

The Faith Healer. By William Vaughn Moody. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$1.25.

Mr. Moody has followed his successful play, "The Great Divide," by *The Faith Healer*. It dramatizes the strange history of Francis Schlatter, that singular prophet who appeared in the West about eighteen years ago, and performed many cures thru faith in his supposed miraculous powers of healing. Crowds of people flocked to him bringing themselves, their sick and even handkerchiefs for him to bless. Marvelous cures were reported. When suddenly declaring his mission ended he disappeared in the mountains. His body was reported to have been found some time later lying alone where it had fallen. Whether he escaped from the

crowd for rest and further spiritual vigils in the wilderness, or whether, having lost faith in his powers he fled in despair, will never be known. With such a theme much was expected of Mr. Moody's drama. We cannot say that it is a great play. Expectation has been disappointed, in spite of the literary finish of the dialog. The action halts and falters, the bewildered prophet comes on the stage too near the end of his career; he should have been shown in the fullness of his triumph over disease with an acclaiming crowd pressing about him—then the subsequent failure and disappointment would enlist the sympathy of the reader or hearer more keenly. Altho the play ends with a sort of hope, a "new sweetness in the air" of souls redeemed and turning shining faces to greet the Easter dawn, one cannot shake off the impression of failure given in the second act and most of the third. And we feel that the most has not been made of a great theme and noteworthy dramatic material.