A LANDSCAPE PAINTER, by Henry James (12mo, 287 pages; Scott & Seltzer), is a collection of stories, early flowerings of the portentous genius of their author. They are superior stuff; but the fashion of believing that James corrupted his style in his later years is proved silly enough by the fact that intensely passionate and fine as they are, they do not quite come off. For any one else they might be considered little masterpieces; for him they are but the grammar of novelettes.

THE MATRIX, by Maria Thompson Daviess (12mo, 260 pages; Century), lights another beacon to celebrate the post-bellum discovery of Lincoln. It is a gentle taper. Attempting to tell the story of the girlhood and wooing of Nancy Hanks with simplicity, the author occasionally lapses into primer-technique. A maturer style could have given form to a more enduring romance.

EVANDER, by Eden Phillpotts (12mo, 200 pages; Macmillan), presents the English novelist tracking a favourite theme of his back to the borderland of mythology, where it is threshed out amid a verbal clash of the gods. Evander is one of those self-righteous male beings, with a serene ignorance of human emotion, such as Phillpotts drew in The Thief of Virtue, and more recently in Storm in a Teacup. The projection of this type against a background of pagan philosophy gives the author a satirical scope less marked in his modern stories.

LUCA SARTO, by Charles S. Brooks (12mo, 360 pages; Century), tilts a merry lance amid the sombre moderns with their black-visored Freudian fiction, unfolding a lively tale of conspiracy and adventure, laid in Paris in the days of Villon. It has the sparkle of brightly burnished armour and a pulse-quickening pace. The manner of the telling is not without a touch of swagger, spiced with the salt flavour of the modern point-of-view, humorous and whimsical. A novel to the king's taste—if there are still kings who can boast that quality.

THE TALL VILLA, by "Lucas Malet" (12mo, 256 pages; Doran). A husband in South America, a ghostly lover, and a "wide-eyed, fragile, and excessively lovely" lady ring a fresh variation on the eternal triangle in this story of love in the fourth dimension. It is the last straw in spiritism—and about the last straw from "Lucas Malet."

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD, by E. M. Forster (12mo, 283 pages; Knopf), is trite only in title. This is what Meredith and the gallery would respectively term comedy and tragedy. With somersaults of motive and swift satire the story makes its way from England to Italy, where childlike sinfulness and the sunshine of mediaeval towns are refreshing after the irritated misunderstandings of the English family who rushed in.

HAND-MADE FABLES, by George Ade (illustrated, 12mo, 332 pages; Doubleday, Page), are so many essays on Compensation. They deal with such worldly assets and liabilities as time's whirligig turns topsy-turvy; and, whatever their individual prejudices—each fable has at least one robust American prejudice—collectively they maintain a genial optimism regarding man's plight in the world as it is. Here Mr. Ade once more demonstrates that the American slang vernacular has capacities for clearness, force, and (yes!) elegance that quite escape the base-ball reporter.

SOME PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS, by Take Jonescu (12mo, 292 pages; Stokes), is reminiscent of the illusioned time when diplomats were regularly called "distinguished." The author, sometime Prime Minister of Roumania, had all the notabilities of Europe on his calling list, and most of them got into the book one way or another.

PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN WOMEN, by Gamaliel Bradford (illustrated, 12mo; 276 pages; Houghton Mifflin, Boston), is a series of politely written impressions of seven New England women and one Middle Westerner, drawn for the most part from letters and diaries. The portraits are far from clear, and Abigail Adams and Margaret Fuller would be chagrined to know how dim they have become, even to an admirer.

HITHER AND THITHER IN GERMANY, by William Dean Howells (illustrated, 16mo, 131 pages; Harper), undertakes the by no means slight task of ignoring the intervening upheaval and writing as if such a thing as war had not occurred. This circumstance, combined with the tranquil, orderly nature of Mr. Howells' style, gives the volume an almost antiquarian flavour. The Mr. and Mrs. March of Their Silver Wedding Journey are here conducted with care through descriptions of Hamburg, Leipsic, Weimar, Berlin, and the Rhine country. On the last page Mrs. March remarks that they "romped" through Germany, but that is merely a touch of homeward-bound hyperbole.

A SPORTSMAN'S WANDERINGS, by J. G. Millais (8vo, 298 pages; Houghton Mifflin, Boston), reflects the catholic taste and broad horizon of the man whose career has followed such diverse trails as those of soldier and artist, naturalist and landscape gardener. Here is a readable blend of lively reminiscence and first-hand observation, without verbal or scientific excess baggage.

THE AMERICAN CREDO: A Contribution Toward the Interpretation of the National Mind, by George Jean Nathan and H. L. Mencken (12mo, 191 pages; Knopf), lists some five hundred tersely stated articles of belief—superstitions and near-superstitions—in some of which almost any American will see certain facets of his mind unflatteringly mirrored. More than half of the volume is occupied by its preface, for which the authors advance the one excuse "that, having read it, one need not read the book" —a grateful choice.

THE QUEST OF THE BALLAD, by W. Roy Mackenzie (12mo, 247 pages; Princeton University Press). Professor Mackenzie, of the English Department of Washington University, has recorded enthusiastically his experiences while collecting ballads from delightful "touchy" old men and women in Nova Scotia. His volume contains suggestive notes upon the nature of variations in the old songs from singer to singer, and concerning ballads of well-attested local events where the proportion between the actual and the imagined may be observed—notes of great value to students of folk-literature.

MODERN AMERICAN POETRY: An Introduction, edited by Louis Untermeyer (12mo, 170 pages; Harcourt, Brace & Howe), follows through broken country the contemporary reaches of that strong troubled stream of poetry which flows from Whitman. Though it too often misses the authentic current, is too often led away into stagnant marshes, it is perhaps as good a map as we yet possess. The editor is a better conversationalist than guide.

MACEDONIAN MEASURES, and Others, by John Macleod (12mo, 41 pages; Cambridge University Press, England), is the work of a young poet who strives not so much to measure himself with life as with other rhymesters. He comes out pretty well in the encounter: he has a powerful rhythmic sense and the knack of handling intricate verse forms. Yet evidently his serious work still lies in front of him. As a war poet he ranks somewhere between Alan Seeger and Lurana Sheldon, the bard of Bath, Me.

THE TEMPERING, by Howard Buck (12mo, 77 pages; Yale University Press), is a first book of verse wherein jubilant youthfulness, unwearied even in the poems of war experience, marches to gay pipes with a sweeping stride and an idealism unappalled.

WAR DAUBS, by R. Watson Kerr (12mo, 56 pages; John Lane), is aptly named. Imperfect assimilation might be diagnosed as the chief malady of these sketches from dugout and camp. The author has completely digested neither his war experiences nor the aesthetic of the new poetry. Despite his force and sincerity, he is treading a little too closely in the footsteps of a more famous contemporary: "The Wedding Guest he beat his breast, For he heard the loud Sassoon."

THE GENIUS OF THE MARNE, a play by John Lloyd Balderston (12mo, 86 pages; Nicholas L. Brown, New York), has an introduction on the theory of inspiration. "Mr. Balderston," it says, "seems to think a man of genius is but the mouthpiece of a voice speaking from beyond." Very good as applied to Napoleon and Joffre at the Marne. But no indication is given as to the author's own inspiration; and no necessity to assume its existence is created by reading the play.

PAN-ISLAM, by G. Wyman Bury (12mo, 212 pages, 1 map; Macmillan), is an unpretentious attempt to explain the ways of the Moslem world to that suburban electorate in whose hands the government of the British Empire, with the aid and consent of the permanent under-secretaries in the Foreign Office, ultimately rests. The Carnegie Peace Commission should send the last chapter, A Plea for Tolerance, to every missionary organization.

ARMENIA AND THE ARMENIANS, by Kevork Aslan (12mo, 138 pages; Macmillan), presents in condensed form the history of the Armenians from earliest times down to 1914. The work is translated from the original French by Pierre Crabites, whose Introduction is an impassioned plea for Armenian independence.

PATRONS OF DEMOCRACY, by Dallas Lore Sharp (16mo, 57 pages; Atlantic Monthly Press, Boston), criticizes private and vocational schools as destructive of democracy, and urges a uniform national public school system as the educational basis for "living together." This essay had the distinction of being publicly laughed at by Graham Wallas; but in so far as we differentiate our educational courses by reference to pecuniary rather than to biological differences, Mr. Sharp's polemic against any kind of differentiation should be helpful in restoring our social equipoise.

EUROPE IN THE MELTING POT, by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson (12mo, 400 pages, 7 maps; Macmillan), is his latest book on the problems of the European settlement. Partly written before the Armistice, it expresses the principles and prejudices of The New Europe for "integral victory" against Bolshevism, for the league against imperialism—and is especially well informed, competent, and obstinate in dealing with Southern Europe.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ANCIENT INDIA, by Radhakumud Mookerji (8vo, 229 pages; Oxford University Press), widens our Western European perspective of the guild system and municipal institutions by demonstrating the existence of the same modes of associative life at the Vedic headwaters of Hindu civilization. A book to place alongside Venkatarama Ayyar's Townplanning in Ancient Dekkan.

AN IRISHMAN LOOKS AT HIS WORLD, by George A. Birmingham (12mo, 307 pages; Doran), carries the reader into a temperate mental climate where the winds of doctrine are silent and the dust of controversy no longer threatens the eye. The method is expository; the author's judgements are equitable; and the conclusion is a fling at those who have created an Irish Problem by confining themselves to the political problem of Ireland. "We Irishmen, all of us, are spending most energy on what matters least, the form of the State; and far too little energy on what matters most, the making of men, that education which goes on continuously from the cradle to the grave."

THE OPIUM MONOPOLY, by Ellen N. La Motte (12mo, 84 pages; Macmillan), is one of the best arguments yet advanced against the mandatory system pieced together at Paris. With personal observation and official records at her service, the author shows that Great Britain is benevolently drugging to death most of the subject races entrusted to her care.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE AND THE GREAT WAR, by Arnold Bennett Hall (16mo, 177 pages; McClurg, Chicago), is an admirable summary of the foundation of the doctrine, its evolution, and its relation to the League of Nations. The author believes that "when all the criticisms of the Monroe Doctrine have been examined . . . most of them will be met by more tactful and diplomatic methods of its assertion, a scrupulous and sympathetic regard for the dignity and rights of Latin American republics, and the abandonment of the spirit and idea of the United States hegemony in Pan-American affairs."

THE WAR WITH MEXICO: 1846–1848, by Justin H. Smith (2 vols., 8vo, 1192 pages; Macmillan), presents an elaborate, but not very plausible, justification of the policy of the United States government in this conflict. The author contends that Mexico had systematically violated American rights for many years before the war and scouts the theory that the annexationist ambitions of the Southern slave-owners exercised any appreciable influence. And his final conclusion is that the war was a rather good thing for both countries!

SOCIALISM IN THOUGHT AND ACTION, by Harry W. Laidler (12mo, 546 pages; Macmillan), cannot be dismissed merely on the ground that it is a text-book; for the truth is that it excels in its kind, and ever since Mr. William English Walling turned his back on himself nothing of or near its kind has been produced in English. Dr. Laidler has that discreet receptivity for conflicting opinion and dogma which gives his work, within the limits of socialism, the stamp of a firm, intelligent neutrality. His appraisal of Socialist thought and his description of the international movement are thoroughly adequate. The New York State Board of Regents should make this text required reading for all Albany legislators, established or incipient.

THE ARMY AND RELIGION, a report edited by the Rev. D. S. Cairns (12mo, 447 pages; Association Press), is, as far as one may judge, an uncensored summary of evidence gathered from some hundreds of men serving in, or connected with, the British Army. The investigating committee found that the war had created or revealed a widely prevalent theism of the vaguest sort, but that in most cases the men did not connect their religious emotions with Christianity, and were, in fact, farther away from the Church than ever. The suggestions as to Orthodox means of overcoming this difficulty are perhaps less significant than the confession of its existence.

ORIGIN OF GOVERNMENT, by Hugh Taylor (12mo, 259 pages; B. H. Blackwell, Oxford), should be dedicated to *l'Homme à Cheval*. It is an argument for the strong self-imposed ruler who is believed to arise at every period of social crisis to save the body politic from chaos; and by a stroke of mental sleight-of-hand this ruler is identified with the conquering war-lord who creates the social crisis in the communities upon which he inflicts himself! Devoted largely to a criticism of Spencerian ideas, the Origin of Government has that lax unfamiliarity with modern scholarship which makes much minor British thought a hunt for originality through the thickets of crotchetiness. Perhaps Mr. Taylor avoided Holsti's Relation of War to the Origin of the State in order that he might leave to his descendants the task of coping with his contemporaries.

MOSLEM ARCHITECTURE: Its Origins and Development, by G. T. Rivoira, translated from the Italian by G. McN. Rushforth (340 illustrations, 4to, 373 pages; Oxford University Press), is a comparative study of Moslem architecture as exhibited in its religious edifices. The interest of the text is technical and archaeological, but the splendid collection of photographs with which the book is interleaved cannot help enthralling the most cursory student of architecture.

THE COSSACKS, by W. P. Cresson (illustrated, 8vo, 239 pages; Brentano), recounts, in the romantic mood, the history of the frontiersmen of the Czar's old empire. The book is not to be taken too seriously as a contribution to historical literature, but vivacity of style and the Wild-Western colour of the subject-matter made the pages interesting enough.

THE SKILLED LABOURER: 1760–1832, by J. L. Hammond and Barbara Hammond (12mo, 397 pages; Longmans, Green), is the third movement in that great symphony of the Industrial Revolution which the authors have essayed to compose out of the now open files of Home Office correspondence. The martial note is predominant, for as the authors observe at the beginning "the history of England at the time discussed in these pages reads like a history of civil war," but in spite of the fascinating episode of Oliver the Spy the social and economic themes are never unduly subordinated. The result is a tragic history, greatly told.

THE FLOW OF VALUE, by Logan Grant McPherson (8vo, 473 pages; Century), is an examination of prices, profits, wages, and capital along the lines traditional in commercialist economics. The categories are pre-scientific abstractions, like Utility; and the descriptions of processes, in spite of the author's wide experience in railroad transportation, are consistently hypothetical. The book is not so much a fresh contribution to economics as an illumination of the possibilities of that "new reservation of time" which William Jewett Tucker has pointed out as the crown of a busy administrator's career.