

New Books in Brief Review

The Old Woman of the Movies and Other Stories. By Blasco Ibáñez. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

A VOLUME of short stories by this popular and overrated author. The best thing about them is the translation which perhaps errs on the side of a too racy colloquialism. In the introduction, Mr. Arthur Livingston takes up his cudgels and belabors the "highbrow critics" who pooh-pooh Señor Ibáñez's elaborate imitations of genius, but fails, on the whole, to do much execution. Those who like Blasco Ibáñez will like these stories, just as those who like Mr. Harold Bell Wright would like a volume of stories from the gifted pen of that great American. They are pleasant and quite innocuous.

French Home Cooking. By Claire de Pratz. Edited by Day Monroe. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

AN excellent collection of genuine French recipes. A bad book for a hungry man to read, but a real contribution to the literature of the kitchen. If only our cooks would read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it! Madame de Pratz is not concerned with the "French cooking" of hotels and restaurants, but has sought her inspiration in the practice of good French housewives. For such ingredients as are not available in America, the editor sensibly suggests the best substitutes. A very sound work.

The Naval History of the World War. By Thomas G. Frothingham. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. \$3.75.

A NARRATIVE history which is at once a good story and a clear, authoritative reference, giving the why as well as the where and when. The chapters on the Battle of Jutland are as fresh as intelligent news reports and contain some of the best writing that has been done on the World War. The accompanying maps and diagrams are complete and well executed.

A Manual of Style with Specimens of Type. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. \$3.00.

AN invaluable book of rules, practice, and information for printers, proof readers, editors, and publishers. Not only are the arrangements excellent, explanations lucid, and the examples and illustrations copious and helpful, but this new

edition of a standard work conforms in all respects to the best practice of the leading publishers. It will be adopted as standard by THE INDEPENDENT. Can we say more?

The Sons of the Sheik. E. M. Hull. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$2.00.

FORTUNATELY for the reading public which likes "desert stuff," the Sheik is not lost to us. His tale is carried on into the next generation, when more stern sons of the desert come in contact with more frail, timid damsels. After sin and repentance on the part of the former, and suffering and forgiveness on the part of the latter, and much love and passion on the part of all, they are united and will doubtless live happily until the next of the series shall gladden the hearts of romance-starved maidens.

Mrs. Fuller. By Marguerite Bryant. New York: Duffield & Co. \$2.00.

A MURDER mystery with a bewildering array of characters caught in a complicated network of intrigue. No better than a hundred others, but interesting enough if you like that sort of thing.

Hidden Valley. Garrett Chatfield Pier. Boston: The Stratford Co. \$2.00.

THE plot of this book is drawn from the story of Moses. The author has evidently made a study of Egyptology which enables him to fill in with interesting details the descriptions of such incidents as the funerary rites of Ramses the Great. The historical characters in the book, Moses, Jethro, Shelah, and Zipporah, though simply described, ring true. While the language is Biblical, it is not affectedly so, and the story of Moses' love and wooing of Zipporah is picturesquely and poetically told.

This would be an excellent book for a schoolbook list or to stimulate a student's interest in the Old Testament.

The Rational Hind. By Ben Ames Williams. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.00.

MR. WILLIAMS gives us the history of the Dillards, an old New England family which struggles to hold the wide domain bequeathed it by stronger and wealthier ancestors. A realistic description of farm life in Maine which will interest those who love the country and know the satisfaction that

comes from owning broad acres. In parts, the plot moves slowly, reflecting the tranquil life of the farming community. Both incidents and characters are very real, and there are descriptive passages of rare beauty.

Bigger and Blacker. By Octavus Roy Cohen. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$2.00.

AMUSING stories about a company of moving picture negroes told in the droll darky dialect which has made Mr. Cohen popular with a certain public. The everyday happenings that go into the filming of these movie comedies are funnier than the pictures themselves.

Victory. Léonie Aminoff. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.00.

IN the "Torchlight Series of Napoleonic Romances," of which "Revolution," "Love," "Ambition," and "Success" have already appeared, Léonie Aminoff traces the history of Napoleon, his narrative interspersed with amusing incidents in the private lives of famous men and women whose destiny was interwoven with the Corsican's career. The style is intimate and casual, almost too casual to be always coherent. The atmosphere is undeniably good; the details, possibly correct; the result — history made easy.

The Laxdaela Saga. Translated from the Icelandic, with an Introduction by Thorstein Veblen. New York: B. W. Huebsch: \$2.50.

AN excellent translation of a saga of Icelandic life a thousand years ago. The freshness and vigor of the colloquial narrative are admirably retained. Altogether, an interesting transcript of the life of that time and place.

Sixty-Four Ninety-Four. By R. H. Mottram. New York: Lincoln MacVeagh, the Dial Press. \$2.50.

THE finished story of any company during the first hard years of the war, told by the author of the well-remembered "Spanish Farm." It is an Englishman's version of Madeleine and the Spanish Farm, and though there is little of it which does not deal with the trench life of the British, it is still delicate and possessed of the permanence which recommends it to the discriminating as well as to a wider public.