

From Thomas Allen, Toronto (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York), we have received **Brothers in Arms**, by E. Alexander Powell (62 pages, 50c.). This little book sets forth the significance of the recent visit of the French envoys to Washington, headed by Marshal Joffre and Mons. Viviani. That visit is rightly regarded as epochal, in that it marks the entrance of the United States into the great conflict for the defence of democracy, to fight alongside of her ancient friend and ally. The historical connection between the United States and France is skilfully sketched, and the book closes with a ringing appeal to the citizens of the great American republic to be loyal to the alliance with her sister across the sea.

Undertow, by Kathleen Morris (William Briggs, Toronto, 248 pages, \$1.25), is a worth while story. The Albert Bradlegs, with whose fortunes it is concerned, began life on a tiny income, and, in the days of their comparative poverty, faced the world bravely and sought to make provision for the proverbial rainy day. But prosperity came, and they were swept off their feet into a course of extravagance, which, at last, threatened to end in ruin. It took the destruction by fire of their luxurious home and deadly peril to their baby girl to bring them to their senses and show them the true values in life. A new beginning was made, with the experience of the past for guidance and warning, and the "tale of extravagance" ends as happily as it began.

Lydia of the Pines (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 357 pages, price \$1.40) was a little girl of unusual loveliness and independence of character. She needed to be able to stand alone, for she was motherless, and her father, though hard-working and honest, was unskilled and earned little, and thought nothing of going into debt. Lydia's brave fight for an education, the friends she made, and the devotion and care she gave to her little sister, to her father and to the old housekeeper, make a fine story. The sad part of the book is the picture it gives of the unfair treatment of the Indians by the United States Government which was, at one period, such a blot on that country's history, and which made it possible for great tracts of land to be taken from the Indians by unscrupulous persons for wholly inadequate returns. Lydia struggled to help save some of their splendid pine tracts for the Indians, and finally found in the shadow of these great forests her own life happiness.

A Little World Apart, by George Stevenson (John Lane, London, S. B. Gundy, Toronto, 403 pages, \$1.25 postpaid), is a tale of life in the secluded English village of Applethwaite, with its two centres of the church and vicarage and the marketplace, lying near Applethwaite Hall, where the eccentric but kindhearted Lady Crane administers, with a strong hand, the estate which she is to hand on to her nephew, a young naval lieutenant. With masterly deftness and lightness of touch the daily happenings of this remote neighborhood are set forth as the background against which the principal characters stand out and play their part. Amongst these are the mysterious Mrs. Errington, who comes to the village to hide her grief over a husband hopelessly insane who is confined in an asylum; Arthur Demaine, the brilliant but idle son of the vicar, who is expelled

from Oxford and is at last sent off to Canada; Arthur's sister Helen, who is an attendant on Lady Crane and whom that lady wishes to become the wife of her nephew; poor Rose Gill, whose love for Arthur brings her sorrow and disappointment, which are dispelled, however, when, at last, she listens to the pleadings of honest Robin Summerfield; and the vicar himself, Philip Demaine, a dreamer always, but with hero stuff in him, as he shows when he is stricken with blindness. The reader will often smile at the sayings and doings of Mrs. Squire, sister of the vicar, but as unlike him as possible, and will have a tear of pity for Miss Georgina Fitzroy, who is believed in the village to have once lived at court and whose frequent departures for the asylum of which Mrs. Errington's husband is an inmate, are described by herself and regarded by others, as summonses from royalty. One cannot help being sorry, either, for Miss Lydia Blackburn, though her faults are as great as her misfortunes.

Has the reader of the **TEACHERS MONTHLY** Book Page ever picked up what he thought was a dry and uninteresting scientific treatise and found, on turning its leaves, that it is fascinating as any novel? That will be the experience of one who opens the charming book by J. Henri Fabre, "the novelist of insects," entitled **The Life of the Grasshopper** (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 455 pages, \$1.50). The Cicada, the Mantis, the Empusa, the White-faced Decticus, the Green Grasshopper, the Cricket, the Locusts and the Foamy Cicadella,—the characteristics and habits of all these varieties are described by a naturalist whom Charles Darwin regarded as an observer of the first order and who is, at the same time, a writer of unusual charm. The translation from the French is by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos, Fellow of the Zoological Society of London.

Mr. Frank L. Brown is widely known as the Joint General Secretary of the World's Sunday School Association. Before he came to that position he was, as he continues to be, an enthusiastic and unusually successful Sunday School superintendent. By knowledge and experience, therefore, he was peculiarly well qualified for the authorship of the book from his pen, published by the Abingdon Press, New York and Cincinnati, under the title, **Sunday School Officers' Manual: The Training of Officers and Committees, A Practical Course for Sunday School Leaders** (254 pages, 50c. net). A glance at the table of contents is sufficient to show the completeness of Mr. Brown's treatment. The duties of every officer and committee required in the most highly organized Sunday School are described with a fullness which leaves little to be desired. Another volume of great value to Sunday School workers is **The Present-Day Sunday School: Studies in Its Organisation and Management** by P. E. Burroughs, D.D. (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto and New York, 214 pages, \$1.00). Dr. Burroughs, as the Educational Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, is a recognized authority on Sunday School work. His book, after two Introductory Studies on A Proper Rating for the Sunday School and A Proper Designation, contains Studies in Grading, Studies in the Departments and Studies in Administration.