

THE EDITOR RECOMMENDS—

The Comfortable Church

ALL these novels about easeful clergyman with bread and butter souls are very well; but to us in America, it seems to me, they come a trifle late. Our church is at the moment so militant, torn within itself and without, that I fear the Canon Chamberlains would have small chance of many quiet afternoon teas. However, "A Cure of Souls" (Macmillan) is deeper than portraiture of the clergy. It is a painfully clever picture of negative selfishness the world over. Here is a genial, quiet gentleman who is fond of the world but does not wish to be disturbed by it. If he had been a Harold Bell Wright character he would have found his soul; but he is not a figure of struggle or bravado. He resists all attempts to break through his wall of peace. He is successfully quiet and quietly successful. At the close of the story he is even more peaceful than at the beginning, and has found a comfortably peaceful wife. May Sinclair writes these days with almost a vicious pen under her exterior of sparse paragraphs. A most uncomfortable book, this, all in all; but an exceedingly clever one!