

1895, that had past thru the earthquake and fire at San Francisco, and been packed away in a crate with a wrong label, has recently been rescued and published. *Vandover and the Brute* lacks the author's revision, and is crude and unfinished in spots, yet it bears the impress of Frank Norris's genius. It shows the struggle for mastery in the soul of a man between the good and evil forces of his nature. Its painful realism recalls Zola, its plot reminds one of Stevenson in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* or Oscar Wilde in *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, but there is no touch of the supernatural in the steady downward pull of the Brute, and if the story repels we hear the voice of Frank Norris speaking out of the past: "I told them the truth. They liked it or they didn't like it. What had that to do with me? I told them the truth; I knew it for the truth then, and I know it for the truth now. A grim and bitter truth! But no one can dispute its power."

Vandover and the Brute, by Frank Norris. Doubleday, Page & Co. \$1.85.

VAUDEVILLE IN BOOKS

Two decidedly clever and amusing little books are *Roughing It De Luxe*, by Irvin S. Cobb, and *I Should Say So*, by James Montgomery Flagg. The former is Mr. Cobb's humorous impressions of a trip thru the West, appropriately illustrated by McCutcheon, and the latter, a series of satirical sketches and pictures which have recently made merry in one of the magazines.

Doran. \$1 each.

A ROMANCE FROM CAIRO

An American girl—beautiful, of course—is enticed into the *Palace of Darkened Windows*, owned by an Egyptian officer in Cairo, and held prisoner while a young American engineer strives to rescue her. A medieval plot in a modern setting, a preposterous story, but diverting withal and with rapidly changing and picturesque scenes. The book is by Mary Hastings Bradley.

Appleton. \$1.30.

A WELL-MERITED POPULARITY

Familiar to readers of contemporary verse is *Saint-Gaudens: An Ode, and Other Verse*, by Robert Underwood Johnson, just published in its fourth edition. All these poems have had unusual praise on their former appearances; but a fourth edition for any collection of poems, however fine, by a living American, deserves a special consideration. What impresses the reader in this book is a certain up-to-dateness in its sympathies, together with a preference for the nobler manner of poetry, rather than for the strained attitudes

THE DEGRADATION OF A SOUL

Sometimes the story of a manuscript is as interesting as its contents. A novel that had been lost for years, written by Frank Norris in

of the verse we usually call up-to-date. These poems treat of politics, of science, of literary and civic occasions, always with force and dignity and clearness. Mr. Johnson evidently has not felt it beneath the dignity of the muse to serve public causes, and the list of causes of which he has made himself laureate is to his credit as a citizen as well as a poet. That his poetry should need a fourth edition is to the credit of the public for whom he has spoken. Many of the shorter lyrics have much charm; all of the poems are thoughtful. The finest is probably the ode to Saint-Gaudens, which gives the name to this collection. No lover of our great sculptor can afford to miss this lyrical yet discriminating appraisal of his work.

Bobbs-Merrill. \$1.50.

FROM INSIDE THE PRISON

The story of the week spent in Auburn Prison as a regular convict, sharing the life of the prisoners in every detail, even to a night spent in the jail, without light or bed, or sufficient air, by Thomas Mott Osborne, chairman of the New York State Prison Reform Commission, is intensely interesting. *Within Prison Walls* is free from sensationalism and is a straightforward report of the conditions found in Auburn in 1913. His bias is in favor of the prisoner, but there is an effort to be fair to the officers, who are even more victims of a faulty system than are the men they guard, as they are held responsible for the custody and safety of the prisoner. The book proves the author's contention: "I found that, partly by force of imagination and environment and partly by the actual physical conditions of confinement, one could really come into astonishingly close sympathy and understanding with the prisoner." Another man might not have been able to win the men by a self-imposed sentence, but Mr. Osborne's manliness and sympathy made him friends among his companions, and his experience has value from his unique endowment.

Appleton's. \$1.50.

A PRIMER FOR THE NATIONAL GAME

In order to show the boy or young man how to become a good ball player John J. McGraw, manager of the New York "Giants," has written *How to Play Baseball*. The purpose of the book is not to develop professional ball players, but to give instruction in the various positions so that American boys may become better men. The book is well worth consideration by all lovers of the national game.

Harpers. 60 cents.

AN INTERPRETATION OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The *Rise of the American People*, by Roland G. Usher, Ph.D., is rather an interpretation of history than the chronicle itself. The character of the people, the forces acting upon them and their reaction to these forces are analyzed, while the course of events is only their outcome. Mr. Usher's failure to trace to its source the new democracy that grew up in the Western Hemisphere, entirely ignoring the early Eng-

lish settlers who came to America already well equipped for democracy, however, stands out as a striking defect. But still more unsatisfactory is the author's inadequate comprehension of the great forces that are at work in the nation today. He recognizes the fact of the increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, but does not seem to grasp the fact that with growing numbers of Americans the real question is whether the few have a right to a monopoly of the wealth and resources of the country, while the many have nothing; nor does he see that it is the insistent question as to the morality of the system which permits this unequal division which is at the root of much of the modern unrest.

Century Co. \$2.

THE ART OF RAISING VEGETABLES

An excellent book for the housewife is *The Kitchen Garden and the Cook*, by Cecilia Maria Pearse. The volume is an alphabetical guide to the cultivation of vegetables and contains recipes for cooking them. It should prove to be invaluable for the care of the kitchen garden.

Dutton. \$1.50.

TRUTH IN A LABYRINTH OF WORDS

If one can manage to wade thru many useless pages of verbosity and repetition, he will find much useful and suggestive matter presented in President Marion Leroy Burton's addresses on *Our Intellectual Attitude in an Age of Criticism*. The causes of doubt and the difficulties of faith are frankly discussed, and an urgent appeal is made in the interest of students for larger freedom of thought, a more ready acceptance of critical and scientific conclusions, and the establishment of a broader basis of belief.

Pilgrim Press. \$1.25.

ON THE MORAL DOWNGRADE

Mr. Harold Begbie's mastery of an incisive, bold and spirited style has been shown to good advantage in his sharp indictment of present vulgarity, tolerance of impure suggestions in advertisements and the public prints, the sex obsession of much current literature, and the changing attitude toward woman, all of which indicate, so Mr. Begbie contends, that we are facing a *Crisis of Morals*. The author calls for a program that will include a pure thought campaign, the restoration of a more knightly and chivalrous attitude toward woman, and the application of religious motive to the individual will and conscience.

Revell. 75 cents.

THE LAWS OF STATISTICS

Dr. Frank Zizek's *Statistical Averages*, translated and copiously annotated by Professor W. M. Persons, is a theoretical study in statistical method. Its thoro discussion of some of the most vital questions in the "science of averages," as one scholar has defined statistics, will make the book of value and profit to the specialist in the university or the census bureau, but the technical character of the book will prevent it from having a wide circulation outside of these circles.

Henry Holt & Co. \$2.50.