

diaries, including the bits of journals kept by two of the Alcott girls, Anna and Louisa, with other contemporary records, have been diligently searched and judiciously utilized by Miss Sears, who has also added, by permission, Miss Alcott's ever-entertaining "Transcendental Wild Oats," and has given in an appendix the very interesting "catalogue of the original Fruitlands library," about a thousand volumes brought from England by Alcott and his friend Charles Lane, and described in "The Dial" of that time as "containing undoubtedly a richer collection of mystical writers than any other library in this country." Views of the Fruitlands house, exterior and interior, with portraits of the Alcotts and other inmates, are abundantly supplied. To readers of discernment the book will commend itself as a veritable treasure.

*The story of a short-lived community.* From the early summer of 1843 to the following mid-winter, a little company of "consecrated cranks," as they have since been called by the irreverent, strove to realize the higher life and to set an example to the rest of the world by practising, on a farm at Harvard, Massachusetts, the principles of strict vegetarianism, brotherly love, simplicity and sincerity, and other virtues—with next to nothing in the way of material resources whereby to prevent this life of the spirit from becoming as independent of the body in actual fact as it was in ideal and aspiration. But the rigors of a New England winter proved too severe a trial of their faith to these apostles of "the Newness," in their linen tunics and canvas shoes, and unsustained by more invigorating diet than a fast-diminishing ration of barley; and so the high-hearted enterprise of ushering in the millennium on a regimen of cereals and water came to a premature end. "Bronson Alcott's Fruitlands" (Houghton) rehearses the pathetic tale of this adventure in spirituality. Miss Clara Endicott Sears, a dweller upon the hill overlooking the scene of the undertaking, has compiled, in a spirit of mingled "pity, awe, and affection," this account of the "Consociate Community" founded by Alcott, with his long-suffering wife and his four daughters, and a half-score of more or less earnest and ascetic souls from different quarters of the globe. Letters and