

same mind as Rémy de Gourmont." Mr. Gosse records his own opinion:

"It must be admitted that there seems to be no fixed rule of taste, not even a uniformity of practice or general tendency to agreement in particular cases. But the whole study of the five arts would lead to despair if we allowed ourselves to accept this admission as implying that no conceivable principle of taste exists. We may not be able to produce it like a yard-measure, and submit works of imagination to it, once and for all, in the eyes of a consternated public. But when we observe, as we must allow, that art is no better at one age than at another, but only different, that it is subject to modification, but certainly not to development; may we not safely accept this stationary quality as a proof that there does exist, out of sight, unattained and unattainable, a positive norm of poetic beauty? We cannot define it, but in each generation all excellence must be the result of a relation to it. It is the moon, heavily wrapt up in clouds, and impossible exactly to locate, yet revealed by the light it throws on distant portions of the sky. At all events, it appears to me that this is the only theory by which we can justify a continued interest in literature when it is attacked, now on one side, now on another, by the vicissitudes of fashion."

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PEACE IN FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE

BY ZONA GALE. Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada.

MISS GALE'S return to Friendship Village for the scene of her new book will be welcomed by the many people who have derived pleasure from her earlier pictures of life in this town.

Calliope Marsh, pleasantly remembered from other volumes, tells the story in her inimitable fashion; and besides Calliope there are other people, first met in other books of Miss Gale's, with whom it is a pleasure to renew acquaintanceship.

Vividly and accurately has Miss Gale portrayed life in a small town. With keen sympathy has she caught its humour and its pathos. It is a book which only one who has lived in a little village on intimate and friendly relations with its inhabitants could have written, but which has an appeal that is universal.

STORIES OF THE SHIPS

By LEWIS R. FREEMAN, R.N.V.R.
Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons.

OF the many books that have been written about the British Navy this is one of the most readable, written by the official press representative with the Grand Fleet. It describes life in the Fleet, gives a vivid picture of a battleship at sea as well as a recital of incidents attending a North Sea sweep. Considerable attention is given to the American ships, and an attempt is made to tell what the British bluejacket thinks of the Americans and of what the American bluejacket thinks of Britain and the British.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

By EDWARD JENKS. Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons.

THIS is an admirable book for many persons who would like to have an intelligent idea of British institutions and yet who have neither the leisure nor the inclination to study the subject to the length that is demanded by most of the standard works on it. It begins with a consideration of the place and powers of the King-Emperor, and continues with chapters on "The United Kingdom and the Self-Governing Dominions", "The Crown Colonies and British India", "The Imperial Cabinet", "The Imperial Parliament", "The Fighting Services", and the various branches of the Government, including the government of counties and boroughs.

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A CANADIAN CALENDAR

By JOHN MURRAY GIBBON. St. Anne de Bellevue: The Canadian Bookman.

THIS is the first of a series to be known as "Canada Chapbooks." It certainly is a good beginning. Mr. Gibbon, who was already a writer of established reputation, with two excellent novels, "Hearts and Faces" and "Drums Afar", reveals himself