

existent to-day on Mars—life of which the supposed artificial canals are only one evidence. He has prepared for publication in the coming months of *The Century* a series of popular papers on the subject of Mars as a possible abode of life, setting forth some of the latest astronomical discoveries and theories, and with illustrations made up from the most recent observations of the planet taken under highly favorable circumstances during the summer just passed.

CHAT ABOUT BOOKS.

Mr. Charles Edward Rich has written another book for boys, called "A Voyage with Captain Dynamite." It is to be known as the big juvenile for 1908, and is the second book in the "Big Juvenile Series," published by A. S. Barnes & Co.

None of the offerings in the November Magazines is likely to attract more attention or be more thoroughly enjoyed than the complete novel in Lippincott's. It is entitled "Under the Black Cassock," and is by Edith Morgan Willett, a young writer who seems destined to take a high place among American authors. The plot hinges upon the death of Leo Portovent, a famous composer, whom the police believe to have committed suicide, although Ellice Winston has reason to suspect that he was really murdered by Geoffry Hastings, the man she loves. Many entanglements ensue, and the reader is likely to remain in the dark until the rather startling denouement is reached.

Professor Percival Lowell, founder and director of the Observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., believes that constructive life is