

*A Little
Old World* The Fogazzaro novels are good
to read. In especial, the later
ones stand for their author's
ideals of life, religion, and work; first, a
purification of the Roman Catholic Church,
and then the active participation by Roman
Catholics in the progressive religious, social,
and political life of our day. In other words,
men should be as broadly as they are in-
tensely religious. But, aside from this, the
Fogazzaro novels are good to read because
of the characters therein depicted; these
seem more like ourselves than do those of

most novels of Italy, whether written by Italian romancers from Manzoni to Verga or by foreign novelists from Hawthorne to Marion Crawford. In "Piccolo Mondo Antico," for instance, the characters, especially the minor ones, have a humanness, pathos, whimsicality, and quiet humor which remind one now of Dickens, now of Fritz Reuter. "Piccolo Mondo Antico" has reached its forty-fourth edition in Italy—a sufficient comment concerning its popularity. Perhaps it comes the nearest to being a historical romance of any of Fogazzaro's novels. It represents "a little old world," for its scenes are practically confined to the lovely shores of the Lake of Lugano during the Austrian occupation half a century ago. Those humiliating days for Italy are well depicted, and, while the novel does not portray all the historical scenes which one might expect, it does throw a valued side-light on them. The hero, Don Franco, is none other than Signor Fogazzaro's father, and the heroine Luisa is his mother. Don Franco is hardly so much a "patriot"—to use the rather misleading title of the translation—as he is a religionist, a type of the Church in its conflict with unbelief; he prefigures "Il Santo," published in English as "The Saint," the third member of the trilogy of which "The Patriot" forms the first. A translation of the second, "Piccolo Mondo Moderno," is in press and is to be entitled "The Sinner." The trilogy is the more remarkable because it was unconsciously evolved rather than consciously planned. The "Antico" is not Signor Fogazzaro's greatest work. While it contains some striking descriptions of nature, recalling the author's "Idillii," and while in plot, character-drawing, and style it is superior to his "Malombra" and "Mistero del Poeta," it does not equal his "Daniele Cortis," which in these respects stands well-nigh unexcelled among novels dealing with present-day Italy. As to the English edition of the "Antico," though the vigorous translation may tally with the dictionary, it does not always preserve the novelist's originality of expression and atmosphere. (Piccolo Mondo Antico. Da Antonio Fogazzaro. Baldini, Castoldi e Cia., Milan. The Patriot [Piccolo Mondo Antico]. By Antonio Fogazzaro. Translated by M. Prichard-Agnetti. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$1.50.)