various literary men.

"The Menace of Spiritualism" is the title of a book with which Elliot O'Donnell joins the controversy over this much debated subject. His work, which the Stokes Company have in train for early publication, is said to look at the subject from every angle and to protest vigorously against the cult as being taught and spread by the modern professional medium. It has a foreword by Father Bernard Vaughan.

Mary Heaton Vorse, whose "The Prestons" won success because of its faithful and humorous portrayal of average American home life, has written another novel, "Growing Up," in much the same vein but going a little deeper into the serious side of the relations between parents and children, which Boni & Liveright will publish in April.

Harper & Brothers will soon have ready "Alsace in Rust and Gold," a book of travel impression by Edith O'Shaughnessy, who was in Alsace just before the armistice was signed, and records the stirring events of that time against a background of old traditions that have preserved the spirit of the people and of the history of the region.

Charlotte Kellogg, whose biography of Cardinal Mercier was recently published, has just sailed for Europe to engage in relief work in Poland. She will stop in Brussels to present in person a copy of her book to the Belgian primate. Mrs. Kellogg knew Cardinal Mercier personally during her work in Belgium for the Food Commission, in which she was associated with her husband, Vernon Kellogg. After the commission had to leave Belgium she wrote a small volume on the work done by the Belgian women for the relief of their people.

A New contribution to the practical

application of psychology to life has been made in "Measure Your Mind," which Doubleday, Page & Co. will publish early in April. It has been written by Professor M. R. Trabue of Teachers College, Columbia University, an authority upon psychology, and Frank Parker Stockbridge, who make an exposition of the newly developed science of testing mental capacity as distinguished from acquired knowledge, and include also a complete set of tests, with instructions for giving them.

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MUTT AND JEFF—There are times when a little information is sufficient.



—BY BUD FISHER