



**"NUGGET" GIVES A BRIGHT, LASTING
SHINE—THAT REALLY WATERPROOFS
YOUR SHOES.**

3-47

NUGGET SHOE POLISH

HILL-TOP TALES, by Dan McCowan.

The Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., Toronto. Illustrated from photographs. Pp. 257. \$3.50.

This is a book which, it may be said at once, is both interesting and entertaining. Its 26 chapters tell much of the development of the Rocky Mountain country of Canada, and of the explorers, traders, scientists, missionaries, railroad men and others who have left their imprint upon it. There is a chapter devoted to the ghost towns which were once booming mining communities, another to a pioneer woman, Catherine Schubert, whose memory is perpetuated by a monument at Armstrong, B.C., and, by way of contrast, a chapter recounting some of the most sensational cases with which the Mounted Police have had to deal in the region.

There is even a chapter on trail cookery which gives reason to believe that the author himself could put together a tasty

mulligan for a camp supper. Something of the kind he has done with the varied fare which he has combined in this book. The solid food is spiced with humour and salted with his own kindness, so that one who partakes of it is likely to come back for a second helping.

Mr. McCowan appears here both as naturalist and historian. In these roles he is too well established to be open to criticism for the matter of the book, but, as for its manner, the case is different. He writes in a style which is unaffected and very readable; it is unfortunate that he is in so great a hurry to get on with his story that sometimes he becomes careless. For example, a thing is unique or it is not—it cannot be "most unique", nor even "very unique"; a lawyer, appearing in Court, acts as "counsel", not "council". And surely it was not necessary for him to make a chapter heading of so threadbare a *cliche* as "dirty work at the cross-roads".