

BOOKS OF THE HOUR

THE QUEEN'S ROSARY. By Alice Davis Van Cleve. New York: R. H. Russell.

As a sub-heading, this charming little volume bears the title "An Acrostic Sixty Sonnets, celebrating an event of each of Sixty Years of the most Glorious Reign in History." This explains the nature of the contents. Each sonnet occupies a page, and typographically is a beautiful specimen of the printer's art. The poetry itself is of a high order, dealing as it does with the principal events of Queen Victoria's life. As a gift book "The Queen's Rosary" forms a handsome and charming volume.

UNCLE CHARLES. By J. J. Strange Winter. London: George Bell & Sons.

A romance of domestic life in London, told by a young woman, niece to Uncle Charles. Uncle Charles is a character in his way. He might very well have been created by Dickens, or, better, by Thackeray - a whole-souled old gentleman, with opinions and habits all his own. The loss of his wife, in the early portion of the book, leaves him free to fall under the influence of another inimitable character, to wit: Mrs. Devereux. Such an alliance is regarded with fear and trembling by Uncle Charles' niece and her husband, but in the end the difficulty is happily obviated. Uncle Charles is, on the whole, a pretty little tale of domestic life, recounted sympathetically and truthfully.

DANNY. By Alfred Oshant. Toronto: George N. Morang. Price \$1.50.

At the outset one discovers that "Danny" is not an ordinary book. In the first place it is the work of a pen artist. It is a study in beautiful and fanciful expression. To some the wealth of fancy and the extravagance of language may appear overdrawn, but "Danny" is not a book for the reader of swashbuckling romances and thrilling melodramas. There is an infinite sympathy and tenderness breathing through its pages that elevates it to a much higher plane. "Danny," like "Bob, son of Battle," is a dog. He is in turn Danny of the Dews, Danny, the Gentleman in Waiting, Danny, Warden of the Matches, Danny, Keeper of the Door, and, last, but not least, Danny the Reiver. The tale of his romantic attachment to his almost ethereal mistress, so tragic in her death, and the subsequent story of his varied life up to his own ill-fated death, is as tender and fanciful a romance as ever was told of a human being.

THE LADY OF THE BARGE. By W. W. Jacobs. London: George Bell & Sons.

In the twelve tales contained in this volume, Mr. Jacobs has departed slightly from the field that has made him famous. His method and his treatment are of the same general character as in his other stories, but in only two of these tales do we get the inimitable depiction of the jovial sailor's life, with which readers of "Many Cargoes" and "Light Freights" are familiar. Moreover, in several of the stories in this volume, Mr. Jacobs has attempted the tragic, notably in "The Monkey's Paw," "The Well," and "In the Library." In this attempt, he has demonstrated his ability to handle dark, gruesome subjects and to give to

them that same haunting touch which Dickens imparted to many scenes in his writings. The majority of the stories, however, are filled with the genuine Jacobs' spirit, irresistibly funny in places and invested throughout with dry humor of an entirely ingenuous nature.

ANGELOT. By Eleanor C. Price. London: George Bell & Sons.

It was at the time of the first Empire, when Napoleon's soldiers were struggling for the mastery of Spain that this charming little love-story was played out in the Province of Anjou. Behind it all lurks the grim spectre of the Revolution, which had so convulsed French society, that such of the proud nobility as had temporized were forced to recognize the social equality of men who had risen from the gutters. The main theme of the book narrates the attempts of General Ratoneau, coarse product of the Revolution, to wed Helene, the beautiful daughter of the Count de Saintfoi. Of her love for Angelot, the brave, free-hearted cousin, and of his enmity with the General, the book is full. How other lives were involved and how it all turned out can be learned from a perusal of the pages of the book. Suffice it to say Miss Price has secured the correct romantic style, has given the tale a delightful local color and has created some excellent characters.

THE TWO VANREVELS. By Booth Tarkington. Toronto: William Briggs.

Mr. Tarkington has based the plot of his latest book on the familiar theme of a mistaken identity, and that is why there are two Vanrevels. But, though this idea has been used often before, it must be said that Mr. Tarkington has added a novelty and a freshness to his working-out of its details that make it far more than an imitation. He has kept the identity of the members of the law firm of Gray and Vanrevel, of Rouen, transposed in the eyes of beautiful Miss Betty Carewe right to the last, with considerable dexterity. "Crailey Gray, the ne'er-do-weel and light-o'-love, Crailey Gray, wit, poet, and scapegrace, the well-beloved town scamp," had posed in her eyes as his virtuous and noble friend and protector, Tom Vanrevel. To him Miss Betty attributes all Vanrevel's good qualities. The situation is excellent. Betty in love with Vanrevel's nature but not with Mr. Gray's person, and in a quandary about the real Vanrevel. As will be surmised such a plot gives possibilities for a most dramatic solution, and Mr. Tarkington has made the best of his opportunities.

SOME NINETEENTH CENTURY SCOTSMEN. By William Knight. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Price 10s. 6d.

Hero worship seems to form no inconsiderable portion of the nature of Professor Knight, of the University of St. Andrew's, in Scotland, if we are to judge from the contents of the handsome volume before us. It is the work of a man whose opportunities for intercourse with and observation of the lives of many great men, who have gone before him, have been manifold. He has made excellent use of these opportunities, and in "Some Nineteenth Century Scotsmen," he has sketched off with facile pen brief bio-