

OVER THE ABSURD pseudonym of 'Mr. E. D. McRealsham' a former Professor of Hebrew in Andover Theological Seminary has issued 'Romans Dissected: A New Critical Analysis of the Epistle to the Romans.' It came out simultaneously in German under the likelier name of Carl Hedegger. It is a *reductio ad absurdum* of the vaunted Pentateuchal analysis, which is supposed to show a combination of authors harmonized after a fashion by a redactor, or a series of redactors. Mr. McR. shows that Romans can be analyzed in the same way, and its composite origin exhibited. He does it very thoroughly and gravely. Now it does not follow that Pentateuchal criticism is wrong because such a travesty can be made upon it. But the travesty does show that the burden of proof is on the shoulders of those who dissect the Pentateuch. They will utterly fail in convincing the people at large unless they do better than they have done. (75 cts. A. D. F. Randolph & Co.)—WILLIAM FREDERIC FABER, Presbyterian pastor at Westfield, N. Y., a town near Lake Erie, has undertaken to tell his people first and then the public generally about 'The Church for the Times.' The paper-covered pamphlet in appearance seems to be the curtailed galley-proof of a country newspaper, but no sooner do we open it than we find ourselves in the presence of a man who has a message. Buy the pamphlet and learn what that message is. (25 cts. Westfield Lakeside Press.)

REV. JESSE L. HURLBUT, D.D., and Mr. Robert R. Doherty, Ph.D., have again joined forces and taken in assistants to produce 'Illustrative Notes on the Sunday-School Lessons for 1892.' Dr. Hurlbut is a veteran in this service. The list of authors quoted is very long. One entry would cause the author named to squirm. It reads 'Dr. Albert Barnes.' Mr. Barnes declined to receive a doctorate, and was opposed to the use of the title. Chauncey M. Depew figures among these Bible pundits; so do Dickens and Gen. Grant. J. Comper Gray and the Biblical Museum, which he wrote, appear as separate entries. 'Dr. Hoge' is probably a misprint for Dr. Hodge. 'A. C. Kenrick' should be A. C. Kendrick. 'Lecher' should be Lechler. Canon Westcott is now Bishop of Durham. But the making of a long list paying attention to accuracy and uniformity is difficult, and the list is on the whole very good. The same may be said of the use made of the authors named in it. There is no striving after originality, there is the frankest acknowledgment of help, but the work is planned and executed carefully and will beyond doubt prove very helpful. The numerous maps and plans and illustrations add to its attractiveness and value. It is pleasant to notice that the correct form Sanhedrin, instead of Sanhedrim, is getting into common use. But when will the Revised Version be adopted as text instead of the so-called Authorized? —'BOSTON HOMILIES: Short Sermons on the International Sunday-School Lessons for 1892 by Members of the Alpha Chapter of the Convocation of Boston University' is plainly an imitation of the 'Monday Club' sermons on the same series, which have now been regularly issued for many years. One woman, at least, appears among these Methodist homilists, and there may be others, since a large proportion of the surnames have merely initials prefixed. The fifty-two lessons of the year were apparently distributed among the members of the Chapter, so that each had only one. More unfavorable conditions for uniformly good sermonizing cannot be imagined. The first homily has a fling at 'higher criticism,' which to the writer is apparently identical with rationalism. Writers for the people owe it to themselves to explain that in itself 'higher criticism' is not a whit more irreligious than literary criticism generally. (\$1.25 each. Hunt & Eaton.)

Recent Fiction

THE FIRST of a volume of 'Three Tales,' by William Douglas O'Connor, is called 'The Ghost,' and is a most curious and absurd story. A physician, rather inclined to be hard and exacting with the world at large, is walking along home in the streets of Boston one evening when the ghost of a dead friend suddenly appears to him and escorts him to his house, entering with him and remaining in order to induce him to be more lenient and to have more of the milk of human kindness towards people in distress. He resists this influence for a while, but at last the pressure which the phantom brings to bear upon him is too great and he is overcome by it. From that night he is a changed man and spends his time doing good. The other two stories, 'The Brazen Android' and 'The Carpenter,' are about like this first one. The volume has an in-

reproduction by Walt Whitman. (\$1.25. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) —'COUNTRESS Ericka's Apprenticeship' is a tame little story translated from the German of Ossip Schubin by Mrs. A. L. Wister. The Countess is a little child when the book opens giving alms to an artist whom she takes for a beggar. Time passes and she becomes entangled in a violent love-affair with this same artist, who already has a wife, but who persuades the Countess that it is her duty to run off with him. As she is preparing to do so she sees the wife throwing herself into the river and the spectacle deters her. She discovers at last that she has really never loved this man at all but another one, whom she eventually marries. (\$1.25. J. B. Lip-pincott Co.)

JOHN SHERMAN has a friend in Ballah, the chief town of the County Donegal in Ireland, where he was born and reared. They have known each other from childhood and the friendship is purely platonic, so he thinks. He tells her he has decided to go to London to try and make his way in the world, and she encourages him to go because she has great faith in him and knows he needs a wider field to develop what is in him. In London he engages himself to a girl he wishes to marry for the sake of her money. He cannot write this news to his old friend, however, so he goes back home on a visit just to tell her. In doing so he discovers that he and this woman love each other, and that he will never be happy with anyone else. On his return to London he deliberately throws his fiancée in the way of a young clergyman he has making him a visit until propinquity does its work and the girl discards him for his friend. He is delighted with this result and crosses the Channel again at once to tell the Irish girl there is no longer any obstacle to their union. To his amazement she rejects him. He has shown himself to be without purpose, she is disappointed in him, and does not believe in his love for her. After a while, though, she changes her mind, decides that she is necessary to him, and that it is her duty to marry him and give him an object in life. This is the first story in the Unknown Library volume called 'John Sherman, and Dhoya.' The second story is a very slight allegory. They are both told under the *nom de plume* of Ganconagh. (50 cts. Cassell Publishing Co.)

'SYD BELTON ; or, The Boy who Would Not Go to Sea,' by G. Manville Fenn, has the unusual merit of telling all about itself in its title. If there be anything in heredity the hero should take naturally to salt water, as his father was Captain and his Uncle an admiral in the British Navy, and, for generations, his forbears had been sailors ; but, at seventeen, Master Sydney runs away rather than go on ship-board. After many unpleasant experiences, however, he grows to like the ancestral trade, and, distinguishing himself in an attempt to fortify and hold a small islet off the French coast, he becomes a regularly commissioned officer of the service he so much disliked at the outset. (\$1.50. D. Appleton & Co.) —'THE OLD STONE HOUSE' is an eerie tale of jealousy and murder. A village coquette jilts one lover (who, as an old man, is supposed to tell the story) and wavers so between two others that each is suspected of having caused her death. Other tales in the same volume are 'A Memorable Night,' 'The Black Cross,' 'A Mysterious Case' and 'Shall He Wed Her?' Most, if not all of them, have first seen the light in the magazines. (40 cts. G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

'A ROSE OF A Hundred Leaves' is a charmingly fresh and dainty little love-story by Amelia E. Barr. The scene is laid in an old country house in the North of England where Aspatria lives with her two brothers. The three are devoted to each other and to their home, but it is a lonely life at best and they heartily welcome a belated traveller who takes refuge with them from the storm. This man falls in love with Aspatria and asks her hand in marriage. His family think it is no match for him, and, trusting to the known fickleness of his character, they secure the postponement of the wedding for a year and take him off to Italy. They are successful. Before the year is over he has forgotten the girl. Her brothers are not men to be tampered with, however, and they force him to marry her even though he swears he will leave his bride at the church door and never see her again, and he carries out the threat. The oldest brother wants to kill him, but the girl makes him promise to let her husband go free. She then determines to go to London and take the training necessary to make a polished woman of the world of herself, so that she may lay siege to this man's heart again on a perfect footing of equality with himself from every point of view. Of course she succeeds and it all ends happily. The story is simple and the plot has no element of novelty in it, but the characters are very attractive and the tale is exquisitely told in a quaint old-fashioned style that is always interesting and at times very touching. (\$1.50. Dodd, Mead & Co.)

'A PAGAN OF THE ALLEGHANIES,' by Marah Ellis Ryan, is an extremely interesting novel. The scene is laid in a new place and among new people. A spur of the Alleghanies running through the coal region of Pennsylvania furnishes the setting for one or two thoroughly picturesque characters. Of plot there is not much, one's interest centres in the Pagan and is entirely absorbed by him. A young man is sent by his uncle into this region of the country to look after his coal interests. Shut off from civilization and from the cultured people with whom he has always associated, he thinks at first he cannot possibly stand life in this place and he is about to resign when he meets a girl, a genuine, untutored product of the mountains, whose face has so much soul and so much character that he persuades himself he can make of her what he pleases. He turns the situation over in his mind, decides to settle down where he is, adapt himself to his surroundings, marry the girl and become one of the mountaineers. He counts without his host however. The Pagan of the Alleghanies is an important factor in the situation which he has failed to take into consideration. This man's father had a grudge against the world for its bad treatment of him, attributed its falsehood and its sham to too much culture, and sent his son to these mountains to be reared without education and in ignorance of his birth. 'The son grows to be a man without book knowledge of any kind, but with an instinctive craving for it which he supplies by the most thorough study of nature in all her phases. He has no religion, but a perfect moral code, and a thoroughly pagan philosophy. There is something Oriental in the bent of his mind, and he is persuaded of the truth in the doctrine of the transmigration of souls. By this he explains the manner in which animals and inanimate things seem to talk to him. He is in love with this girl, and when the other man proposes to her she confesses her love for the Pagan. The denouement is unexpected and had best be left to the reader's imagination. (\$1.50. Cassell Pub. Co.)