

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

The stories in the daintily bound volume which Arthur Shearly Cripps names "Magic Casements" are all of the period of the Wars of the Roses, "their outlook upon a beautiful and restless England, their inlook upon her many-colored faith." Quaint tales of vigil, pilgrimage, bout or tryst, they are told with exquisite simplicity and delicacy and will give to many readers of quiet taste pleasure of unusual quality. E. P. Dutton & Co.

The return of the Prince and Princess of Wales from their journey to India has a natural sequence in fresh books on India by special correspondents and other writers. Among them are "A Vision of India" by Sidney Low; "Under the Sun" by Perceval Landon; "From Charing-cross to Delhi" by S. Parnell Kerr; and "The Tourist's India" by E. A. Reynolds-Ball.

Sydney H. Preston, the author of "The Abandoned Farmer" takes up rural themes again in his new book, "On Common Ground." Describing the experiences of a city man, disappointed in love, who meditates on the delights of agriculture abed in the middle of the forenoon while his farm work fares as might have been expected, it contains some shrewd satire and a number of amusing episodes, though the humor is not of even quality. The romance of the narrator himself, and of Joseph, his "hired man," run their parallel courses to the end of the book. Henry Holt & Co.

In "The District Attorney," William Sage draws the portrait of a young man of talent and force, educated by his father to succeed him in an enormous "trust," but led by his own scru-

ples to abandon that career. Unexpectedly elected District Attorney by a spasmodic reform movement, it becomes his duty to expose the bribery practised at the City Hall in which his father himself, but for the adroitness with which he has put off that line of work onto others, would be found implicated. The chapters describing the election contest and the hunt for the criminal who has forfeited bail are particularly graphic. Little, Brown & Co.

William Allen White, whose clever skits have made the "Emporia Gazette" quoted the country over, adds another volume to the notable list of short stories published by McClure, Phillips & Co. "In Our Town" is a succession of sketches of a bustling Western town—presumably Emporia?—as seen from the editorial office of one of the two rival newspapers. "This is the material with which we do our day's work," says the editor—"Mail-Order Petrie, Marshal Furgeson, the pretty girls in the flower-parade, the wise club-women, the cut-glass society crowd, the proud owner of the automobile, the 'respectable parties concerned,' the proprietor of the Golden Eagle, the clerks in the Bee Hive, the country crook who aspires to be a professional criminal some day, the 'leading citizen' who spends much of his time seeing the sights of his country, the college boys who wear funny clothes and ribbons on their hats, and the politicians, greedy for free advertising." Mr. White has an almost equal command of humor and pathos, and whether he satirizes the aspirations of the club-woman or describes the return of the prodigal, he strikes unflinchingly the right note. His book is a delightful one to read aloud.