

no points of resemblance among four volumes of poems mentioned in this review. Anyone feeling that modern verse shows a "trend" would have to revise opinion after reading these four books, all published within a short time of each other. What they offer has nothing in common beyond a preoccupation with the formal rather than vers libre types of poetry.

The editors of "The Yale Series of Younger Poets" have a happy ability of picking winners, for out of nineteen authors chosen by them to date, some ten at least have justified the publishers' experiment and have become more than casual contributors to the literary work of today. Elizabeth Jessup Blake, whose "Up and Down" forms number XIX of the series, exhibits a not unusual skill at verse making, an over effusive tendency to describe the moods of nature, a way of writing with a sort of heavy grandeur; yet she has likewise the faculty of catching undeniably poetic significances in her nebulous lines. She lacks focus, but her vision is trained on the right sort of thing. She should turn out to be a poet in time. For the present she is able to make rewarding attempts to record what she sees and feels; later she must do more than this. She needs refining and sharpening of her technique — more of thought fused with her observation.

The work of Cale Young Rice has appeared widely for a great many years, and his publishers have now collected his travel poems into a single volume entitled "A Pilgrim's Scrip". It is divided into sections on Great Britain, America, Japan, China, India, Persia, Egypt, Italy, and other places where he has journeyed and where a poetry loving traveler might enjoy reading of what he thought and saw. The book has praiseworthy points

## POETRY FOR EVERY TASTE

By Bernice Lesbia Kenyon

**T**HREE books bound in blue, and one in variegated paper ranging from yellow to brown to grey and resembling spectroscopic records by some astronomer — except for the color of their bindings, there seem to be

and has some pleasant or entertaining things to recount about all these lands; yet somehow it fails to be stirring or provocative — it has an artificiality and a thinness which prevent its being the sort of book one really would find space to include when packing for a journey. Not the form, but the substance, is lacking. The present reviewer feels that the publishers showed questionable taste in including, at the end of the volume, a section of excerpts from favorable reviews of the author's work.

The third blue bound volume of the group is an anthology of modern verse, selected out of the work of English poets and edited by L. A. G. Strong under the title "By Haunted Stream". Mr. Strong's own volumes, "Dublin Days" and "The Lowery Road", give proof enough of his poetic insight, and his anthology is one of the most delightful published in recent months. If British poetry was crippled by the war, as he hints in the preface, it has come a long way toward recovery when the half hundred and more poets here represented show so high an average of excellence. One can pick at random dozens of moving and delightful things, by poets famous or unknown, as for instance Richard Church's "The Lantern", Oliver Davies's lyric on "Time", T. W. Earp's "To a Southern Gentleman", the powerful and lovely work of Gerald Gould, J. S. Muirhead's "Epigram", and the poetry of F. Pearce Sturm. Now and then a selection falls below the high average of the others, but Mr. Strong easily proves his point: that the poems have each a definite life and personality, that they have a right to be included because they give pleasure. They do.

One turns to the fourth—the spectroscopically colored volume—expecting something vastly different; and

one gets it. "Chills and Fever", by John Crowe Ransom, is a find to enrich any bookshelf. The man has more substance on any page he writes than some books contain in their entirety. He is daring of thought, dramatic, "civilized" (I apologize for using that worn word, but it belongs here), erudite, and, one might add, esoteric in places, requiring study and considerable time from his readers for the full appreciation of what he has to say. His lyrical sophistication, his whimsical agility in thought and words, give him the power to say the almost unsayable and to suggest accurately what cannot be said. He deserves to be quoted at length; there is only space to suggest that anyone wanting to read what is new and original in American poetry might turn to Mr. Ransom's "Triumph", "In Process of a Noble Alliance", "Here Lies a Lady", "Miriam Tazewell", "Nocturne"—or better still, he might buy the book and read it all—slowly.

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Up and Down. By Elizabeth Jessup Blake. Yale University Press.

A Pilgrim's Scrip. By Cale Young Rice. The Century Co.

By Haunted Stream, An Anthology of Modern English Poets. Edited by L. A. G. Strong. D. Appleton and Co.

Chills and Fever. By John Crowe Ransom. Alfred A. Knopf.