

The Road and the Roadside. By Burton Willis Potter. [Little, Brown & Co. \$1.00.]

The history, the science, the philosophy, the law, and almost the romance of roads are all expounded in this ingenious, instructive, and entertaining little book, and the author has done admirably with a suggestive subject. The things that lie nearest us are often the last to be noted, and who would have thought of making a book about roads and roadways? Yet "the road," said Dr. Bushnell, "is that physical sign or symbol by which you will best understand any age or people." The great highway which connected Memphis in Egypt with Babylon on the Euphrates was one of the wonders of the ancient world, and the Roman roads are famed forever. Good roads are necessities, comforts, and sources of pleasure. The location of roads is a science; their proper construction a technological art. Drainage is of prime importance and often neglected; in New England climate and soil the macadamized road is the cheapest and best. In keeping roads in good repair an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. How the public come to have rights of way; the economy of guide-boards and drinking-troughs; adornment of the wayside by grass-plats and shade trees; and the privileges and restrictions of use, are among the points Mr. Potter touches on as he passes along. Pedestrians on the highway must be on their guard; abutters, ordinarily, have peculiar rights out as far as to the middle of the road; loafers on the sidewalk, including organ-grinders, may be treated as trespassers and ordered on; barking dogs on the highway subject their owners to large liabilities. There is a warm plea for more footpaths, after the English fashion; there is an excellent chapter on "Don't"—things not to be done on the public highway; and the courtesies, amenities, and enjoyments of the road come in for remark at the end. Altogether this is a capital book, readable, useful, suggestive, and enticing one out of doors.
