

is lively, and interesting; full of Mr. Roe's love for and knowledge of rural scenes and life; quickened with a wholesome moral feeling, and embodies in its fictitious form a good deal of sound practical instruction about farm and garden work and ways. The publishers have made a much better book of it than they do of Mr. Roe's novels; the typography is superior, and the pictures are plentiful and pretty. [Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.]

Hector's Inheritance. By Horatio Alger, Jr. Hector Roscoe was a bright and deserving boy, whose rascally uncle tried to cheat him out of his inheritance by denying his reputed sonship. The cheat answered for a while, and Hector was subjected to various indignities in the home which had been his, and to various trials in the boarding school to which he was banished; but in the end he established the fact of his birth, and came into full possession of his own. We do not particularly admire Mr. Alger's style and spirit. Neither is very elevated; and while the book is not one to do any particular harm, we cannot see how it is likely to do any particular good. [Porter & Coates. \$1.25.]

Camp-Fire and Wigwam. By Edward S. Ellis. This is a "blood and thunder" story of early frontier times, when settlers were leaving Kentucky for Missouri, and Indians were on the war-path all along the Mississippi Valley, and forest trails, camp-fires, tomahawks, and scalping knives entered into every-day domestic experience. Mr. Ellis is well at home in these sensational scenes, and turns them to good account. There is a fine old Indian in the book, one Deerfoot, whose figure is drawn with a good deal of power. We should trust boys with the book, we think, for the pictures it will give them of a life that was once very real, but is now gone by. [Porter & Coates. \$1.25.]

Drew Drake. "Drew," or Andrew, Drake was a young disciple on a modern Galilean shore, who mingled mission work among the fishermen with his own bread winning. His dying father had sent him to live with an aunt at Quapaw Point. Mother Brewster, as this aunt was called, was one woman in a thousand, and with her Drew found a happy as well as a useful home. She enjoyed having a boy to look after, and he found lots of good to do among the hard drinkers and stout swearers of the Point. The theology of the book is strongly Calvinistic and a decided element. [Presbyterian Board.]

Stanley Grahame, Boy and Man. A Tale of the Dark Continent. By Gordon Stables, M.D. This is not a very profitable book. Entertaining it may be, to those so fond of narratives of adventure as not to care anything about the style in which they are written or their gross improbability. The amusing license of Jules Verne is one thing, but an imitation of it is quite another. This is in a romantic, sentimental vein; and there are events enough to make half a dozen stories. As a sample of what happens, a boy twelve years old starts off from his home in Scotland to join his uncle in the United States; arrives during the Indian summer, and, journeying in the cars, sees, soon after leaving New York city, swamps where grow trees in copses with bright flowers on them as broad as his hat; two days from Baltimore he reaches his uncle's plantation; and soon a party of which he is one goes off on a day's journey to the

north to hunt bear, wolf, and bison, but at the outset a band of Indians attack them; the boy, Stanley, is wounded, and at the plantation is nursed by a little girl, Ida, whom he forgets to bid good-bye to when he presently sets off to go to sea—and that fact seems to furnish the remorse of his life, till after the most astounding adventures on land and ocean, he goes to her rescue (she has meantime disappeared from America in an unaccountable manner), and finds her in the center of the Dark Continent where she and her father are prisoners; he also finds other friends who have long been missing, sees gorillas, and has all the experiences one would be likely to have in Zanzibar and the country of the Makalala. All is absurd without being amusing. [A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$1.50.]

The Satin-Wood Box. By J. T. Trowbridge. In this story a boy, Gifford Norcroft, who has been carefully brought up, is put to a severe test. He goes to live with an eccentric, rich old lady, who promises to do well by him and his sister, but who dies suddenly, without having paid him anything, on a day when she has had a satin-wood box containing gold brought home from the bank and has not returned it. Her brother, with whom she has been at variance, arrives at once, and in the confusion, Gifford slips the box out of sight; and when it is inquired for by the brother, says he has no knowledge of it. That is the beginning of deception, artifice, and difficulty; and the boy endeavors to excuse himself for keeping it by saying that she gave it to him, which was true in one sense, and that he knew from her own lips that she was determined her brother should have nothing of hers; and the sister and mother come near taking the culprit's view of the case. Matters right themselves in the end by the boy's telling the truth; meanwhile, one of his comrades has stolen the box, but it is recovered, and the contents show that Gifford and his family have been liberally provided for. The wrong of the boy's course ought to have been more strongly insisted upon; the lesson to be learned should have been so crystallized that young readers would have seen it in a more positive light; there should have been a sharper line drawn, and the mother should not have been allowed to waver. [Lee & Shepard. \$1.25.]

The Fitch Club. By Jak. This author is evidently an admirer of the Rollo Books and the Franconia stories, but his admiration has not harmed his work. The boys and girls of the Fitch Club have capital plans for earning and learning, while carrying out a benevolent purpose towards a crippled girl. There is a good boy, of the Jonas and Beechnut kind, practical, faithful, and persevering, but not so good that he cannot be imitated. Mr. Fitch, the carpenter, is the helpful friend of the lads, allowing work to be done in his shop, organizing the Club which sets them all to doing something, and arranging the platform where they can have their lectures. The young people have a printed paper, and the stories, dialogues, and other compositions are too natural not to be genuine. The tone is excellent, the language is good English; the story is short, and it is put into tasteful shape with this exception that the pictures do not compare very well in quality with the other work. [T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.]

The Two Elsie. By Martha Finley. Another of the Elsie series; full of religious instruction,

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Driven Back to Eden. By E. P. Roe. The soul of this book is good, and the body of it as good as that of any book its author has given us, and we do not know but better than that of some of them. The theme is the fortunes of a family who moved out of crowded, dirty, dangerous New York, and made a fresh, fragrant, and happy country home on the Hudson. The story

pervaded by a gospel spirit. Lovely women and good men are faithful in their instruction and the guidance of their examples; the disobedient girl is made to see her faults and confess, after a struggle with her pride. There is much family life, and there are experiences at school, and the home atmosphere is genial and helpful, though the teaching is sometimes given in a pedantic way; the conversation of the children is more natural than that of their elders. Evelyn is too mature, but being so mature, there is an absurdity in her asking if the angels will actually carry her dead father up into the sky; and it was hardly the wise thing to tell her the "fact," how one night some boys heard a number of voices in the air singing "either Mear or Old Hundred," which were favorite tunes of the old elder, and learned afterwards that "the good old man had just died at that time." And it is in questionable taste for a husband and father—a good husband and father certainly—to discuss with his little daughter the faults of her mother, even if it be permissible to do so with his older relatives. [Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.25.]

The Strength of Her Youth. By Sarah Doune. An English story, depicting three phases of a life, the Strength, the Strife, the Rest. The personage around whom the interest centers is Violet Dacie, handsome, passionate, and rebelling against her lot, in the days that are called her "Strength," when she is nineteen. She is eldest of four children of a family in straitened circumstances; and with the double object in view of breaking away from the dull round of her home and making a splendid marriage which shall be to the worldly advantage of the rest, she gets herself invited to spend a season with her rich aunt in London. The "Strife" period is the love episode with Captain Carmichael, who wins her heart with no intent of marrying her, because he is in debt. The "Rest" is her returning, sobered, and making the best of her lot, to her country home, and finally marrying her first lover, the old rector's son. The moral of all this may not be obvious, though the author undoubtedly meant to enforce one; and it was probably written especially for grown-up girls, but it is not altogether the thing for them; there is too much passion, too much to stimulate the imagination; and the unfortunate feature of it is that Carmichael, who is dishonorable, slangy, and unprincipled, is made a sort of hero in the end, and his death on the battle-field is calculated to win the sympathy of the young reader and make her overlook the wrong of his career. We do not expect all writers for the young to be persons of genius, doing fine, artistic work, but they can make strong points on the matter of a good or a distinctively evil act, place the shades where they belong, and place them so that there is no mistaking. [T. Whittaker. \$1.25.]

A Band of Three. By L. T. Meade. The three are children of two street singers in London, and at the opening the father has gone to France to look up his relatives, intending to come back immediately, but as it is proved in the end, he soon died there. Immediately after he goes away, the mother, who is sweet and has a sort of piety though utterly ignorant, dies, committing her new-born baby to the care of the oldest girl, only ten. The way in which the three little sisters live on year after year, earning their living

by singing, the youngest taking the part almost as soon as she can go alone, is very touching and winsome. All the time they are saving a little fund with which to get to France and find their father, but it is stolen from them as they are on the point of departure, and then the exquisite baby, Angel, is kidnapped to perform at a show. However, all comes around right in the end and the faithful little woman, Dulcie, is abundantly rewarded. Some of the scenes are full of pathos, and there is a gentle, tender spirit throughout. [T. Whittaker. \$1.25.]

CURRENT LITERATURE.

The Harpers have reprinted in paper covers Mr. Hyde's very readable little book on the workings of the British Post Office, *The Royal Mail*, which is full of curiosities about letters. [25 cts.]

Mr. James W. Steele has been to Cuba and written out some sketches of his visit in a small book of 220 pages. His observation is sharp, his descriptions are graphic, and the book is good for winter reading at the North. [G. P. Putnam's Sons. 50 cts.]

Miss Kate Sanborn has compiled a curious volume which she calls *The Wit of Women*. With scissors, paste, and note-book she has gone through a considerable range of English and American literature, and picked out a large assortment of puns and poems, quips and jokes, sketches and stories, all by women and all supposed to be amusing. Miss Mitford, for example, is represented by the "Talking Lady," Mrs. Stowe by "Sam Lawson," Rose Terry Cooke by "Miss Lucinda's Pig," Sherwood Bonner by "The Radical Club," Miss Jewett by "The Circus of Denby," and so on. As a compilation of humorous products of the feminine mind the book may very well serve to while away a passing hour. [Funk & Wagnalls. \$1.25.]

Mr. Pease's *Singing Book* is about one half exercises and one half pieces for practice, the two elements being alternated so as to lead the learner on by easy steps of theory and example. The typography is excellent. [Ginn & Co. 80 cts.]

Mrs. Shoemaker's *Elocutionist's Annual*, No. 13, is made up of fresh, short selections from leading writers, mostly living, with a few classical pieces. Prose mingles with poetry and the serious with the humorous and the sentimental. The canons of good taste are generally observed, and the book will be found useful by public readers and reciters. [Philadelphia. 30 cts.]

In two little books called *The Dawning* and *The Dayspring*, Mrs. Valentine, an Englishwoman, has written out respectively, the historical narrative of the Old Testament as far as the time of Solomon, and of the New Testament to the day of Pentecost, using simple language adapted to the comprehension of young children, and appending questions for each chapter at the close. Pictures are also included. We do not set a very high value on these well-intended efforts to simplify what is already very simple, and we doubt if many children would be interested to read these books by themselves, though they might possibly listen to the reading of them by others. [F. Warne & Co. Each 75 cts.]

We have from D. Appleton & Co. a new edition in paper covers of that much talked of novel, *The Money Makers*, with a defensible se-

quel by the author [sic]; and from Porter & Coates a more substantially bound edition, from new plates, of T. S. Arthur's *Ten Nights in a Bar Room*, one of the earliest and most effective contributions to American temperance literature. [\$1.25.]

William T. Comstock of New York publishes part second of Mr. Wright's *Architectural Studies*, which contains twelve large plates of store fronts and interior details useful to architects. [\$1.00.]

Charles Scribner's Sons have begun a new and revised edition of the *Illustrated Library of Wonders*, in twenty-four volumes translated from the French. These are in three series: 1. *The Wonders of Man and Nature*, comprising Wonders of the Human Body, Bodily Strength and Skill, the Sublime in Nature, Mountain Adventures, Adventures on the Great Hunting Grounds, Wonderful Escapes, The Intelligence of Animals, Thunder and Lightning; 2. *The Wonders of Science*, also in eight volumes, Electricity, Heat, the Sun, the Moon, Optics, Acoustics, the Heavens, Water; 3. *The Wonders of Art and Archaeology*, viz., European Art, Italian Art, Architecture, Sculpture, Engraving, Glass Making, Pompeii and the Pompeians, Egypt 3300 Years Ago. Of these, one of each series has already been issued—*Intelligence of Animals, Wonders of Heat, and Egypt 3300 Years Ago*. These are good-looking volumes of about 300 pages, well printed, except that the type is battered and worn, well illustrated, and of fair literary and scientific value. The matter of the book, while by no means first-class, seems to be accurate, and is certainly entertaining, and the series deserves, as it will doubtless have, a large circulation. [\$1.00 a volume.]

Matthias and His Work, by James Bonar, M.D., noticed in the *Literary World* of October 17, has been issued in cheap form as No. 28 of "Harper's Handy Series." [25 cts.]

"Twelfth Night, or, What You Will," is the latest issue in Mr. W. A. Wright's series of *Shakespeare's Select Plays*. The introduction discusses the relation of the play to the comedy of "Gi'ngannati" and to one of Bandello's "Novelle," and dwells on the conception and rendition of Malvolio, a character of Shakespeare's own creation undoubtedly. The notes are as usual full and clear.

Bishop Merrill's *Digest of Methodist Law* is designed as a help to the younger pastors of that denomination, and contains a systematic and practical explanation of the various duties and relations of the pastoral office, whether judicial or non-judicial in character. "The Book of Discipline" is of course the basis of discussion, and the writer's experience and sound good sense are evident upon every page. The following sentences from the preface, however, seem unworthy of the position and dignity of the author.

"The authority for nearly all the positions it takes might be found in the Journals of the General Conferences, and in the decisions of the bishops scattered through the Minutes of the Annual Conferences, but the labor of transferring the language to these pages has been omitted. The reader, who desires the verification, can profitably employ himself in searching them out.

An occasional reference in a foot-note would seem a more equitable way of dividing the labor of transference between author and reader. [Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe. \$1.00.]

What the Temperance Century has Made Certain, by Rev. Wilbur Fisk Crafts, might be

justly called the temperance reformer's breviary. Mr. Crafts's lectures on the cure of intemperance and the problem of great cities are effective summaries of opinion, and are flanked by a "prelude of voices" from the past and the sayings of the most noteworthy temperance leaders of this century. Finally, there is a collection of "warnings and suggestions for the future" to which a number of men and women identified with the temperance agitation in this country contribute. We are certainly a long way from the time when a life insurance company refused a policy to an applicant "on the ground that his life-chances were decreased by his abstinence from alcoholics." Never was the movement against the manufacture and use of strong drink so strong, so active, and so confident as it is today. And of the work accomplished and yet to be done Mr. Crafts's book presents a significant review and a courageous outlook. [Funk & Wagnalls. 75 cents.]

Birchwood, by "Jak," is an excellent story for boys, inculcating the valuable lesson that whether a boy be rich or poor he should learn to work, and that where there is a will to work the way is sure to open. There is also a good temperance lesson taught, and it is all told in a way that ought to interest young readers. [T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.]