

## THE BOOK PAGE

Frank L. Packard's new novel, **Greater Love Hath no Man** (Henry Frowde, Toronto, 293 pages, 6 full page illustrations, \$1.25), and W. Lacy Amy's **The Blue Wolf: A Tale of the Cypress Hills** (Musson Book Company, Toronto, 311 pages), are both "thrillers." But they are a good deal more. They are interesting and not unuseful psychological studies—good holiday reading, but leaving something behind them, to think about. Varge, the hero of Mr. Packard's story, does the extraordinary thing of taking the guilt on his shoulders of a parricide whom he does not love; enters on his life sentence without a word in self-defence, or a word of complaint; sticks to his amazing self-immolation, even when love calls imperiously, sticks to it until the turn of events gives him an honorable release. It is an altogether fascinating tale, with its scene in a northern New England town. 'The Blue Wolf' carries one far west to the famous Cypress Hills in Alberta. The settlers, the rollicking cowboys, the lone mounted policeman on his wilderness rounds, a strange sect of "Dreamers," all come in; and a dark tragedy of a college bred man who driven to fierce intervals of wild insanity through jealousy of a little group of his former college chums, lures one and another of them to their death; these are the dramatic personae. The mystery is well sustained to the very end, and the tragedy of it all is offset at the end by sweet love's triumph.

The author of Richard Carvell, Mr. Crews' Career, and Coniston, has entered on a new field—not quite of theology, but of religion. **The Inside of the Cup**: By Winston Churchill (The MacMillan Company, Toronto, 513 pages, 6 full page illustrations, \$1.50), is a discussion of the foundations of the Christian life, and the mission of the Christian man. Is a man's redemption through the message and authority of the Church, and of a blind traditional belief in an inerrant Scripture; or is it defying the letter, and drinking in the Spirit, which is life. His John Hodder, the high church clergyman flaming with a zeal born of passionate devotion to the church, and meeting nothing but pitiful failure either to arrest the paganism of the rich or to bring the gospel of salvation to the poor, is possibly somewhat overdrawn. And the John Hodder who threw his past to the winds, and preached the Christ as he had come to know Him through getting close as Christ did to the lowest and vilest, is also overdrawn. But the situation as set forth in this strong, well-knit story of the agonies of a man honestly determined to follow the truth wherever it might lead him, is a striking setting forth of a great problem. We by no means tie ourselves up to the author's point of view or to his conclusions; but we cannot help seeing in this strong, well constructed novel, a serious contribution to one of the perplexing problems of those who honestly face the situation which modern knowledge has created.

"What the lovely Hun saw in the Mr. Vivian's eyes just before he asked God to pity her,"—This portion of a chapter heading gives the key to the title of Henry Sydnor Harrison's new book, **V. V.'s Eyes** (William Briggs, Toronto, 509 pages, \$1.35

net). The lovely Hun is Miss Carlisle Heth, the daughter of a house whose fortunes have been built up out of a tobacco factory in a southern city. "V. V." is Dr. V. Vivian, a slum doctor and social worker, who, in an outspoken letter to the Post newspaper, describes the conditions in Mr. Heth's factory as "homicidal." "Lovely to the eye, and empty where the heart should be," was what V. V. saw in his searching, compassionate look. But that look set a moving new and strange forces in the breast of the beautiful worldling, and, at last, she came to see life with V. V.'s eyes. Readers of Mr. Harrison's earlier book, *Queed*, will need little persuasion to begin this new story. And once begun, it will be read with ever growing interest. The chapters grouped about the two central figures are drawn with rare skill, and the human interest of the story never flags.

Last year was the birth centenary of Robert Browning. A very timely book, therefore, is **Browning and His Century**, by Helen A. Clark (Doubleday, Page & Company, New York, The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 374 pages, \$1.50 net). And the book itself is one which will be read with interest and profit by every Browning student, and, indeed, by all who seek to understand the scientific, political and social movements of the century in which the poet lived. For with all these movements he kept himself in the closest and most sympathetic touch, and, more than any other, has given poetical expression to the ideas and aspirations underlying these movements. The full page portraits, with which the volume is illustrated, of many of Browning's great contemporaries, including Herbert Spencer, David Strauss, Cardinal Wiseman, Gladstone, William Morris, John Burns, Tennyson, Swinburne and George Meredith, suggest how wide is the field which it covers. Those who would see "what Robert Browning actually was in relation to his time," can scarcely find a better guide than Miss Clark's most readable and in every way attractive book.

**Method in Teaching: A Text-Book for Sunday School Teachers**, by Rev. A. R. Osborn, M.A., Dip. Ed., University of Melbourne (Henry Frowde, Toronto, 150 pages, 60c.) will richly repay the careful study of all who wish to become more efficient in the great work of Sunday School teaching. Of the 150 pages in the book, 100 are occupied with a discussion of the principles, while the Appendix of 50 pages illustrates the use of principles and methods by giving actual lessons in outline, of various kinds and for different grades.

The MacMillan Company of Canada, Toronto have published a second edition of **A History of Cavalry**, by Colonel G. T. Denison (468 pages, \$2.50), which first appeared in 1877, and then won the Emperor of Russia's prize for the best work on the subject. The preface to the second edition brings the history down to the present time. Students of the military art will welcome this new edition of a most valuable book, and it should find a place on the shelves of every public library.