

NEW BOOKS

THE RECITER'S TREASURY OF PROSE AND DRAMA. Compiled and edited by Ernest Pertwee. The stock of passages in English authors which the reciter can use with any degree of success is daily being enriched both in number and in quality. And it therefore becomes necessary for books containing the best selections of this class to be remade from time to time by the omission of some of the older passages and the introduction of fresh and familiar ones instead. It was time that this was done. In other words, a new and up-to-date treasury for the reciter was due to appear. Professor Pertwee, an eminent London specialist in elocution, has met and supplied the need admirably. Without setting aside the most telling of the older pieces, he has included in his volume some of the racier and most entertaining as well as profitable productions of contemporaneous writers. Among these we note such as Rudyard Kipling, Justin Huntley McCarthy, Richard Harding Davis, Anthony Hope, Jerome K. Jerome and W. P. Dunne. Among the older writers made to contribute to the treasury are included the familiar names of Scott, Dickens, Southey, Emerson and Shakespeare, not to mention a host of lesser lights. Altogether it is a good collection. [E. P. Dutton and Co., N. Y. \$1.50.]

THE TRAIL OF LEWIS AND CLARK, 1804-1904, by Olin D. Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler's familiarity with the vast region traversed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in those early days of the eventful nineteenth century, was brought about by his duties as editor of a creditable publication exploiting the advantages of a well-known Western railroad. Preparation of an abridged narrative of the

journey of the famous explorers suggested the more extensive work of these volumes, which take up the course of Lewis and Clark at its beginning and follow it to its end. The journals of the explorers are closely adhered to and frequently quoted from, and Mr. Wheeler has been at great pains to identify certain landmarks mentioned in the records of the travelers and whose location has been more or less in question. To most readers these volumes will possess more continuous attractiveness than the original journals, nor should their historical value to the student be less, so far as a broad view of the exploration is concerned. The 200 illustrations are mostly excellent reproductions of photographs taken under the author's direction. Renewed attention is being given the Lewis and Clark expedition—doubtless due to the significance of the centenary year—and this may encourage the public to take note of the exposition being bravely planned in Oregon for 1905. Mr. Wheeler's book should convince anyone heretofore ignorant or indifferent, that it is no matter of slight importance in our country's history that is to be celebrated. [G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Two volumes. \$5.00.]

ROBERT CAVELIER, by William Dana Orcutt. Novels written about historic personages are seldom satisfying. In Mr. Orcutt's book, however, little violence is done to the common conception of LaSalle's character, and the story has more than enough merit to give it standing had its hero no other attractiveness than that with which he is fictitiously invested. The explorer is left at the happiest period of his life. [A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago. \$1.50.]

OLIVE LATHAM, by E. L. Voynich. Relief though it be from the appalling monotony of the great bulk of fiction, "Olive Latham" is in no sense a pleasant story. Daughter of a country banker who had surrendered certain philanthropic aspirations to please a weak wife, later a hypochondriac, Olive's strong character is almost perverse in its rebellion against the conventional useless life. She becomes a nurse, she loves a consumptive young Russian revolutionary and she speeds to his side in St. Petersburg when word comes of his serious illness. Mrs. Voynich does not soften the aspects of the life Olive finds in Russia. It is all so harsh that the reader for amusement must find it repellent. But it is a story which draws one somewhat against his will to a second and a third reading, and more and more one discovers the depth of tenderness, the genuine unselfishness, under the rough surface. Besides the Russian lover, Vladimir Damarov, there is a doctor, Karol Slavinski, to whose sister Vladimir had been engaged when she died in prison. Karol and Olive have the stage when the curtain drops, and these two give the book its strength. Olive Latham is a character not to be lightly thrust out from among those who people the realm of fiction. [J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$1.50.

THE BLUE GRASS COOK BOOK, Compiled by Minnie C. Fox. A delightfully readable introduction by John Fox, Jr., written in Tokio, Japan, on the eve of a trip to Port Arthur, unwittingly perhaps creates a favorable prejudice for this new help to the housekeeper. To the reviewer, how much soever of an expert he may be in judging of the products of the kitchen when put before him finished and ready for consumption, the algebraic formulæ of a cookbook present a certain appearance of mystic symbolism hard to read through. Nevertheless, we opine that the book before us ought to be supereminently satisfactory. It seems to bring together the best that the Blue Grass State has attained in its experience in matters culinary. To this is added a sprinkling of contributions from Virginia. If good living is not to be found in these states, then we do not know where to look for it. [Fox, Duffield and Company, New York. \$1.50 net.

THE MIRACLES OF UNBELIEF, by Frank Ballard. Popular Edition. Mr. Frank Ballard's Miracles of Unbelief is no new and untried book. Its publication in the summer of 1900 at once put its author in the front rank among apologetes. Its circulation since then has been remarkable for a book of its class. Upon the exhaustion of the fifth edition, author and publishers deemed it wise to issue the sixth in a cheaper and more popular form; and this was accordingly done. It will scarcely be necessary to call attention to the new material in this edition. Not the least important and helpful part of the work is its rich and intelligently selected list of the best books in the department of apologetics. It is given in the form of an appendix at the end of the volume, and will greatly help the reader to supplement and complete the studies in any special branch of the subject. [Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$1.00.

A HANDBOOK OF CHURCH HISTORY, by Rev. Samuel G. Green, D.D. Dr. Green is preeminently a helper for beginners in the study of theology. He has already contributed for the use of such "A Handbook to the Grammar of the New Testament," and "A Handbook to Old Testament Hebrew." In the present "Handbook of Church History," he endeavors in simple, clear and connected form to tell the story of the Christian Church from the apostolic age to the days of the Protestant Reformation. There is nothing new or striking either in the subject matter or the method of its presentation in this volume. The merit of the book is its adaptation to the needs of that class of persons for whom it was prepared. No higher tribute can be paid to any book than to say that it possesses this merit. Dr. Green certainly excels in the preparation of such handbooks. [Fleming H. Revell Company, Chicago.

HONESTY WITH THE BIBLE, by Prescott White. That is just what we want. We rejoice when we hear of a man attempting to deal with the Bible frankly, fearlessly and openly, investigating its claims, testing its spirit, learning of the good it has done and can do, and examining its true content. Nevertheless we do not like the implications of Mr. White's little treatise. He assumes throughout that if one has reached different results from his own regarding the Bible and its contents, he must have failed to deal with it honestly. There are more men who can claim honesty with the Bible among those who accept it as God's inspired word than among those who have set it aside as an antiquated body of literature. [Published by the author.

THE WOOD CARVER OF 'LYMPUS, by M. E. Waller. A conscientiously constructed tale of a husky young Green Mountaineer deprived by accident of power to walk. From not unnatural rebellion against his fate he is aroused by the chance visit of a stranger from the city. With reawakened ambition his attitude toward life becomes sweetened, and by a process of events easily provided by the novelist, he becomes an important factor in the lives of some tolerably interesting persons of the larger world. The story has considerable charm and suggests commendable ideals on the part of the author. [Little, Brown and Company, Boston. \$1.50.

THE PROMOTERS, by William Hawley Smith. There are works of fiction, and there are simply magnified lies. The reader of the first three-fourths of Mr. Smith's book would place it in the second-named class, but there is more substance toward the conclusion. The "dog-eat-dog" lives of professional promoters are well exhibited in the experience of Goldsby and Starleigh, whose marvelous enterprise first bids fair to be stolen by fellow-schemers to whom it is revealed, and then meets its puncture at the hands of a Nebraska legislator who proves to be both honest and clever. [Rand, McNally and Company, Chicago. \$1.50.

FROM TALK TO TEXT, by Addison Ballard, D.D., professor of logic in New York University, published by Longmans, Green and Company, is intended to lead the reader from accepted principles of conduct to disputed doctrines of revelation, the text being not the point of departure but the goal of arrival (190 pages).