

renunciation for the sake of posterity. On the whole, however, the stories have suffered by being massed in such close proximity. The note of them is too continuously that of hysterical pathos and the hero feels too intensely and acts too dramatically.



The Involuntary Chaperon. By Margaret Cameron. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.50.

There are two forms of writing which have been much tabooed lately by casual readers—that of the letter and that dealing primarily with travels. The author of this book has used both these forms and yet has succeeded in escaping the discursive style of the public letter-writer and the touring tone of the sightseer. The scene is laid in a number of the South American countries thru which the characters are traveling. The chaperon writes the letters, which are filled with many significant things about these countries next door to us, to whom, she complains, we are so indifferent, while all other nations are putting in sturdy thumbs.



A Political History of the State of New York. By DeAlva Stanwood Alexander. Vol. III. New York: Henry Holt & Co. \$2.50.

Mr. Alexander has carried his history of New York politics into a third volume, which covers the years from the outbreak of the Civil War to the rise of Governor Cleveland. Seymour, Fenton, Tilden, Seward, Tweed and Conkling are the names that project themselves most forcefully from his pages. But they do not give to it any pronounced unity, and it is doubtful whether the history of the State of New York has any unity. Here, more than in most other States, the local field is the training course for politicians with national aspirations, and the statesman is forever looking over his shoulder to see whether he has gained the national audience for which he longs. The cross purposes of State politics and national interests have always been exceedingly intricate. Only a few New Yorkers have ever succeeded in leading order out of chaos, while these have been the great politicians who have risen thru their perspicacity to the

Doctor Rast. By James Oppenheim. New York: Sturgis & Walton Company. \$1.50.

This book is a collection of short stories, the scenes of which are laid in the gray tenement life of the East Side. A young Jewish doctor is the center of interest in them. He has come down among his people to do charity, but with an emotional sympathy and understanding characteristic of idealists of his sort his attitude is not that of the aloof "worker." He becomes a great heart armed with a lancet for the spirit as well as for the body. When "Rizpah," an ardent girl Socialist, comes to him to learn the truth about her eyes he tells her that she is going blind, but he gives her a new social sight which clears her impetuous mind of revolution and gives her a constructive kindness toward all classes. In the romance of the "Unborn" he teaches two lovers, one of whom has developed tuberculosis, the necessity of

seats of the mighty. State history is a serviceable handmaid for the larger story of the nation. It needs to be written as Mr. Alexander is doing it, with all honesty and accuracy obtainable. There is no other book on New York that is as useful as this promises to be.



The Human Way. By Louise Collier Wilcox. New York: Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.

These essays are a collection of solaces for those for whom the salt of life has lost its savor. They are for those who have, as the author puts it, discovered "the horrible discrepancy between desire and fulfillment"; who have lost the fire of endeavor and have only endeavor left. The book will appeal to the reflective reader of essays and not to one desirous of information. Such information as it possesses is of a limited and personal area. The style is epigrammatic, tho the epigrams are often debatable as to their truth. The essays are full of optimistic stoicism and lessons in common sense. They seek to teach us how to project ourselves into other relations and thus learn to forget or to bear with fortitude our individual disappointments.



Idealism as a Practical Creed. By Henry Jones, LL. D., Litt. D. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2 net.

Philosophy need not always be a dismal and laborious species of literature. Professor James can be light-hearted and debonair in the discussion of its most intricate dogma, as was Friedrich Paulsen among the Germans. Rudolf Eucken's pages are a continued oration, and high eloquence also characterizes these lectures of Professor Jones, of Glasgow, delivered before the University of Sydney. He will have his meaning clear, and he declaims his creed with the passion of a prophet and the fervor of a poet. Every idealist quotes Tennyson's "Flower in the crannied wall," but Professor Jones has a snatch of good poetry every few pages. In the table of contents it is a bit strange to note a chapter on Wordsworth and Browning following a discussion of freedom, but in the text the transition is not abrupt.

He will have it that idealism is a practical creed for today, not because we need it, nor because we must believe something and might as well believe what we like, after the manner of the pragmatists, but because it is true. His lectures are good reading of a damp, raw evening, when the sticks in the fireplace refuse to burn; the stupidest fireman will make them burn after the elevation of such philosophy.