

THE ADVENTURES OF HAJJI BABA OF ISPAHAN have long enjoyed a reputation as one of the three most amusing and instructive books bearing on Persian ways and manners, the other two being the "Arabian Nights" and the Comte de Gobineau's "Romances of the East." James Morier, the author of "Hajji Baba," was Secretary of the English Embassy at Teheran at intervals ranging from 1808 to 1814. Less gifted than the French writer just mentioned, he was earlier in the field, and being of a critical and sarcastic temper, he has gathered up everything that could be used to give pungency to his satire on a people who (as one of them wrote him), whatever their faults, had been good *to him*. But, to do him justice, malice is seldom apparent in his strictures, and he is never dull, except when he undertakes the tragical. His book, which first appeared in 1824, has still a long life before it. To the present edition is prefixed a useful "Introduction," by the Hon. George Curzon, M.P., and it is illustrated with spirited pen-and-ink sketches by H. R. Millar. (Macmillan & Co., \$1.25.)

THE PLATED CITY, by Bliss Perry, is a thoroughly good story of a type that is no longer common. The scene is laid in a Connecticut village, where the silver-plate industry seems to affect the characters, while it occupies the best thoughts of a large majority of the inhabitants. The racial question of color plays a conspicuous part in the tale, which is told with marked vigor and originality. The character drawing is excellent and indicates a keen knowledge of human nature, especially in the cases of the genial Dr. Atwood and Norman Lewis. Not the least interesting portions of the book to many will be the vivid descriptions of two ball-games and the exciting account of a disastrous conflagration in the factory district of Bartonvale. (Charles Scribner's Sons, \$1.25.)