

Literary Notes

—The "St. James's Gazette" says that the Queen will personally dictate and revise a biography of herself, which will appear in 1897.

—"The Month," of which Vol. I., No. 1, lies before us, is to be the "Critic" much what the "Nation" is to the "Evening Post." This first issue has about a hundred pages of signed contributions, reviews, and "Lounger" talks about books, art, plays, and things; all selected from the weekly issues of the "Critic." Many portraits are printed—Felix Gras, Kipling, Porter, Nansen, Leo XIII., etc., etc. Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Stockton, Mr. Bliss Carman, and Dr. Rolfe are among the writers. Our long and cordial admiration for the "Critic" leads us to wish this new enterprise all possible success.

—An English paper tells of the blunders made by those who make mistakes as to the titles of books. "Enoch in a Garden" stands to-day for "Enoch Arden." It takes some head-scratching, however, to make out "Pharaoh's Life of Christ" to be "Dean Farrar's Life of Christ," "Frenchie Omens" "French Heroines," "The Treakle in the Storm" "Tracked in the Storm," or "Play Actress and Cricket in the Pandemonium Library" for "The Play Actress, by Crockett, in the Pseudonym Library."

—The little programme for the coming year published by the "Churchman" is typical, in its exquisite typography and general tastefulness, of the fine artistic sense which presides over the making of that journal. The Outlook has had occasion before to comment on the charm of its illustration; that charm is distinctly felt in the miniature pictures which appear in this announcement. But a great deal more appears also in the form of a list of contributors notable for ability, character, influence, and position. Dr. George S. Mallory, editor of the "Churchman," is, as the readers of The Outlook probably know, one of the best-informed men in the Episcopal Church regarding its constitution and organic law. His paper at the recent Church Congress was notably clear and vigorous.

—In the "Review of Reviews" a statistician estimates the annual aggregate of the circulation of the papers of the world at 12,000,000,000 copies. He says: "To grasp the idea of this magnitude we may state that it would cover no fewer than 10,450 square miles of surface; that it is printed on 781,250 tons of paper, and, further, that if the number (12,000,000,000) represented, instead of copies, seconds, it would take over 333 years for them to elapse. In lieu of this arrangement, we might press and pile them vertically upward to gradually reach our highest mountains. Topping all these, and even the highest Alps, the pile would reach the magnificent altitude of 490, or, in round numbers, 500 miles. Calculating that the average man spends five minutes reading his paper in the day (this is a very low estimate), we find that the people of the world altogether annually occupy time equivalent to 100,000 years reading the papers."

—Commemorating the date of the Browning marriage half a century ago, and of Browning's death seven years ago, a Browning memorial service was recently held at the Church of St. Mary-lebone, London. The invitation cards were facsimiles of the marriage entry in the parish register; on the back, together with portraits of husband and wife, verses from the works of each were

printed, and also this passage from Mrs. Sutherland Orr's "Life of Browning:"

Then (1851), as on each succeeding visit paid to London with his wife, he commemorated his marriage in a manner all his own. He went to the church in which it had been solemnized and kissed the paving-stones in front of the door.

Dean Farrar preached the sermon, in the course of which he said that there was scarcely another instance of two poets enriching a century with song while owing their best happiness to their union in marriage.

—It is announced that, under the editorship of Maud Wilder Goodwin, Alice Carrington Royce, and Ruth Putnam, and in the interest of the New York History Club, there will be published in this city during the coming year the Half-Moon Series of Papers on Historic New York. Among the subjects of these pamphlets will be: "The Stadt Huys of New Amsterdam," by Alice Morse Earle; "The Fourteen Miles Round," by Alfred Bishop Mason and Mary Murdoch Mason; "Wall Street," by Oswald Garrison Villard; "Anneke Jans' Farm," by Ruth Putnam; "The Bowery," by Edward Ringwood Hewitt and Mary Ashley Hewitt; "King's College," by John B. Pine; "Old Wells and Watercourses," by George E. Waring, Jr.; "Governor's Island," by Blanche Wilder Bellamy; "Defenses of Old New York," by F. D. Grant; "Old Greenwich," by Elizabeth Bisland; and "Tammany Hall," by Talcott Williams. The enterprise is strictly educational, the aim being to do for this city what the Old South Leaflets have accomplished for Boston, though on different lines. The pamphlets will be issued monthly, at five cents per copy. Subscriptions (fifty cents per year) may be sent to Brentano's, 31 Union Square, New York City, where single numbers will be on sale.