

BOOK REVIEWS

The Making of a Pioneer

BY "ADCRITIC."

This fascinating book is the story of missionary enterprise and particularly about the heroic service of one missionary to the Mongols, Percy Cunningham Mather. It was written by two fellow workers in the heart of Asia. Mildred Cable and Francesca French, who knew the work and worth of Percy Mather. Between the golden road to Samarcand and the comparative safety of Chinese treaty ports lies a world still half explored. Few missionaries know it, therefore the name of Percy Cunningham Mather deserves to live among adventurers. He loved the Mongols and became as one of them. At the mention of his name they have been known to raise both thumbs in the highest expression of praise they know. His life story is full of adventure from the time he was discovered, as a stowaway in a lifeboat until life ended in the heart of Asia. He knew no fear and throughout his life had no other objective than that of helping men and women. The book reveals an intimate knowledge of the problems of Central Asia and quite apart from the missionary enterprise is a book to read for it tells that the age of romantic adventure in service

age of romantic adventure in service for others has not passed.

The Making of a Pioneer, by Mildred Cable and Francesca French.

(Copy by courtesy of Hodder and Stroughton, Sydney).



Hopalong Cassidy Takes Cards

Created more than thirty years ago by Clarence E. Mulford, the character of Hopalong Cassidy has been one which has been a great favorite with lovers of Western stories. The adventures of the picturesque figure in the dangerous tales of hard riding cattlemen have had a definite appeal and each successive book in which he figured as the principal character has been more popular than those which have gone before. In the latest book "Hopalong Takes Cards," Hopalong takes a hand in a swift and dangerous game and wins on the draw. In this tale of his adventures we meet him as the sheriff of Twin Rivers, and the shrewd, courageous way in which he breaks up a dangerous gang of rustlers makes for a swift, compelling story, told with all the color and breathless action which have made this another one of the greatest of Western story writers.

Hopalong Cassidy Takes Cards, by Clarence E. Mulford.

(Copy by courtesy of Hodder and Stroughton, Sydney).

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In the Wind-Swept North

A remote world, yet a present-day one, is vividly portrayed in the vigorous tale of the wind-swept north "Storms on the Labrador," by Hepburn Dinwiddle. It is a world of island fisherfolk, simple and strong whose rugged daily living is made distinct reality. The ice barriers had broken in the island tickles—or narrow water passages—and the men had turned from lumbering in the inland camps to fishing and adventures by boat on all kinds of seas in all kinds of weather.

There is Steve MacCoy, boss of the lumber mill through the winter and head of the summer fishing crew at Peace Harbor, who towers in length and strength over his stalwart mates, and of whose quick temper, when roused, they stood in dread. For him this summer held adventures that superseded all previous ones.

It was good living for Steve when Martha Holloway accepted LeMare's offer to cook for the crew. Martha's thirteen-year-old son, Finley, learned from Steve how to swim and sail, and also to handle expertly the cod traps at the fishing berths. Steve and Martha had had their ways cross in earlier days; but it is finally through Finley's devotion to him, and Cracky's devotion to Finley, that the ending

devotion to Finley, that the ending brings to the once solitary trapper a reward for which he has been waiting fourteen years.

This book is the work of an artist in both word and picture. The woodcuts done by the author-illustrator add a strong note of interest.

In the Wind-Swept North, by Hepburn Dinwoodie.

Boy Scouts' Year Book

"The Boy Scout Year Book, 1938," compiled by the Boy Scout Association, London, records a list of outstanding achievements during the previous 12 months, 1937, having been a history-making year in the movement. The biggest event was the drawing together of 28,000 scouts from 33 different nations at the Fifth World Jamboree at Vogelenbang, "the happy place of Bird Song," Holland. The numbers included 8000 scouts from the British Empire, the largest Empire contingent ever to travel abroad.

Another important event was the coronation. The Boy Scout Association sold the official coronation programmes at all festivities throughout the Empire, and assisted the police in connection with the barrier scheme in the streets of London on Coronation Day. The scouts also acted as orderlies at Westminster Abbey under the direction of the Earl Marshal's staff.

"Together with the Boys' Brigade,

Together with the Boys Brigade, Church Lads' Brigade, Y.M.C.A. Boys Clubs, etc., we are between us getting an increasing percentage of the youth of the country under good influences at the critical time of their lives," Chief Scout Lord Baden Powell writes in the foreword. "But there are still tens of thousands of boys especially among the poorest, badly needing and ready for this help. There is huge field still open to us. It may be asked, 'Why don't we go for it?' Well, we will, so soon as we can get the men and money."

The Indefatigable Baggins.

A priceless tale of wonder and enchantment which has just made its way from England to Australia, is "The Hobbit," by J. R. R. Tolkien.

When Mr. Bilbo Baggins, of Bag-End under the Hill, was chosen by Gandalf, the wizard, to go on an adventurous expedition with the dwarfs—Thorin and Company—to recover ancestral treasure from Smaug, fire belching dragon, who was guarding the plunder at the deepest roots of the far distant Lonely Mountain, we find ourselves introduced to the hero while he is the bewildered host at a veritable mad tea party.

Gandaif had put strange marks over the round green door of the hobbit hole, and tales and adventures sprouted up all over the place as

sprouted up all over the place, as was usual wherever he went in the most extraordinary fashion. Extraordinary is a mild word to express the fashion, however, in which the hobbit found himself somewhat reluctantly involved, for the dwarfs wanted no less than an Expert Treasure-hunter for the job they had on foot.

The expedition almost departed without the hobbit but, fortunately enough for the dwarfs, he reached the appointed place in time. In the encounters with the trolls, elves and goblins, in the escape from the lake monster and later from the wild Waugs, and in the hurried journey from elfin dungeon caves where magic closed the gates, and in the final success of obtaining inside information about Smaug and his piles of treasure the little hobbit with his heroism and resourceful wit became the mighty treasurer-hunter like the mighty warriors of old. "Forever at your service" thus did the dwarfs acclaim their inimitable champion.

All who enjoy a well wrought tale of originality and imagination will revel in the adventures of the hobbit.

The Indefatigable Baggins, by J. R. R. Tolkien.



Memorial Medal.

The Lafrence eMmorial Medal commemorating the famous T. E. Lawrence, was founded in 1936 by The Royal Central Asian Society for work

ence, was founded in 1888 by the Royal Central Asian Society for work of superlative distinction in connection with area covered by the activities of the society. The award for 1938 has been given to Major C. S. Jarvis. Major Jarvis was appointed to the Frontiers Administration at the close of the war and served as Governor in the Libyan Desert for four years. He was then appointed to the Governorship of Sinai, where he remained until his voluntary retirement in 1936. His remarkable achievements are recorded in his book "Three Deserts,"