

Students of mediæval literature will welcome from the workshop of that distinguished scholar, Professor Gollancz, a new edition of "The Parliament of the Three Ages" (Oxford Press). For this interesting fourteenth-century alliterative poem dealing with the "nine worthies," the editor has provided full critical apparatus. But, more than that, he has made accessible almost for the first time the fullest mediæval treatment of the eternally popular subject of heroes. We are especially grateful when we can have such attractive printing of mediæval texts.

Several of the prominent educators of the country have contributed interesting and valuable papers to "Readings in Vocational Guidance" (Ginn), edited by Mr. Meyer Bloomfield. As a convenient handbook of the best thought on the subject, the volume will probably be found indispensable to those interested. In the preface, Mr. Bloomfield defines vocational guidance as "organized common sense used to help each individual make the most of his abilities and opportunities." The need for this organized common sense has been revealed either in the frequent failure of youth to supply the required initiative to work out the beginnings of a successful future or in the failure of society to present the proper surroundings in which it can be done. Even a casual reading of this book suggests that our "organized common sense" has been strenuously directed toward correcting the first of the two evils. Perhaps danger lurks there. We are so intent on shaping the peg to fit it into the square hole, that, to drop the figure, we may fail to emphasize the greater need of reconstruction of our industrial system so that it will meet, more fully and more generously, the varying demands of the individual.

"Those who are stricken with great misfortunes often suffer intensely from the lack of sympathetic imagination in those who are about them." Thus writes, most truthfully, Mr. Robert Hichens in the opening piece of "The Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Gift Book" (Putnam), which has an occasional word that, like Mr. Hichens's observation, ought to shame us out of our wonted cheerfulness over others' ills. Mr. George Goodechild edits and sympathetically prefaces this collection of prose and verse signed (in facsimile) with such eminent names as Edmund Gosse, John Galsworthy; H. G. Wells, G. K. Chesterton, Gilbert Parker, Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, Beatrice Harraden, Austin Dobson, A. C. Benson, and others, to the number of nearly two score. Illustrations by distinguished artists are interspersed, and Milton's two sonnets (XIX and XXI) on his blindness appropriately close the book. By a curious error, the frontispiece, which might be a street scene in "Cranford," with crinolined women as the chief figures, and hardly a man in sight, is labelled "The Blinded Soldier." Of varying excellence and on widely varying themes are these gratuitous contributions; but surely the purpose of the volume—the forwarding of the good work at St. Dunstan's in helping the blinded war-victims to help themselves—should procure for it a good sale.

"Familiar Letters: English and American" selected and edited by Professor Edwin Greenlaw, is a recent addition to the "Lake Classics" published by Messrs. Scott, Foresman & Co. The following authors are liberally represented: Gray, Cowper, Lamb, Irving, Jane Welsh Carlyle, Dickens, Huxley. The little volume deserves a warm welcome, for it covers a field that has long awaited from a compiler's hand just such competent and scholarly treatment as Professor Greenlaw has here succeeded in giving it.