

THE BOOK PAGE

Books for review to be sent to the EDITORS OF THE TEACHERS MONTHLY, Room 123,
Confederation Life Building, Toronto

In Norman Duncan's new story, Doctor Luke of the Labrador (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, 327 pages, \$1.50), the hero redeems his wasted life by devoting his medical skill and knowledge of the world to the welfare of the simple Labrador folk. Around the central figure are gathered various types of character found on the rugged Atlantic coast where the scene of the tale is laid. Each of these is portrayed with the life-like touch already revealed in the author's shorter stories. There is much hardness in the life of these people, but on this dark background stand out the more clearly their patience and cheerfulness, above all their sense of God's nearness and control, and assurance that out of evil He will in some way bring good. "Dr. Luke" will add to Mr. Duncan's already high reputation, and will assuredly find a large circle of readers. We may claim it as a contribution to Canadian literature. For its writer, though living in the United States, is a Canadian, a Toronto University man, and the people of the "ancient colony" of whom it tells will, we hope, soon come into union with the Dominion.

Canadians admire Gilbert Parker most in his stories of the old French régime in Canada. Perhaps it is because they so vividly portray conditions which, in the slow-moving population of our French province, are not so very different to-day. Perhaps it is because the author is himself so thoroughly *en rapport* with his theme. His newest story, A Ladder of Swords (The Copp Clark Co., Toronto, 291 pages, price \$1.25), lacks to us these elements of attractiveness. But it is not without its charm. No tale of the Elizabethan era well could be. His sketch of the Queen in her various moods is excellent, and his Jersey nobleman, the Seigneur de Rozel, is "a delightful mixture of courage, kindness, stupidity and pompous conceit"; he gives the welcome flavor of humor. Gilbert Parker has not yet, let it be hoped, done his best. We may take "A Ladder of Swords" as a step on the way to the really great book which he may some day write.

Mr. H. Valentine Geere proves himself an entertaining raconteur in his volume By Nile and Euphrates: A Record of Discovery and Adventure (T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh; Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, 355 pages, with maps, illustrations—34 full page—index and glossary, price \$2.60). He was on the staff of the Babylonian expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, under Flinders Petrie, and was chiefly engaged in the work of excavating the ruins of the ancient city of Nippur (the Calneh of Genesis), Mesopotamia. It is, however, no dry account of excavations. Mr. Geere has a fresh mind and quick eyes. One gets the very atmosphere of the countries through which he travelled. The living people were evidently as much to him as the ancient mounds and their contents. The result is an exceedingly charming book, with many new things for old travellers, and all new and interesting to stay-at-homes. The author makes an urgent plea for the

British people to take up again in earnest the work of excavation, which the great names of Rawlinson, Layard and others made famous.

George H. Lorimer's new volume, Old Gorgon Graham; More Letters from a Self-made Merchant to His Son (William Briggs, Toronto; 308 pages, price \$1.25), shows the same insight, caustic humor and hard headed common-sense as his earlier book, which had such immense success. Like its predecessor, it is a good book for young men. They will read it—and that is one point gained. The humor of it will carry them along, and they will find deeply embedded in it the old, but ever-needed lesson, that honesty and integrity lie at the foundation of success.

In A Young Man's Make-Up (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto; The Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, 150 pages, 75c.), Dr. James I. Vance talks about the qualities that constitute a manly character. Good, straight talk it is, too, from one who evidently knows young men and is in full sympathy with them. The book is altogether worthy of the place given to it in the Reading Course recommended for 1905, by the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies.

The recent visit to this continent of Rev. Charles Wagner, whose congregation in Paris is said to include "almost every intellectual and social element of modern France," has turned attention to his books. Two of these lie before us, neatly bound and well printed—The Simple Life and By the Fireside (William Briggs, Toronto, 193 and 309 pages respectively, each \$1.00 net). An illustration from the former shows its purpose. The test of a good lamp is that it give a good light, not its material, or its workmanship. So it is not his goods, or pleasures, or honors, or learning that make the man, but the strength of his moral fibre. The book is an appeal to simplify life, by making all its complex conditions minister to moral growth. Our sympathy is won and held by the author's intensity of purpose and felicity of style. "By the Fireside," which is one of the books of the Reading Course recommended by the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies, is a sweet and tender, but none the less strong and sensible, discussion of home relationships. One cannot read the book—a chapter of it would be excellent reading when the family gather round the evening lamp—without loving his home more, and desiring to make it even a better and happier place.

The future of the church's missions, at home and abroad, lies in the hands of her young people. Let their zeal and enthusiasm be kindled into a bright flame, and a glorious advance is assured. And the fuel of zeal is information. Reapers in Many Lands (Westminster Co., Toronto; 290 pages, paper, 25c; cloth, 50c) will help in supplying this. It is got out by the General Assembly's Y.P.S. Committee, is writ-