

Fiction

When we come to the field of fiction the plethora of material fairly staggers us. And it would not be so distressingly overabundant were there more current literature to deserve the appellation of excellent. The best we can do is to indi-

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

cate in a few words the character of some that must be mentioned:

HISTORICAL FICTION.

- In Cave's Command.* Herbert Strang. Bobbs-Merrill. \$1.50. A closely printed tale of the fight for India, suggesting Henty.
- Two Cadets with Washington.* W. O. Stoddard. Lothrop. \$1.25. Some titles are self-evident. Historical characters are "fictionized" in the Revolutionary Series.
- The Young Rangers.* Everett T. Tomlinson. Wilde. \$1.50. The author is surprisingly active. This concluding volume of the Colonial Series tells of the conquest of Canada.
- Marching Against the Iroquois.* Everett T. Tomlinson. Houghton. \$1.50. History and fiction are combined to depict General Sullivan's conflict with the Indians during 1779. Dr. Tomlinson's yearly output is discouragingly great.
- Irish and Trading Post.* Edward Stratemeyer. Lott Series. \$1.25. This is volume six of the Colonial Series; the incidents are pre-Revolutionary, an center around the Ohio River.
- Under Togo for Japan.* Edward Stratemeyer. Lothrop. \$1.25. The boy reading this will probably gain clear impression of the recent war, from both sides—land and sea.

STRANGE LANDS AT HOME AND ABROAD IN FICTION.

- Two Little Friends in Norway.* Margaret Sidney Lothrop. \$1.50. The heroines of which are drawn close together.
- A Hunt in Snowshoes.* Edward S. Ellis. Winston 75 cents. A succession of dangers and escapes of doubts and discoveries, with a French Canadian trapper.
- Chunda.* Horatio O. Ladd. Eaton. \$1.25. This is a story of the Navajos Indians; the descriptive interest is its chief attraction.
- With Tommy Tompkins in Korea.* L. H. Underwood. Revell. \$1.25. A missionary story, with descriptions of strange scenes and customs.
- In Eastern Wonderlands.* Charlotte C. Gibson. Little, Brown. \$1.50. A book of travel with three children in the Far East.
- Lost in the Forbidden Land.* Edward Ellis. Winston. \$1.00. In a queerly built boat two men try to penetrate into the winds of South America.
- Janet: Her Winter in Quebec.* Anna Chapin Ray. Little, Brown. \$1.50. A cheerful story-mixture of English and American character, combined with description to hold the interest.
- Young People in Old Places.* Cornelia Baker. Bobbs-Merrill. \$1.25. Such a conglomeration of useful information, conversation and story detracts from any impression, any glimmer of England, France, Spain or whatever other country the characters in this book are unfortunate enough to visit. The style is dull.
- The Young Prospector.* Edwin J. Houston. Wilde. \$1.50. The search for a gold mine is the means of holding a boy's interest and of giving him valuable hints as to how things should be done.
- Dave Porter in the South Seas.* Edward Stratemeyer. Lothrop. \$1.25. A mixture of school sport and strange adventure. The hero figures in a series of such books.
- Jack Shelby.* George Cary Eggleston. Lothrop. \$1.50. Indiana in the early '40's is a comparatively new field for juvenile readers. Pioneer scenes have endless novelty.
- Four Boys in the Yellowstone.* E. T. Tomlinson. Lothrop. \$1.50. Four boys from the North, South, East and West, are taken in a private car on a tour thru our National Park.

FICTION—GENERAL.

- Ready, the Reliable.* Lily F. Wesselhoeft. Little, Brown. \$1.50. Another dog story by the author of *Jack the Fire Dog*.
- Five Little Peppers—and How They Grew.* Margaret Sidney. Lothrop. \$2.00. A holiday edition of a story of long-standing popularity.
- Brenda's Ward.* Helen Leah Reed. Little, Brown. \$1.50. Frank T. Merrill has pictured many incidents connected with a Western girl and Brenda, now married. In these days of series, one may watch a favorite heroine grow.
- The Cruise of the Firefly.* Edward S. Ellis. Winston. 75 cents. The prolific pen of this author describes school rivalry among oarsmen. For the state of



ILLUSTRATION FROM LANG'S "ORANGE FAIRY BOOK."

Longmans, Green.

- Mr. Ellis's health, we are glad to announce that this book has a collaborator attached.
- Signal Lights.* Louise M. Hopkins. Clark. \$1.50. The usual account of prairie life, with Indian adventures and sudden encounters.
- The Camp on Letter K.* Clarence B. Burleigh. Lothrop. \$1.50. The author being a Maine man, his book is centered in that State. The boy reader will here meet with log cabins, prowling animals and smuggling.
- Dale and Fraser.* Sidford F. Hamp. Wilde. \$1.50. Colorado sheep raising is not an idyllic pastoral matter, and these herders meet with many obstacles.
- Ester Reed's Namesake.* Pansy. Lothrop. \$1.50. The Pansy Books are perennial. This one is only a step removed from the land of novels.
- Kristy's Rainy Day Picnic.* Olive Thorne Miller. Houghton. \$1.25. Kristy is a lucky mortal. Her lot, to judge by this and previous books, is cast with excellent story tellers who help her ally the ennui of a rainy day and other exigencies.
- The Second Violin.* Grace S. Richmond. Doubleday. \$1.50. The second fiddle may not always be an inferior fiddle, but only one waiting an opportunity. In this excellent story, the heroine, occupying second place in the life around her, rises to the occasion.
- Brothers and Sisters.* Abbie Farwell Brown. Houghton. \$1.00. There are all sorts of mildly entertaining stories in this book. They are simple enough for the youngest readers, but are not as ingenious as one might expect from Miss Brown.
- Nancy Rutledge.* Katharine Fyle. Little, Brown. \$1.25. A country girl goes to the city and has some very weakly entertaining times with a neighbor.
- Meg and Others.* Harriet T. Comstock. Crowell. 75 cents. A conventional series of stories about a grandmother's girlhood, told in a very skillful way to her grandchildren. Written in very pleasing

DISTINCTIVE LIST.

- Daddy's Daughters.* Marion Ames Taggart. Holt. \$1.50.
- Six Girls and Bob.* Marion Ames Taggart. Wilde. \$1.50.
- Dorrance Doings.* Carolyn Wells. Wilde. \$1.50.
- Patty's Summer Days.* Carolyn Wells. Dodd, Mead. \$1.25.
- A Little Son of Sunshine.* Ellen Douglas Deland. Harper. \$1.25.
- The Girls of Gardenville.* Carroll Watson Rankin. Holt. \$1.50.
- Harding of St. Timothy's.* Arthur Stanwood Pier. Houghton. \$1.50.
- The Crimson Sweater.* R. H. Barbour. Century. \$1.50.
- With Mask and Mitt.* A. T. Dudley. Lothrop. \$1.25.
- Dearlove.* Frances Campbell. Dutton. \$1.50.

The previous list could have run on indefinitely were there space to enumerate the countless other stories that still confront us. Marion Ames Taggart is the author of a pleasant story, *Daddy's Daughters*, in which four girls, surely modeled after Miss Alcott, cheer the life of an impecunious "literary" father, who

meets success in the end. It is unfortunate that the author should have almost repeated herself in another tale, *Six Girls and Bob*, wherein an old house plays a figure similar in many ways to that in Carolyn Wells's *Dorrance Doings*, where there is a large mansion and a mysterious panel, which leads the way to a small fortune. As this book is a sequel to last year's volume, so Miss Wells carries her heroine, Patty, into *Summer Days*, having already dealt with her in other stories. Ellen Douglas Deland's *A Little Son of Sunshine* contains much atmosphere, and we are made to take an interest in the little "orphan" one-legged violinist, who turns out to be the Colonel's grandson. *The Girls of Gardenville* are a bevy of heroines gracefully handled by Carroll Watson Rankin. Many of the stories are excellent and full of humor, and natural as well as wholesome. Arthur Stanwood Pier's *Harding of St. Timothy's* and Ralph H. Barbour's *The Crimson Sweater* are so closely related in spirit and description as almost to duplicate. Their heroes are martyrs and self-sacrificing, while the school atmosphere is faithfully depicted. In football, a great deal of minute detail is cleverly handled. *With Mask and Mitt* reveals A. T. Dudley, belonging to the same group of writers. *Dearlove* is "the history of a summer's make-believe," charmingly written, and will make grown-ups young again, if any book can.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- Wee Winkles and Snowball.* Gabrielle E. Jackson. Harper. \$1.25.
Polly and the Aunt. By M. E. Houghton. \$0.75. Very dainty binding.
A Borrowed Sister. Eliza Orne White. Houghton. \$1.00.
Fairest Girlhood. Margaret E. Sangster. Revell. \$1.50.
Katrina. Roy Rolfe Gilson. Baker & Taylor. \$1.50.
The Stained Glass Lady. Blanche Elizabeth Wade. McClurg. \$2.50.
Concerning Paul and Fiametta. L. Allen Harker. Scribner. \$1.25.
Puck of Pook's Hill. Rudyard Kipling. Doubleday. \$1.50.
Adventures of Billy Topsail. Norman Duncan. Revell. \$1.50.

This enumeration must be brought to a close. There are many volumes equally as deserving as some we have mentioned, but so like them as to be a mere repeti-

tion. There are books, too, to suit young tastes; to enumerate three—Gabrielle E. Jackson's *Wee Winkles and Snowball*; *Polly and the Aunt*, a record of observation; and *A Borrowed Sister*, by Eliza Orne White. What year does not bring forth the book of advice and healthy counsel? This time it is Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster, with her popular manner of lecturing *Fairest Girlhood*. The cover is most dainty in its cream and gilt, with the medallion head. Then, are we not always sure of meeting with the book of appeal, for grownups as well as "sweet sixteen"? Such is Roy Rolfe Gilson's poetic treatment of *Katrina*, a maid who becomes a woman and doesn't marry the delightfully human reporter who is the real hero. Then, do we not assuredly find the story written from the ideal viewpoint of childhood? We will not be dis-



appointed in the conception of Blanche E. Wade's *The Stained Glass Lady*, a beautiful, slender lady, who passes before the dreamy eyes of a boy in church. The romance has heart interest, but is too long drawn out, and Miss Oster-tag's drawings, tho rich in color, just fall short of being satisfactory. And so we end with the inevitable question confronting us—What giants are in our path—what really lasting piece of juvenile literature. Other than *Peter Pan*, there are three that stand out from the mass before us—that charming depiction of English life in Mrs. L. Allen Harker's *Concerning Paul and Fiametta*, with the quaint hero and the sprite of a heroine—that odd conglomeration of history, legend and fancy in Rudyard Kipling's *Puck of Pook's Hill*, already reviewed in THE INDEPENDENT—and that distinct impression of Labrador and Newfoundland which one obtains from Norman Duncan's excellently written *Adventures of Billy Topsail*. These are the tall corn-tassels which wave above the sea of colored bindings and varied plots. They are not the highest, but they are emphatically worth while. For they are sincere in treatment, consistent in characterization, and rich in color. The greatest giant to be met with is the book collection—unwinnowed, yet waiting to be bought.

* THE GOOD FAIRY AND THE BUNNIES.
 By Allen Ayrauet Green. A. C. McClurg & Co.