

THE BOOK PAGE

Beneath the fascination of an exceptionally well worked out story, there is in, **Running Water**, by A. E. W. Mason (William Briggs, Toronto, 352 pages, 7 illustrations, \$1.25), the underlying idea of a fundamental law. "What one knows, that one must do, if by doing it you can save a life," says one of the characters. It is "a law not of any man's making, and the one law last broken . . . very often it's quite reluctantly obeyed . . . in most cases obeyed by instinct; but it is obeyed." The grip of that law holds Garratt Skinner,—once Gilbert Strood, a famous member of the Alpine Club, but long and justly an outcast from the world of honorable men,—when his elaborately worked out plot to take the life of Walter Hine, the weak-kneed, callow youth, for the sake of a heavy insurance policy, is just on the brink of success. But when the cowardly degenerate slips on the perilous Alpine rocks, the instinct holds good. Strood saves his life, and so loses his desperate game; for later unexpected rescue saves Hine from the planned-for death by cold and exposure. That is the grim side of a story, told with very exceptional skill and charm of style. The lure of mountain climbing and of the Alps has seldom been more sympathetically described, and the love story of Sylvia, the pure-hearted daughter of Skinner, ends with promise of happiness. **Running Water**, is a story to be read and remembered, just as the author's earlier book, **The Four Feathers**, published several years ago, still stands out sharp and distinct from the long list of quickly forgotten novels of the day.

"There is no leaping into the millenium," is the substance of Professor Goldwin Smith's, **Labor and Capital** (The Macmillan Company, Toronto, 38 pages, 50c. net). Progress, not revolution, is his way out of the tangle in the relations of capital and labor. This "Letter to a Labor Friend," is good May-day reading for both the man who works with his hands and the man who works with his brain. Its object is to bring the two closer together. Trades Unionism and Socialism as remedies for strained relations are discussed sympathetically, their strong as well as their weak points being clearly exhibited. Like all that comes from the pen of Goldwin Smith, this little book is well worth having for its mastership of English alone.

Among the many night-scenes in the story of the Gospels, none is more memorable than the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus. Our interest never ceases in the conversation between the young, untried, unauthorized Teacher of Galilee, and the Sanhedrist who, with his colleagues, wielded an influence that was practically absolute over the Jewish people. **Jesus and Nicodemus: A study in Spiritual Life**, by John Reid, M.A., Inverness (T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh, U. C. Tract Society, Toronto, 288 pages, \$1.50), is a worthy addition to the numerous expositions of that wonderful interview under the blue Syrian sky, on some house-top in Jerusalem, or, as the author, following Sir William Ramsay suggests, on Jesus' favorite Mount of Olives. Step by step, the writer shows how the inquirer was led to a clear view of the secret of the new life and the new Kingdom in the lifting up of

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