Rather tardily, but perhaps as soon as we could expect, are appearing manuals of information about military organization and insignia, first aids for the inquiring civilian. One of the most complete is Lieut. J. W. Bunkley's "Military and Naval Recognition Handbook" (Van Nostrand; $1.), a clearly illustrated guide which should prove not without value in the services as well. The chapters on the organization of our army and navy, and on the etiquette and customs peculiar to them, are naturally of first interest; but the descriptions of insignia of rank in the other important armies and navies are already helpful in some American cities and should prove increasingly useful as strange uniforms multiply upon our streets.

"A Yankee in the Trenches," by R. Derby Holmes (Little, Brown; $1.35), is a straightforward, objective report, not without humor, by an American who enlisted in the British army early in the war. His regiment was stationed in the Somme district and took part in the battle of High Wood, where the tanks made their dramatic first appearance, to the demoralization of the Germans. But Corporal Holmes is most readable when he is telling about the life of Tommy Atkins between his periods of trench service, that less spectacular life —full of quiet incident and homely detail—which the author has had to subordinate in his lectures. He understands and admires his cockney comrades, most loyal when "grousing" most bitterly. He describes and commends the Y. M. C. A. recreation work. His book will help satisfy the curiosity of our stay-at-home public about the everyday routine of life at the front; and a chapter of suggestions about what to send, and what not to send, to the Sammies should prove even more useful than the appended glossary of army slang.

"The Animal Mind," by Margaret Floy Washburn (Macmillan; $1.90) has in its second edition been subjected to a thorough and comprehensive revision. So much has been added to our knowledge of animal behavior in the last decade that the data, and in part the interpretation, must be presented in altered perspective. Along with this increased activity, which has brought about a special technique for animal study—the product of the joint interest of the biologist and the psychologist—the position of comparative psychology has become more central to the interpretation of human behavior. All these interests are admirably presented in Professor Washburn's work. The volume is well suited to the needs of college students; and its availability should act as an encouragement to the introduction of such courses in institutions that set value upon adequate surveys of the essential fields in the broad domain of the mind.

Though a wan humor plays over the characters in "Children of Passage," by Frederick Watson (Dutton; $1.50), there is a pervading gloom as of Highland mists and mildewed Scottish castles. The poor but proud and noble heroine and the ancestorless millionaire lover are familiar figures which the author has not endowed with any particular dis-

tinction. Their fortunes fluctuate a bit tediously through the three hundred odd pages, and in the end the hero enlists and the fragile heroine is denied any real earthly happiness. Both are allowed the rather doubtful satisfaction of looking forward to some future state where impecunious nobility is supposed to have much in common with plebeian prosperity.

"Kitty Canary," by Kate Langley Bosher (Harpers; $1.) is a "glad" book with a typically loving and cheerful heroine who finds a congenial background for her romantic optimism in a typically Southern village. Kitty Canary—more sedately Katherine Bird—is a precociously philosophical young person, deeply concerned with life and given to high-handed management of her own and other people's affairs. When Father or Miss Susanna shows signs of insubordination, Kitty Canary just whirls the objector giddily about the room and after this joyful exercise her wishes are pursued with astonishing docility. Lovers are reunited; a sick wife is nursed back to health; a selfish husband is punished; dowdy spinsters are transformed; and other desirable changes are speedily effected. At the end, the heroine's own love affairs are satisfactorily arranged. The village life and characters are pleasantly suggested; and doubtless the story will contain many charms for girl readers of boarding school age.

"The Neapolitan Lovers" (Brentano; $1.40) is an historical novel by the famous author of "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "The Three Musketeers." Frankly, unless one be of that happy brotherhood of readers who "thoroughly enjoy" historical romance, this story is to be read when one is sixteen and cares little if a book be neither fish nor fowl nor good red herring. The older reader, used to and demanding credible psychology, is likely to find the story of the story more interesting than the novel itself. For, according to the introduction by R. S. Garnett, the book's translator, "Dumas had long awaited an opportunity of dealing with the Neapolitan Claudius and the Venetian Messalina (King Ferdinand and Queen Maria Carolina). He might have said in the words of Hernani: 'La meurtre est entre nous affaire de famille.' In 1851 Dumas wrote: 'Perhaps some day my filial vengeance will evoke these two blood-stained spectres and force them to pose in naked hideousness before posterity.'" For it seems that King Ferdinand was Dumas's father's murderer, and Dumas's lifelong desire was for revenge. It was through Garibaldi, who had installed Dumas in the Chiatamone Palace with permission to examine the secret archives of the city, that the author found the unique set of public documents, manuscripts, and letters which the hangman had reserved for the King. And anyone who has read even one of Dumas's many historical romances may easily imagine that writer's delight at the opportunity. This interesting explanation of the writing of the novel, then, may excusably be given in lieu of a review; there isn't a hint in the romance itself that it is done to revenge the murder of the author's father.