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By KATE STANDISH

THERE is nothing which so readily creates a desire for reading as an atmosphere of books. Give your family and your friends books for Christmas—good books that they will love to keep. A good book is always a little better than one's self; the kind of a companion that you choose instinctively and conveniently. You take up a book and in an instant your mind is soaring away from your immediate surroundings—you are carried to some curious corner of life and given an insight into the thoughts and ambitions and passions of other men and women.

Books broaden the vision, they give us an intimate acquaintance with situations and experiences not as we see them ourselves, but as they are presented to us by others. And to own a book makes it much more valuable to the average reader. Select books that your friends will love to read again and again—books that are inspiring, entertaining, helpful and that serve the turn of instruction.

"K"

By MARY ROBERTS
RINEHART
(Copp Clark & Co.)

THOSE who enjoy a story with a sound plot, a mystery and a good deal of sentiment, should read Mrs. Rinehart's latest book—"K." When the story opens, the hero K. Le Moynes, who works in a gas office, comes as a roomer to the home of Sidney Page. He is a tall, lean, quiet, shabbily dressed person with little to say about himself, but soon feels at home in the Page family which includes Sidney's Mother, her Aunt Harriet—the "Street" dressmaker, and the "squirrel," and he is even accepted as one of them by the "street" who "are not quick as a rule in taking up new people."

Just as K. is nicely settled, he learns that Dr. Max Wilson, an erstwhile acquaintance and a man he does not wish to meet, lives directly opposite, and immediately resolves to move again, but is prevented by an appeal from Sidney, who urges him to stay with her Mother while she enters the hospital to train for a nurse. K. is in love with Sidney and agrees to stay, thinking he will see more of her, but rather regrets his decision later, when he finds that she is in love with Max Wilson, the handsome surgeon at the hospital, whose wonderful success in doing the "Edwards" operations has made him the idol of all the nurses. K. knows of Max's intrigues with other women, but does not feel that he is in a position to warn Sidney. She finds it out for herself later, however, when Max is shot at a road house, where he has gone with Carlotta Harrison, another nurse. K. happens to be present when the shooting occurs and immediately takes charge of the case and by performing a very difficult operation, saves Max's life. It is then discovered that K. is the famous Dr. Edwards, whose mysterious disappearance caused such a stir in medical circles some time before, after the third patient had died as the result of an apparently successful operation. In explaining his loss of nerve and flight later he says "a series of things happened and I decided I was in the wrong business."

The story ends satisfactorily with Carlotta Harrison's confession that she was the cause of the "accidents" and Sidney's realization that she loves K. and was simply infatuated with the man Max seemed to be.

Although verging on the melodramatic, "K" is a book with a high moral tone, which mothers need have no hesitation in allowing their daughters to read.

"Peegen"

ELEANOR HOYT BRAINERD
(Century Company)

AT the time the story opens Peegen O'Neil, who is a friend to everybody in need, has assumed the care of John Archibald, a despondent and untidy artist, who is trying to seek refuge from a disappointment in love in a small rural community. Peegen, small for her years, but very wise for a child, decides to cure him, and finally succeeds with some assistance from the "Smiling Lady" who is also slightly melancholy over complications of love.

Peegen is a veritable sunbeam to the people of the "Valley." In her lovable Irish way she is continually "seeing to somebody who needs her

ministrations," and almost everybody did need her in some capacity or other. It was a great day in the valley when Peegen came home with the new clothes which Archibald had bought her, and the pink parasol which she "had always been crazy for" but which of course wasn't really a necessity. Altogether a charming story showing how much happiness a child can bring into the lives of those with whom she is associated.

In Times Like These

NELLIE L. McCLUNG
(McLeod and Allen.)

"THE woman's movement, which has been scoffed and jeered at and misunderstood most of all by the people whom it is destined to help," says Mrs. McClung, in her latest book, "is a spiritual revival of the best instincts of womanhood—the instinct to serve and save the race."

Mrs. McClung covers the ground of woman's rights and woman's wrongs very thoroughly. She gives her opinions on vital topics of the day—in a straightforward, right from the shoulder manner which carries conviction to the reader. Most of Mrs. McClung's opinions are based upon her broad experience in fighting for decency and the safety of the home and the many humorous and pathetic incidents and anecdotes which she uses to illustrate her points throughout the book were collected by her while assisting as a leader in the cause of woman.

In her book, as in her lectures, Mrs. McClung condemns snobbishness, meanness and the petty jealousy which she believes to be the reason why many women are kept down. She makes strong protests against the liquor traffic, white slave trade, ignorance and the indifference of the happily married woman, but she believes

that the man or woman born with a sense of fair play, no matter how obscure it has become by training, prejudice or unhappy experience, will ultimately see the light and do the square thing.

Those who have heard Mrs. McClung lecture will be interested in reading her book and those who have not heard her speak should read what she has to say on the woman question even though they may not agree with all her arguments.

Mrs. McClung believes in "fair play" for the woman, but she would give a square deal to all men and women alike.

A Young Man's Year

ANTHONY HOPE
(McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart.)

ALL the reasons why Arthur Lisle ought to call on his cousin Godfrey Lisle, the head of the house, squire of Helsey Manor the old family place, and a man of considerable wealth, were reasons why he could not do it. He was a "poor relation," a tiresome duty, a country cousin, a raw youth—oh, in fine and in the end, a bore of purest quality and great magnitude—that and nothing else the Godfrey Lisles would think him. So he contented himself with waiting for clients and making mild love to Marie Saradet, Morton Ward's invitation to dinner changed everything. It brought his existence to the attention of his cousin's wife, Bernadette Lisle and from that on he is much in her society. He adores Bernadette and hopelessly idealizes her, so it is a very great blow to him when she finally runs off with Sir Oliver Wyse. In the meantime Arthur has had his chance at the bar, and is making good, and before the year is out he has forgotten and forgiven Bernadette, and is really in love with Judith Godfrey, Lisle's niece and a member of the household at Helsey Manor. The book is a little long, but the dialogue is bright and entertaining.

A Help to Housekeepers

LOUISE WETHERALL'S "Practical Laundry Work" (E. P. Dutton & Co.) gives straightforward, definite and practical directions for all kinds of laundry work. It is very valuable to the housewife who does her own work, and to the laundress who would be a first class worker. The home method and methods to follow for those who make laundry work a business are found side by side and illustrated in such a way as to make all points of the text easily understood.

OTHER BOOKS PEOPLE ARE READING

The Research Magnificent, H. G. Wells (MacMillan); The Story of Julia Page, Kathleen Norris (William Briggs); The Lovable Meddler, Leona Dalrymple (Copp, Clark & Co.); Rambles of a Canadian Naturalist, S. T. Wood (J. M. Dent & Sons); The Life of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, edited by Beckles Willson (Cassell & Co.); The Little Iliad, Maurice Hewlett (S. B. Gundy); The Testing of Janice Day, Helen Beecher Long (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart); Flower of the Gorse, Louis Tracy (McLeod & Allen); Penelope's Postscripts, Kate Douglas Wiggin (Wm. Briggs).

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Jolly Book for Boys and Girls (Thomas Nelson & Sons); The Chummy Book (Thomas Nelson & Sons); Child's Garden of Verses (Stevenson); The Scarecrow of Oz, L. Frank Baum (Copp, Clark & Co.); Santa Claus in Toyland, Chester H. Lawrence (Copp, Clark & Co.); Child's Own (Jm. Dent & Sons).

Look at the Authors Names

which alone are an assurance of excellence in the books here quoted. Then keep the titles in mind when looking for gifts or for your own reading.

FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

The Lost Prince

Mrs. Burnett's books are always sweet, clean and splendid.

KATHLEEN NORRIS

The Story of Julia Page

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GEO. BARR McCUTCHEON

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BERTA RUCK

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