

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

COOKE, GRACE MACGOWAN—"The Grapple." Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Limited. \$1.50. A story which has for its theme the much discussed question of "Labor versus Capital." The writer treats of trades unions and what they have effected in bettering the condition of the working man; of strikes and their futility as a weapon of warfare in the industrial world, and advocates arbitration as a means of adjusting differences. The plot is simple. The love story of Mark Strong furnishes a touch of pathos and Captain McClintock's funny stories brighten the pages of this very readable book.

CRAWFORD, F. MARION—"Fan Margaret." Toronto: Morang & Co., Limited. \$1.50. A story of theatrical life, the leading lady being Margaret Dome, a young English girl endowed with musical gifts amounting to genius. She is somewhat under the influence of a wily Greek, and is rescued from a dangerous situation by her lover, Tushington, and his mother, a whilom prima donna. The denouement is reserved for another book, thus leaving the reader in a state of expectant curiosity.

HARLAND, MARION—"Everyday Etiquette." Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. Cloth, \$1 net. This is not a dry book of hackneyed rules. It is a literary effort and may be read with as much pleasure and instruction as the average novel. Marion Harland discusses the various problems that confront the student of etiquette simply and sanely. She covers her subject thoroughly, taking up almost every possible phase of the question. She writes with a sympathetic pen, remembering the class of people whom she is addressing—the learners.

HERRICK, ROBERT—"The Memoirs of an American Citizen." Toronto: Morang & Co., Limited. \$1.50. These memoirs trace the evolution of an American citizen along commercial lines. A youth with brains, will-power and opportunity lights his way in the business world from the lowest to the topmost rung of the ladder. Cool, clear-headed, cynical, with an elastic code of morals suited to his occasion, Van Harrington tramples upon everything and everyone that stands in the way of success. He wins what he seeks, money and power, and becomes that finished product of the American social system—a senator. A strong and vigorous book.

HICHENS, ROBERT—"The Black Spaniel and Other Stories." New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. \$1.50. In this collection of short stories, as in his "Garden of Allah," there is abundant evidence that Mr. Hichens is no mere story-teller, nor does he much concern himself with the creation of individual character. The deep mysteries of nature and human nature are his theme. In the "Black Spaniel" the dual nature in man, the correspondences and antagonisms that exist between men, the relation of the human to the brute creation, and a metempsychosis upon which that relation is based, are the materials out of which a weird and tragic tale is woven. "The Mysteries of the Desert" form the staple of the remaining short tales.

KEAYS, H. A. MITCHELL—"The Work of Our Hands." Toronto: The Musson Book Co. Cloth, \$1.50. This is a strong study of temperament, the main interest centering about Aylmer, the beautiful wife of a young millionaire, who is led to realize her responsibility towards the laboring classes. Her husband opposes her philanthropy, but in the end is led to see as she does. There is a beautiful denouement, which affords a striking ending to a strong book.

MACGRATH, HAROLD—"Hearts and Masks." Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co. Toronto: McLeod & Allen. Cloth, illustrated, \$1.25. A charming romance, short, brisk and compelling. The story centres about two self-invited guests to a masked ball at a country club near New York. How they became unwittingly mixed up with a daring robbery, and how they escaped provides one interest of the book, while the other interest is afforded by the love element, which enters into their relations. The illustrations are numerous and beautifully executed.

MARDEN, ORISON SWETT—"Choosing a Career." Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. Cloth. This voluminous book with its broad scope, careful arrangement and wealth of detail, should prove very helpful to the young man or woman about to embark on life's more serious affairs. It is divided into two parts; the first dealing with the abstract and theoretical side of the question, the second with the practical, giving the expert opinions of men distinguished in all walks of life.

MILLER, J. HARRY—"The Rapture of the Forward View." Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Cloth, 1s. net. A helpful book, giving fresh courage to the despondent and breathing forth a quickening faith. It speaks of the deeper things of life, urging men to set their hearts on heavenly treasures.

MOTT, LAWRENCE—"Jules of the Great Heart." Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Limited. \$1.50. A tale of the northern wilds. Nature as she reveals herself in some of her sterner moods of storm and stress is well interpreted. The hero, Jules Verbeaux, is an untutored trapper and free trader of the noble type of manhood. The simple tale of his strenuous life and adventures appeals to the sympathy of those who love what is genuine and true. The colloquial portions of the book are in the mixed jargon of the half-breeds, acquired by contact with the trading fur companies.

NICHOLSON, MEREDITH—"The House of a Thousand Candles." Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co. Cloth, \$1.50. A mediaeval romance in a twentieth century setting is the singular theme of this absorbing story. A huge mysterious country house in Indiana, with many a secret passage, a buried treasure estimated in the millions, and a relentless hunt for this treasure furnish material for as exciting a yarn as has been written this year. The characters all play their parts well, and the denouement is as happy as it is unexpected.

OPPENHEIM, E. PHILLIPS—"A Maker of History." Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Limited. \$1.25. A clever story which maintains its thrilling interest till the final chapter. Guy Poynton accidentally becomes possessor of a paper containing part of a State secret, and the efforts of detectives and foreign spies to regain the paper furnish both Guy and his sister with many astonishing and unexpected ad-