

HILDA STRAFFORD, by Beatrice Harraden.
(Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.)

This book, the result of Miss Harraden's stay in California, shows above all things the folly of long engagements and the long drawn out misery of waiting for good fortune. *Hilda Strafford* was a young English girl, full of life and ambition, whose sweetheart had gone to California, to make a home for himself and his prospective bride. After three years she joined him, and inside of three months regretted her isolation from the world of progress, for she did not love her husband and the long, lonesome days on the ranch were maddening to her active spirit. She grew cold and indifferent to the poor fellow who had worked so hard and long, and who loved her so devotedly, and finally when the floods ruined his ranch and swept away his labor of years, he died, broken-hearted. *Hilda*, then hopelessly loving her dead husband's best friend, returned to England, and that is the end of the story. The description of the California country is very prettily done, and there is one character, the friend, that is particularly well drawn and charming. For *Hilda* herself, we feel no sympathy, for she is a cold, heartless woman, and the husband only excites our deep pity. The book is well written, but it cannot compare with the author's famous "Ships," chiefly because it is not written from the heart, as that undoubtedly was.

THE BEAUTIFUL MISS BROOKE, by Z. Z.
(D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

We are not surprised that the author of this book veils his or her identity by initials. The story is not exactly stupid, but it has no charm; *Miss Brooke* is an inexplicable and not attractive character; there is no plot, and the ending is unsatisfactory. The binding, however, is very dainty.

THE COMING OF CHLOE, by "The Duchess."
(J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

LOVICE, by "The Duchess."
(J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

A peculiar, melancholy sort of interest attaches to these two novels, the last by that popular writer who has furnished so many tender, dainty, and light little love stories, and whose busy pen is now stilled forever. "The Coming of Chloe" and "Lovice" are just the same as their many predecessors, with their admixture of lovely girls, clever but impecunious young men, gallant old Irish colonels, fair heroines with faint but groundless suspicions of a past, and an abundance of light, amusing dialogue. Dramatic strength was never characteristic of "The Duchess," but her stories are like syllabub, sweet, frothy and harmless.

THE PORT OF MISSING SHIPS, AND OTHER STORIES OF THE SEA, by John R. Spears.
(Macmillan Co., New York.)

Three decided sailors' "yarns," full of the sailor's lingo which is Greek to the uninitiated, and lacking sufficient plot or dramatic interest to induce the reader to struggle through them.

A ROMANCE OF OLD NEW YORK, by Edgar Fawcett.
(J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

A tame and unoriginal story, whose only charm is its quaint setting in the days of long ago. The character of Aaron Burr, idealized and made exceedingly attractive, dominates the book.

HIS FORTUNATE GRACE, by Gertrude Atherton.
(D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

A satire on New York society, taking for its foundation the subject of international marriage, and the avidity with which so many American heiresses jump at a coronet. His Grace in this instance comes to America without a penny, almost committed to a bright young girl who, for some unapparent reason loves him as well as his title. The girl's father is about to fail, however, and under the circumstances of course the alliance cannot be "arranged." Another girl, however, is more fortunate, for her mother runs the campaign, and when the father refuses his consent to the cold-blooded bargain, the ladies take themselves and the duke to England, where the ceremony is celebrated, and whence the husband and father eventually comes to bring his wife home.

The book is interesting, and while the story is repulsive in its bold delineation of many familiar types, it is so true to life, in the light of several recent events, that Mrs. Atherton cannot be accused of overdrawing her characters or exaggerating her plot, and although it is not an agreeable story to contemplate, there is no denying that such conditions really exist.

A PINCHBECK GODDESS, by Mrs. J. M. Fleming.
(D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

The author of this story is otherwise known as Alice M. Kipling, sister of the remarkable Rudyard, to whom the volume is dedicated. The book—is it not her first?—grows in interest as the chapters advance, and the last is the most entertaining of all. Also, when the story is finished, and the pinchbeck goddess stands revealed, a retrospection of the whole thing is more pleasing than the first reading—this, however, because the author's secret is so well kept. The scene of the story is laid in India—no jungles though—and the goddess is a very fascinating person. The fox terrier, too, is a very attractive little character, and he figures conspicuously and entertainingly in nearly every chapter.

THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE DEVIL, by Guy Boothby.
(D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

The Beautiful White Devil is a pirate of the seas who goes about dispensing justice and equalizing the good things of this world according to her own likes until the hero of the book falls in love with her, and persuades her to abandon her perilous career. The dramatic incidents certainly reflect credit upon the writer's imagination, and there are a number of remarkable character sketches thrown in—chief among

the portrayal of the daughter of a Wall street millionaire, who says, "Oh, Lor!" "I reckon," and talks about "Pap and Mam."

GUTTER-SNIPES, by Phil May. (Macmillan Co., New York.)

None but an artist who thinks as well as draws, who studies with his heart as well as his eyes, could have so brought home to us the joys and sorrows of these little vagabonds. Perhaps no more delightful half-hour could be spent than in turning the pages of "Gutter-Snipes," where every picture contains a whole story of tragedy and farce, of mirth and tears.

DOCTOR LUTTRELL'S FIRST PATIENT, by Rosa Nouchette Carey. (J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

A story with a somewhat hackneyed plot that begins well, has the denouement in the middle of the book, and leaves the reader wondering what the last hundred pages were written for. But at least, Rosa Nouchette Carey's books are always pure and healthful reading.

WHEN THE CENTURY WAS NEW, by Charles Conrad Abbott, M. D. (J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

A quaint little story of Quakers and other folks, in which exquisitely natural delineations of character contrast rather strangely with an improbable plot. The cover and general appearance of the book are charming.

CAPTAIN MOLLY, by Mary A. Denison. (Lee & Shepard, Boston, Mass.)

Captain Molly was a rich and beautiful girl, who left her father, lover, and a luxurious home to join the Salvation Army. There she meets with many interesting adventures, becomes happy in her life-work, and incidentally converts her lover to her views. The book is readable more from the sincerity and purity of purpose with which it is written than from any remarkable literary merit.

THE STORY OF EXTINCT CIVILIZATIONS, by Robert E. Anderson, M. A., F. A. S. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

One of the Library of Useful Stories series. This book is clearly written, and it is doubtful if ever a greater amount of information was successfully condensed into fewer pages.

MEMOIRS OF MARSHALL OUDINOT, compiled by Gaston Stiegler; translated by Alexander Teixeira De Mattos. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

A comprehensive and studious biography of an interesting character. The book is a little too heavy, however, to be enjoyed by ordinary readers.

IN THE TIDEWAY, by Mrs. F. A. Steel. (Macmillan Co., New York.)

A vaguely written story of a woman who for some unaccountable reason married the man she didn't love instead of the one she did love, and then invited the

latter to spend the summer with them simply to prove that she was strong enough to withstand temptation. Such playing with fire somewhat repels our sympathy, and when the two are stranded on a desert island, and the woman runs into the sea to keep from confessing her love, we are inclined to think that the whole thing served her just right.

FAIRY STARLIGHT AND THE DOLLS, by Elizabeth S. Blakely, illustrated by Lucy F. Perkins. (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, Ill.)

Another of the pretty fairy books in which the fairies turn out to be only dreams, but the story cannot fail to interest the little readers for whom it is intended, as the childish adventures are charmingly written, and the illustrations are delightful.

TALES OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS, by Ambrose Bierce. (American Publishers' Corporation, New York.)

A book of short stories, unhackneyed in plot and original in treatment, and if several of them are rather gruesome, the dramatic strength of movement and action atones for the hair-raising qualities. The author frankly admits in a prefatory note that the chief publishing houses of the country refused his book, which is rather surprising, for Mr. Bierce's stories are far superior to many similar publications now on the market.

GENERAL GRANT, by James Grant Wilson. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

One of the fine series of Great Commanders, and a particularly interesting volume. The book is written by a personal friend and associate of Grant, and on this account its contents bear the stamp of authority. The story of Grant's early life, his magnificent war record, and his closing days are graphically described, and a number of highly entertaining incidents illustrative of the general's character are included. The biography is sure to prove popular, as it will be interesting to every reader, and its historic value is considerable.

ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAIN, by C. E. D. Phelps. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.)

A volume of verse, unique in sentiment and somewhat Browningsque in style. The poems we can understand we enjoy, and those we can't understand we wish we could.

ENGLISH LITERATURE, by Stopford A. Brooke, M. A. (Macmillan Co., New York.)

A comprehensive little treatise, giving in condensed form the principal works and characteristics of English writers from 670 until 1832. Invaluable as a reference.

LAD'S LOVE, by S. R. Crockett. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

A delightfully "homey" little story, full of the pathos and the humor we have learned to expect from Crockett's works, and with the bloom of the heather and smell of the peat in every line.

LOST LINEAGE, by Carrie Goldsmith Childs. (Mayflower Publishing Co., Floral Park, New York.)

An elaborately concocted tale, wherein movement is sacrificed to intricacy of plot, and clear character drawing to elaborate descriptions.

TECUMSEH'S YOUNG BRAVES, by Everett T. Tomlinson. (Lee and Shepard, Boston, Mass.)

ON THE STAFF, by Oliver Optic. (Lee & Shepard, Boston, Mass.)

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.)

Three stirring stories of war, with more or less historical interest and character, making good, wholesome reading for boys.

POEMS, by J. E. Redman. (John C. Winston & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

A volume of mediocre verse with somewhat ambitious themes.

JANE, by Marie Corelli. (J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.)

An uninteresting, very little book, not up to Miss Corelli's standard.

THE SUN OF SARATOGA, by Joseph A. Altsheller. (D. Appleton & Co., New York.)

A highly interesting romance of the Revolution, with plenty of stirring adventures and a pleasing love story. The pictures of war are vivid, the heroism is of the right sort, and the tale is related with refreshing simplicity. The author's keen sense of humor, added to his skill as a narrator, makes the book particularly fascinating.

A ROSE OF YESTERDAY, by Marion Crawford. (Macmillan Co., New York.)

A rather slender story, in which scarce half a dozen characters are concerned, but the book is written with Mr. Crawford's usual deliberation and thoughtfulness. The story drags a bit at times, and the action is very slight, and there is no surprise at the end, for the reader is quite sure about the way it is going to turn out. Such a woman as the heroine, who was treated brutally by her husband, and only found peace when he was in an asylum; who really loved and was loved by another man; whose only son was mentally weak by reason of his father's cruelty, and yet who forgave and was ready to live with this husband again when he was released from the asylum—such a woman is not too good to be true, for her prototype has been known in real life, but Mr. Crawford lays her "goodness" on very thick. Happily, the husband dies before they meet again, and the "rose of yesterday" promises to

bloom anew in a pleasanter garden. Incidentally, Mr. Crawford makes his story a peg on which to hang some very sound and sensible views on the woman question.

THE GREAT K. & A. TRAIN ROBBERY, by Paul Leicester Ford. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.)

An entertaining story of a Western railroad division superintendent who stops the sharp practice of some railroad officials who are endeavoring to secure control of the road. He is attracted by the daughter of one of the officials, and this supplies the love interest.

EDWARD THE SECOND, by Christopher Marlowe; from the second quarto of 1598. Edited with a Preface, Notes and Glossary by A. W. Verity, M. A. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co., New York.)

EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR, by Ben Jonson; from the text of Jonson's own edition of 1616. Edited with Preface, Notes and Glossary by W. Macneile Dixon. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co., New York.)

DOCTOR FAUSTUS, by Christopher Marlowe. Edited with Preface, Notes and Glossary by Israel Gollancz. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co., New York.)

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, by John Webster. Edited with Preface, Notes and Glossary by C. Vaughan. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co., New York.)

These four plays are issued in the attractive series of the Temple Dramatists, with notes as stated above, in handy little single volumes, with a great deal of interesting history in regard to the first production, different editions, etc., of each drama. All students of dramatic literature will find much valuable information in this series, as well as a compact and artistic edition of the old classics.

THE LIFE OF HORATIO, LORD NELSON, by Robert Southey. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co., New York.)

THE LAST ESSAYS OF ELIA, by Charles Lamb. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co. New York.)

RELIGIO MEDICI AND URN-BURIAL, by Sir Thomas Browne. (J. M. Dent & Co., London; Macmillan Co., New York.)

Reprints, with many annotations, of these well known and valuable books, in a most handy and artistically gotten up edition.