

Daphne: An Autumn Pastoral. By Margaret Sherwood. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., \$1.00.

The very spirit of Italy breathes from the pages of this charming pastoral, and as we follow its heroine amid laurel and cypress, roses trailing over ancient ruins, and vineyards whence might have come old Massic and Folernian, it is easy to believe that the gods are not dead. Nothing less than Apollo, tho he appear clad in a brown golf suit, should be the hero of a romance which blossoms in the decaying amphitheatre of a palace of the Cæsars. And so it quite accords with our sense of the fitness of things to find him again on earth, keeping the flocks of a modern Admetus, allaying with his healing art the sufferings of the fever-smitten shepherd and the pain in a sprained feminine wrist, but busy the

while with the pagan witchery of his music in stealing the heart of a New York rector's daughter despite its defenses of a New England conscience and a High Church lover. It relieves the tension of supernatural awe cast over both reader and heroine by his earlier apparent omnipotence to find toward the end that this latter-day god is capable of very human grief and impotent despair when crossed in his love for a maid; but that, too, after all, is not so unlike Apollo.



Christian Thal. By M. S. Francis. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., \$1.50.

The tiger woman in this story, with noble human elements in her, is the striking character in it. Defeated in an ambition to achieve a career for herself, this woman adopts Christian Thal with the determination to make him a great musical artist and to realize through him what she could not accomplish in her own person. But a beautiful maiden floats into Thal's life and exacts a love which to the tiger woman seems to threaten the art development of her *protégé* and which, of course, calls forth the hostility of her intense and powerful personality. This constitutes the situation from which the story is evolved. It is written with the even, sure stroke of the practiced writer, and, unlike many books which exploit the artistic temperament, it is morally wholesome.



Children of the Tenements. By Jacob A. Riis. Illustrated. New York: The Macmillan Co., \$1.50.

The stories in this book have to do with many phases of life as seen in the crowded East Side and about Police Headquarters. They are true stories for the most part, tho, as the author confesses, he has sometimes woven a number of isolated episodes into a connected narrative. The heroism of firemen, the mutual helpfulness of the poor, the festivities of merry-makers, the infectious geniality that possesses all hearts at Christmas time, are some of the themes. One of the tales, "Little Will's Message," is a gem of simple and pathetic narration. As it reads, it is somewhat too good to be true, but let us hope that

the main incident really happened, and that through the kindness of a captain of detectives the joys of Christmas did actually descend upon three little starving children of an ex-convict, huddled in a fireless room in the gas-house district. The other stories are of varying degrees of merit, and a number might better have been omitted altogether.