

# New Books in Brief Review

*London.* By Sidney Dark. With illustrations by Joseph Pennell. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$7.50.

A TEXT full of information and knowledge, written with good-humored tolerance and a pleasant scholarly appreciation, modestly admitting that it is subordinate to Mr. Pennell's illustrations. Says Mr. Dark: "I have been much in the position of the dramatist hired to write a play round a poster." He does his work scant justice, as his contribution would stand safely by itself. But it is hard not to exclaim over Mr. Pennell's superb drawings — forty-two of them. Some of them mere sketches, yet every one of them an interpretation of something more than architecture, more than brick and stone — the atmosphere of London, the fogs, the smoke, the greasy pavements — and the strange beauty which can hardly be defined and which Mr. Pennell has known how to understand and reproduce. These drawings were made in 1908, but have not been reproduced before. A few are familiar to us as etchings, but many — and some of them among the best — like *New Broad Street*, *The Post Office*, *Skot Tower*, or *East London* — are quite away from his etching tradition; splendid things they are — tone, softness, depth, feeling, and dramatic effectiveness.

A volume which some will treat as a gift book, but which most of us will not want to give away.

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*Foibles and Fallacies of Science.* By D. W. Hering. New York: D. Van Nostrand Co. \$2.50.

A NEW book of "Vulgar Errors," being studies of scientific matters seriously accepted in their day and generation: Astrology, Alchemy, the Divining Rod, Palmistry, and so forth. All are considered with good humor, much scientific learning, and such certainty as one dares feel, knowing that the next hundred years may reverse our present judgments as easily as we have reversed others. An entertaining book and distinctly worth while.

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*The Chobham Book of English Prose.* By Stephen Coleridge. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$3.50.

FROM some 150 writers of English prose, from acts of Parliament, from speeches in the House of Commons, and from the moving Eighteenth Century words of Lord Erskine in a divorce case, the writer has gathered his favorite bits of eloquence, his personal preferences, and

framed them in a book. It does not claim to be an authority on English prose. We forgive the Hon. Stephen Coleridge, therefore, for leaving out Walter Pater, and also all American prose except the Gettysburg address which is quoted in part and coupled with a speech which was made by George V at the graves of the British soldiers in France.

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*Matilda, Governess of the English.* By Sophia Cleugh. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$2.50.

A GAY, innocent book, which begins with a plot so timeworn as to be almost legendary and ends with startling and original fireworks. At times it is a shade too innocent, as when the reader is treated to six consecutive pages of spoilt children's prattle and a new child's version of the Lord's Prayer. It is a book for a rainy afternoon, or for one who wishes to escape from a world where things only happen according to rule and history repeats itself into a gay world of fancy where the impossible occurs easily and with conviction.

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*Ancient Hunters and Their Modern Representatives.* By W. J. Sollas, D. Sc., F. R. S. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$6.50.

THE third edition of this standard work which was originally published in 1910. By Professor Sollas' clear, scholarly development, the history of prehistoric man, the analogies which can be found in the art and physique of various ancient races and such modern survivors as the Australian aborigines and the Bushmen, and the evidences of ancient culture are made not only intelligible to young and old, gentle and common, but also intensely interesting. And this without the cheery journalistic method. The book is lavishly and intelligently illustrated. The publishers have done well to bring out a new edition.

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*Don Juan Manuel, Count Lucanor, or the Fifty Pleasant Tales of Patronio.* Translated by James York. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3.00.

A GOOD translation of the stories attributed to that Thirteenth Century red-blooded *literatus*, Don Juan Manuel. Coming from Arabia, India, Persia, from East and West, these stories wandered around Europe and were set down at last by such men as Don Juan, Boccaccio, and Chaucer, and sifted into Shakespeare's plays and modern novels.

Aside from their interest as "sources," they are interesting in themselves and demonstrate that life was humorous even before the Renaissance.

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*Keeping Up With Science.* Edited by E. E. Slosson. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$2.50.

CRAMMED with information as to How Seeds Breathe, How Old is the Ocean? and the like — "One hundred and forty topics — every one can be read in ten minutes and every one is worth thinking about for an hour." This is a bad book to give your bright young child unless you are a doctor of science yourself, but an excellent book for a parent to read and thus maintain the illusion of his omniscience. The style is sprightly. Science is made cheerful. The illustrations are excellent.

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*Fiction, As She Is Wrote.* By E. V. Knox ("Evoc" of *Punch*). New York: Lincoln MacVeagh, the Dial Press, Inc. \$1.75.

DELICATE burlesque of recent fiction by the delightful Evoc who possesses the great secret of knowing how not to be too funny. The illustrations by George Morrow are as good as the text.

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*Sunward.* By Louis Golding. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.50.

A MODERN young man, Mr. Golding, tries hard to be unintelligible to his elders and succeeds a good deal of the time. His book describing Italian wanderings is good humored, gay at times, thick with epigrams and rather labored conceits. All too frequently, Mr. Golding bursts into facile song. In spite of its elaborate manners the book is a pleasant one to dip into, reading here and there.

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*Essays in the Romantic Poets.* By S. F. Gingerich, Ph.D. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$2.25.

PROFESSOR GINGERICH approaches Coleridge, Wordsworth, Shelley, and Byron primarily to study their philosophical driving force, the "growth of the 'deeper mind'" in their poetic development. Naturally, more attention is given to Coleridge and Wordsworth than to the less constructive poets of revolt. A scholarly, serious book following a logical development of the author's somewhat special purpose.