

Blodgett's story. The resemblance between the pseudo heroines in "At the Queen's Mercy" and in "Ardath" is most striking. Both are endowed with creepy charms, and unearthly beauty, which alternately melts and freezes the all conquering hero, who tells his tale in true *quorum magna pars* style. Few heroes, outside of Dumas's novels, have escaped so many different kinds of death as Mr. Dering of this tale. His feats are a series of "superhuman efforts," among bloodthirsty savages, "leering visages," squirming pythons, snarling tigers and ladies who display their "cold fury" one moment and irresistible tenderness the next. Ever and anon amid the hurly-burly, comes a "wild, barbaric gush of melody" and the attention of the reader is temporarily diverted from the writhings of the victims who generously fill the volume with chills and shivers.

It does indeed seem a pity that Mr. Dering, the hero, should be consigned to the long polar night of bachelorhood (to borrow a phrase from "The Choir Invisible"), after overcoming both lady and tiger, slaying the "sacred monkey" and otherwise giving indubitable proof of talents that would have been most efficacious on domestic battlefields. One has grave misgivings, too, concerning the ultimate destiny of the understudy heroine and her slippery suitor.

Too many years have we been used to the fairy-tale that provided for its heroes and heroines a happy issue out of all their afflictions. Nothing short of the "happy ever after" sequel will appease the reader of a grown-up fairy-tale like this. For fairy-tale it is, and if one has not read too many such, this book will while away an hour very pleasantly."

"Afloat on the Ohio"

An Historical Pilgrimage of a Thousand Miles in a Skiff, from Redstone to Cairo. By Reuben Gold Thwaites. Way & Williams.

THIS attractive volume is doubly suggestive, in that it shows how attractive history can be made to the average reader, and what beautiful books could be made by treating other rivers of our country in just this way. Not only is the Ohio historic, as Mr. Thwaites has shown, but it is picturesque through much of its winding way, and the accomplished author, from whom we naturally expect much, has not neglected his opportunities. A more delightful way of spending a holiday can scarcely be imagined, and we do not wonder that it was with a feeling of deep regret that the crew of the Pilgrim finally confided their boat to the tender mercies of the railroad and returned from Cairo, Ill., to Wisconsin in the prosaic confines of a Pullman car.

Very naturally, as in most books, we meet with little surprises, but these may, after all, only accentuate our own ignorance; still, we are surprised to find that the author will admit no significant antiquity of aboriginal earth-works. Again, how are we to know that song-birds follow man into forest fastnesses? Were not thrushes singing before man was anywhere on earth? Yet again, we feel called upon to say a word as to malarial districts, having lived all our years in one. Are they quite as bad as Mr. Thwaites paints them? But these are minor matters, and in no way reflect upon the book, which, we repeat, is a delightful volume.

"Literary Pamphlets"

Pamphlet Library. Henry Holt & Co.

UNDER the general supervision of Mr. Arthur Waugh, whose name is very well known to our readers, there is publishing what is known as "The Pamphlet Library," a collection of those pamphlets or tractates which, besides possessing the only saving qualities of distinction and style, have also exercised a striking influence upon the current of events. Five volumes are in contemplation. Two of them are now before us, under the title of "Literary Pamphlets" and the competent editorship of Mr. Ernest Rhys, who contributes a luminous introduction. The choice is understood to be regulated primarily by two considerations: each pamphlet must have high literary qualities, and must also mark a distinct change or development of taste or standpoint. Accordingly these two volumes, at once dignified and convenient in their outward form, afford a useful *conspectus* of the progress of English literary criticism from Sidney to Byron. Admirably prefaced by Dr. Johnson's essay, "On the Origin and Importance of Small Tracts and Fugitive Pieces," the selections deal mainly with the subject of poetry, according to what Mr. Rhys calls "the paradox of the pamphlet." That being essentially a prose implement, having its fullest development in an age of prose, it yet gives us the most superb literary results when written by poets,

"The Broom of the War God"

By Henry Noel Brailsford. D. Appleton & Co.

THE Greek-Turkish war has been over so short a time that we can hardly expect it already to produce among its consequences a matured historical novel. Accordingly we must be content to get from the pen of Mr. Henry Noel Brailsford, and under the title of "The Broom of the War God," something very far indeed from the studied composition of the picture which fills the great canvas of "Esmond," yet something good in its own way. For here we have at least a story akin to the vivid impressions of the war-correspondent, disjointed as if it had been hastily jotted down by the camp-fire at the close of each day's march, and yet giving one the idea of being the fruit of actual observation of one of the most curious and original wars of the century. It is a pathetic history, that of these brave fellows, their hearts on fire with patriotism which to them meant the direct inheritance of Marathon and Salamis, and yet blighted and wasted at every turn by incompetent leadership, by the lack of all necessities, and by the chilling shadow of the European Concert. Mr. Brailsford has thrown his sketch of one or two actual figures, like that of the brave Varatasi, into bold relief by a close study of the rabble of all nations which made up at least a part of the Philhellenic Legion, in which his hero, a philosophic scholar from St. Andrews, serves. Foreign legions are generally queer mixtures; but the contrast can seldom be more strongly marked than it is here made to appear, between the hideously vulgar East Londoners and the men who beguile the night-watches by quoting (or misquoting) Catullus and Verlaine. The book, if it can be depended on for accuracy of detail, which seems probable, will give a very good conception of the unheralded details of this short and luckless war. (D. Appleton & Co.)

"At the Queen's Mercy"

Mabel Fuller Blodgett. Lamson, Wolfe & Co.

THE READER who has been led through the tortuous labyrinths of Marié Corelli's "Ardath," or Rider Haggard's "She," will find himself in the same eerie and gruesome surroundings in Mrs.

in an age of poetry. Sidney and Campion, Daniel and Milton, write here "to interest the crowd in the intellectual liberties of the elect." Possibly by the exigencies of the binder, Swift's attack upon Steele and *The Guardian* closes the first volume, while the "Areopagitica" hurries in, as if impatient to rejoin its nearer fellows, at the outset of the second. Then we come to Addison and Pope. The "Discourse on Ancient and Modern Learning" and the "Essay on Criticism" represent the age of Queen Anne. And Byron comes in by an easy transition when he writes of Bowles's strictures on Pope; while Bowles is allowed, in part, his counterblast in an appendix, separated from his antagonist only by Wordsworth's "Letter to a Friend of Robert Burns." It will easily be seen what a feast of reason is here spread, with the convenience of a *table d'hôte* for those who, perhaps, would not take the trouble to select for themselves, from an ever-lengthening bill-of-fare, so many harmonious and salutary dishes. The succeeding volumes are to contain pamphlets of political, religious and dramatic significance.