

land himself, and, taking his pretty sister Miriam with him to live, settles down near Thorbury. The people about are friendly. Dr. Tolbridge seems to attend to both the happiness and health of people. Miss Panney, an elderly maiden, arranges others' affairs. Dora Bannister, a belle of the district, takes a fancy to Ralph. Miss Panney resolves to make a match between them. La Fleur is a famous cook, who bestows the inestimable boon of her services upon the doctor's wife. All these persons, and others, the author works into an amusing tale. The opening chapters, a critic would be apt to say, are tame; but we soon grow interested. Ralph is on the road to falling in love with Dora, when a widow in reduced circumstances, Mrs. Drane, and her daughter Cicely, take up their residence at Cobhurst, by Dr. Tolbridge's wish. La Fleur is an old retainer of theirs. She wants Cicely to marry Ralph. The story resolves itself into a struggle between the two match-makers, and engages the reader's earnest attention. Ralph wavers for a long time, and the plans and schemes of the indefatigable Miss Panney are amusingly told. But Cicely's charms win the day. It is a healthy, humorous tale of everyday life, with a strong vein of sentiment running through it, and must prove very popular.

THE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.—By Henry George. Cloth; 545 pp.; \$2. George N. Morang, Toronto. In this handsome volume the publisher again illustrates the high standard to which he adheres in the printing and publishing of books. The clear, large type, the plain, elegant binding, the fine photogravure frontispiece of the late Mr. George, all combine to make this as perfect a piece of work as could be desired. The literary work itself is no dry as dust production, but is couched in a very easy, captivating style, surveys other economic writings and writers, and goes into the history, as well as the basis, of economic truths. Always, of course, from Mr. George's point of view, and his belief in his own theory of land and taxation does not falter. But he is never dreary, never confused, never abusive. He admits, at the outset, that political economy is the bread and butter side of man's existence, and must be dealt with apart from the ethical or religious side of his interest. But there is a strong note of humanity throughout which casts a spell over the reader and carries him through the 500 pages with a thought of this kind:

"Here is a man who feels as I do. His reasoning may be wrong, but evidently, he desires to get at the truth, and he writes down to the level of my comprehension." In this sense, one must apply the much-abused word, "popular," to Mr. George's book. It is essentially intended for the

people at large, not the professors, the men of science, the economists. By this very characteristic, probably, Mr. George's views have acquired the hold they have to-day.

THE BOOKMAN LITERARY YEAR-BOOK, 1898. Edited by James Macarthur. Cloth, illus., 263 pp. George N. Morang, Toronto. The average Canadian reader occupies a unique attitude toward new books. His first preference is for British authors, but he is more interested in the writers of the United States than is the average Englishman. It was, therefore, a good idea of Mr. Morang's to issue a special edition of this book for Canada. It contains biographical sketches of 24 new and prominent writers, both British and American, whose works were widely read last year on this continent. These are illustrated with full-page photographs. In the list are a number of English authors and one Canadian, Charles G. D. Roberts. There are seven obituaries of eminent writers who died in 1897, including a valuable paper on Mrs. Oliphant, by Dr. Robertson Nicoll. Then there are a dozen chapters on various current literary topics; plays founded upon new novels; serials by United States writers; the best selling books; the literary output last year; Mr. Clement Shorter's paper on Victorian literature; the best hundred books for a village library from a British or United States States point of view. In fact, the reader interested in books and the men who write them gets a very valuable and well written compendium of current literary information. The book is a sumptuous affair.

WITH FIRE AND SWORD.—By Henryk Sienkiewicz, author of "Quo Vadis." Cloth; 780 pp.; \$1.50, illus. George N. Morang, Toronto. Every reader of the history of Eastern Europe knows how difficult it is to get one's self into the "atmosphere" of those vigorous military people who have, in these later centuries, overrun a large part of Europe. In this long and absorbing novel, the author of "Quo Vadis" again exhibits his power of reproducing perfectly the spirit of the past. The time is that of the Polish Commonwealth, about 1650. The wars between Pole, Cossack, Tartar, and Slav present a picture of continuous bloodshed and strife. You are made to understand the nature of the races, which slaughter each other ruthlessly, with the name of the Prince of Peace on their

lips. It is a strange, weird atmosphere, and the story is intensely interesting, the adventures and rescue of a beautiful Polish princess, Helena, being mixed up with the fortunes of the Polish kingdom. The Polish names are a trifle disconcerting to the English reader, but, once into the story, you forget all that. The translation by Mr. Curtin—who, by the way, was educated in Toronto—is excellent.

A PENMAKER'S FAD.

Attention has been called to the hobby which the wealthy penmaker, Gillott, had for collecting old violins. He was not a player himself, and it is a question whether he realized the possibilities of any one of his valuable collection. At his death there was found in one room of his factory over £40,000 worth of fiddles, and in other rooms 'cellos and basses.—Sheffield Independent.

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