

The House Opposite. By Elizabeth Kent.
New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$1.00
net.

A good detective story after the manner of Anna Katharine Green, and quite equal to that writer's better work. In the first chapter we are introduced to a young New York physician, who mounts one hot summer night to the roof of his house to smoke and keep cool. Strange sights are revealed to him through the windows of a large apartment house across the street—figures coming and going, a woman dragged hastily from view, a man rummaging a room below—and next morning the bewildered observer is called in to examine the body of a man found in an empty room, evidently dead for twenty-four hours. Love and detective work follow, of course, and the mystery is skillfully maintained until the very end. There is a fair measure of art in the conduct of the plot, with the exception of the last chapter, which unfortunately falls pretty flat. We reckon a clever detective story good reading and recommend this tale of *The House Opposite*.



The Misdemeanors of Nancy. By Eleanor Hoyt New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., \$1.50.

This "Nancy" is nearly related to Mr. Long's "Naughty Nan," tho fortunately less inclined to hysterical demonstrations. The evil in her is a delicate humor and a natural aptitude for winning more devotion than she deserves from a host of admirers. These pretty white moth women are delightful to read about and charming to know in real life, but it is well to remember that they are of all types the most ephemeral. There is not enough of such a "Nancy" to last. Once married she becomes too dull or too wicked for the best results. Coquetry is her vocation, and being deprived of it she is not always able to adjust herself to the rigors of a more serious calling. These "misdemeanors" are enchanting revelations of a very bright feminine nature, as refreshing as the sweet dust clouds of perfume tossed up by a pretty tea rose. But we mistrust the lasting fragrance of such roses whether they bloom in a garden or a drawing-room or a book.