

Czar Ferdinand and His People. By John Macdonald. The Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. \$4.

It would be superfluous to point out the extreme timeliness of this book. Since it was written, the extraordinary change in the relation of the Balkan peoples to one another, and the new crisis which has placed "triumphant Bulgaria" in a precarious situation, have occupied the attention of the whole world. Mr. Macdonald, whose well-known book on "Turkey and the Eastern Question" has proved his qualifications to deal with the vexed and intricate problems of the Near East, precedes his careful study of Ferdinand's personality and of his reign by a brief but welcome and well-balanced history of Bulgaria itself. His estimate of the King's ability and activity is high. He believes that the King will be "the *Chief Artificer* of a new Slavic Power, whose mission is intellectual, moral, and economic progress through peace," and he laments the symptoms of a revival of race hatreds and antagonisms between the Serbs and the Bulgars which were evident as he closed his book. Unhappily, those symptoms have resulted in a fierce struggle, the end of which is not even yet apparent. We cordially commend Mr. Macdonald's volume to all who would acquire that knowledge of modern Bulgaria which is essential to anything like a complete understanding of the present situation.

Malayan Monochromes. By Sir Hugh Clifford. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$1.50.

A group of little sketches and stories of the Malay Peninsula, with Oriental color and atmos-

phere. The author has been influenced in certain ways by Kipling, but he has his own point of view and combines close knowledge of the little-known Malayan with considerable charm in narrative.

Lanagan, Amateur Detective. By Edward H. Hurlbut. The Sturgis & Walton Company, New York. \$1.25.

A very short story is better adapted than a long one to the detective theme. The mystery inevitably becomes too complicated in the long story for credence. "Lanagan" contains ten short detective stories, not as skillfully devised as those of Conan Doyle, not as curiously original as those which Chesterton is contributing to some of the magazines, but more credible than either of those series. There is really, however, no reason why the author should have made Jack Lanagan so disagreeable in his personality and habits, or Norton quite so dull.

Great Cases of Famous Detectives. By George Barton. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia. 75c.

This volume contains a score of short, true stories of famous and curious exploits by many of the great detectives in Europe and America. The author has adopted the form of fiction.

Lady and the Pirate (The). By Emerson Hough. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. \$1.25.

This is a bit of pure phantasy and frolic. A serious but lonely and love-forsaken capitalist begins to play pirate with two romantic boys. On a sudden impulse he extends the scope of his pirate voyage to a chase down the Mississippi River after his own steam yacht, which has been hired by his rival and contains the object of his own devotion. He captures the yacht and the girl, leaving the unfortunate rival stranded somewhere on the river. How the author gets the hero out of the adventure need not be told here. The story exactly answers the idea of a "summer" book—that is, it is light, amusing, and irresponsible. Where it fails is when the author attempts to weld the fantastic and romantic to the realities of actual modern life.

Discovering "Evelina." By F. Frankfort Moore. The George H. Doran Company, New York. \$1.25.

This story is in a way a companion volume to Mr. Moore's well-known romance, "The Jessamy Bride." It tells again in fiction-form the always interesting story of Fanny Burney, her secret authorship, her patronage by the great Dr. Johnson, and her far from cheerful experiences at court.

Problem of Christianity (The). By Josiah Royce. 2 vols. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50.

Dr. Royce's interpretation of Christianity will be read with interest by all students of the religious problems of our time, as of all times. In the emphasis which he lays on the social or community conception of Christianity we agree

with him. In his treatment of the Kingdom of God and the Christian Church as synonyms, and in his apparent belief that we can get a clearer understanding of the Christian teaching of the primitive churches than we can of the spirit and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, that the Church rather than Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity, we entirely disagree with him. The book is worth careful study, especially by the ministry of to-day.

James S. Wadsworth of Geneseo, Brevet and Major-General of the United States Volunteers. By Henry Greenleaf Pearson. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$4.

This is a very beautiful specimen of book-making and an interesting story of the life of an important man of the secondary rank in an important crisis of American history; by reason of its size, necessarily of chief value to students of American history and to special friends and acquaintances of the Wadsworth family.

History of the People of the United States (A). By John Bach McMaster. Vol. VIII. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$2.50.

The eighth volume of this work brings the history down to the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, and covers with characteristic detail the incidents leading up to and immediately preceding the Civil War.

Story of California (The). By Henry K. Norton. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. \$1.50.

A brief, clear review of the history of California from the earliest days to the present. It will be of interest to many who are planning to visit California in 1915, and should know something about the State, its history, and its people.

Mexico To-Day: Social, Political, and Religious Conditions. By George B. Winton. Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada, New York. 50c.

A compact volume of information about Mexican history and the social, political, and religious conditions in Mexico to-day, with emphasis, as is not unnatural, on the missionary interests and the attempt to carry on a Protestant movement in Mexico. A bibliography which includes magazine articles as well as books will be of value to those interested in the general subject.

A Chain of Prayer Across the Ages: Forty Centuries of Prayer, 2000 B.C.-A.D. 1912. Compiled and Arranged for Daily Use by Selina Fitzherbert Fox, M.D., B.S. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2.

We welcome this volume of devotion, both because it will help to answer the cry of the devout but stammering soul, "Teach us how to pray," and because it illustrates and enforces the truth that there has been a spirit of devotion running through the centuries. It would have been still more effective for both purposes if the prayers of such nonconformists as Henry Ward Beecher, Theodore Parker, and Robert Louis Stevenson had been included in the collection.