There is a charm which does not pall in the strange, detached life of the "Mountain-white's" region of the south, with its primitive people who have been left behind in the rapid march of modern advances. Harriet T. Comstock lays the scene of her story, A Son of the Hills (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 409 pages, \$1.35 net), in that region. The story is the rise of a lad, born of stock that had once been of the best in all the countryside, but had become degenerate; and how he led with him on the upward path, a girl, in whose slow, "mountain-white" blood there was infused a strain of idealism from the outside. A keen, self-assertive, but altogether wholesome and benevolent, New England old bachelor, and his elderly suppressed sister, who developed an altogether delightful independence when her heart was touched, are part of the story, which, after various difficult situations, comes out happily in the end.

A bright and heartening story is Sunshine Jane, by Annie Warner (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart. Toronto, 279 pages, \$1.00 net). Jane is a nurse of the sort whose "training consists in going where there isn't any brightness and being bright, and going where there isn't any 1. opiness and teaching happiness." This "sunshine" nurse goes to a little village to care for an invalid aunt, and her contagious gladness transforms the whole community. There is lots of droll fun in the book, and underneath it a cheery optimism and practical good sense in matters of living. It sets forth, in charming fashion, what can come of just being glad.

The King Behind the King, by Warwick Deeping (Cassell & Co., Toronto, 340 pages, \$1.25), is a tale of England in the troubled times of Richard II., and the peasant's rebellion led by Wat Tyler. It was a rough and cruel period, and the story is forl of the horors of the peasant war. A brave king's forester is the hero who saves the poor weak boy king's crown for him.

The new \$10,000 prize novel, **Diane of the Green Van**, by Leona Dalrymple, adjudged to be the best of over five hundred manuscripts submitted in a great novel contest (The Copp Clark Co., Toronto, 441 pages, \$1.35), is a story of the open road. The heroine in her green gypsy van travels about and meets with a number of exciting adventures. A mysterious baron, searching for the heir to the throne of a small European principality, furnishes a mystery. The book breathes the charm of the great outdoors.

Dick Mort was a Liverpool gutter rat who had shipped as a seaman on a big ocean freighter. Not that he had any knowledge of the sea, or any wish to learn, but a man must eat. He was terribly hurt in a big storm, and the untiring nursing by the ship's captain and steward was the first step in The Salvage of a Sailor, which Frank Bullen describes in his latest book (Musson Book Co., Toronto, 304 pages, \$1.25). Through several of God's sincere servants, Dick was given a chance, and proved himself worth saving, in that he learned to save others. Bullen's detailed knowledge of sailors and the sea comes out on every page of the story.

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