

Mariella; or Out West. By Ella Higginson.
New York: The Macmillan Co., \$1.50.

The story of a young girl's life upon an isolated ranch on Puget Sound, written for the most part in a strange rough dialect. The same terrible veracity and overshadowing fatality peculiar to most novels of life "out West" is noticeable in the development of each character. But the distinguishing feature of the book is a moral desperation, the unhallowed approach of a naturally vicious woman toward virtue. Mariella miraculously escapes the bondage of the situation, but, after all, she is only a pretty incident in the hard, nagging persistence of the older woman. The book suggests some difficult problems in individual ethics to solve; and unquestionably the author has given a faithful interpretation of life in a little corner of the world rarely seen in fiction.

Jethro Bacon and the Weaker Sex. By F. J. Stimson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, \$1.00.

This volume contains two short stories. The first is a Cape Cod romance, in which the author has worked out an immoral conception so powerfully and with so much virtuous phraseology that it ap-

peals to the noblest sentiments, and is intended to deceive the imagination with a sort of borrowed integrity. In the other he dramatizes more conventionally and feebly the sacrificial love of a woman for her husband. The idea is all right, but the actual fact of virtue fails to stimulate his artistic faculty to the same splendid activity as did the viler notion. As to style, he is an impressionist who focuses his literary light here and there upon the situation without much logical sequence.



The Romance of an Old Fool. By Roswell Field. Evanston: Wm. S. Lord, \$1.25.

Bunsey the novelist, Prudence the housekeeper and Malachy the gardener are the three companions and guardians of the middle-aged widower who tells of his adventures in this charming little story. They hedge him about with hints and advice, and perhaps he would never have got into trouble at all if he had not one day wandered off to his boyhood's home and met with Phyllis, the daughter of his boyhood's love. Then, however, it is too late, and to the horror of the trio he settles down to live the rest of his life as a happily accepted lover. There is not a page of this little book that is not alive with graceful humor. The movement is perfect—everything is just as it ought to be—tenderness and pathos, smiles and laughter. It is a delightful story perfectly told, and we wish the best of success to its author.