

SPANISH AND ENGLISH CONVERSATION Books
I, II, by Aida Edmonds Pinney: Boston.
Ginn and Company. 60 cents and 65 cents.

Each of these little books is in two parts, the first in Spanish the second in English, and can thus be used by students of either language. The aim, which seems with this method to be easily attainable, is to give the student a speaking knowledge of the language. Each part has first a chapter giving the simple rules of pronunciation which anyone may easily master, and then by means of conver-

sations, questions on the verbs and on every day topics, and reading from simple stories and folk tales, the student is made familiar with the vocabulary in ordinary use. The second book is more advanced, but a preliminary chapter on pronunciation is also given, and selections from well known authors. With one or two lessons in pronunciation from a good teacher the student of languages might master the contents of these little books alone.

UNDER SUNNY SKIES (Youth's Companion Series) Ginn and Company, Boston. Illustrated. 25 cents.

This little reading book has descriptions of Spanish cities from the pen of Louise Chandler Moulton, of the chestnut farms in the Appenines of Italy, of Tuscany, of the Macaroni Country and Venice, of the people and customs of Greece and Turkey, Northern Africa, Hungary and Syria, all by writers of note for young people and accompanied by good illustrations.

RANSOM'S FOLLY By Richard Harding Davis. With Illustrations by Frederic Remington, Walter Appleton Clark, Howard Chandler Christy, E. M. Ashe and F. Dorr Steele. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1902. Pp. 345. \$1.50.

A volume of short stories by Mr. Davis is sure of a welcome, and the present volume has its own special claim upon its readers, for Mr. Davis is at his best in at least two of the stories, the delightful *Bar Sinister*, which may almost take its place beside *Ouida's Dog of Flanders*, though lacking the tragic element of that inimitable story, and the tale which gives the title to the volume. This is also in Mr. Davis's happiest vein,—in *one* of his happiest veins, we may say, since it is in every respect tuned to a different key from the story of the bright little brave little dog, who though sired by Regent Royal the champion of champions, has for his mother only a little black and tan street dog, to whom his heart is ever true, and for whom in her afflicted old age of worrying street dogs and tin-can-armed street urchins, he wins a luxurious and peaceful home while he himself goes "hurrying around the country to the beach-shores; winning money and cups for Nolan, and taking blue ribbons away from father." In another key, but equally Mr. Davis's own, is the tale of the devil-may-care young army officer, who holds up the stage with a pair of shears, wins the disreputable post-exchange keeper to honor and honesty.

and loyalty loves and marries the post-exchange keeper's good and sensible daughter. The other stories in the volume, *A Derelict*, *La Lettre d'Amour*, and *In the Fog*, have the interest of all Mr. Davis's stories, with most of those characteristics which in general mark Mr. Davis's writings.

THE COURAGE OF CONVICTION by T. R. Sullivan. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.

This novel deals with the claims of art as against those of money getting and the search for wealth, overriding all other interests, and suppressing the ennobling ideals which art inspires. Of two artists one has the courage of his conviction, and becomes famous because of the single aim, while his friend, a composer, after a successful venture throws up his chances to become a mere automaton, the confidential clerk of a self-made, hard headed wall street king. This in order to be able to marry a girl who admires his artistic qualities, not those of the successful money-maker. The story shows little of the mind workings of the characters, the actual happenings being described and the reasons commented upon by the characters themselves. The style is somewhat crude and abrupt but the story holds the attention and awakens the interest of the reader. One wonders only that the muse should be willing to return to her once unfaithful wooer.

SARAH THE LESS by Sophie Swett. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia. Illustrated 75 cents.

This story, which appeared in serial form in *Forward*, gains by being continuously read. The contrast between the character and education of the serious and gifted daughter of the village dressmaker and her frivolous but warm hearted and admiring room-mate, and the many unexpected troubles and blessings, that such an association entailed, makes interesting as well as profitable reading for the young girls for whom the book is designed.



Pretty, "sweetly pretty," somewhat pathetic, mildly interesting, is *The Love Story of Abner Stone*, pleasant reading for one who fain would rest from the trouble of the problem novel. The story adds one more to the list of Kentucky tales of which James Lane Allen set the fashion, and in a certain sense Mr. Edwin Carlile Litsey would probably not disdain to call himself a disciple of Mr. Allen.