

From The Macmillan Company, New York:

*Lourex*, by Emile Zola (2 vols.).

*Wild Neighbors*, by Ernest Ingersoll.

*Political Primer of New York State and City*, by Adele M. Fiedle.

Science in fiction becomes unreal. Zola writes from the scientist's point of view rather than from that of the psychologist. Otherwise he would have been more tolerant. He must know that to those who have not the physician's knowledge of cause and effect all cures of desperate ailments seem miracles. He declares that belief in miracles is based upon ignorance. He does not admit that "miracle" is a convenient term for expressing any process that we do not understand—and how little any one really knows! He tries to take away from man all his credulity—only an undignified name for belief. But suffering man is driven to despair without it and belief in restoration makes the process of cure possible. Docility and credulity are not weakness. Few cures would be wrought were not hope and trust remedial. An eventful journey taken to any supposed fountain of health is a stimulant, a remedy, a vitalizing force. Zola admits that fervor in prayer is exalting and invigorating. It carries distresses beyond consciousness; it dulls bodily misery, and Nature uses this mental anesthetic in her process of mending her imperfect children. Physicians use drugs to work the same kindly forgetfulness, so that the sick may rest from moaning. The effect of a drug is a miracle. Any beneficence that cannot be clearly accounted for may properly be called by that name. A pilgrimage to Lourdes as seen by an unbeliever is a tragedy that haunts memory with keen pain. Its scenes of suffering, though illuminated by ecstatic hope, are awesome. The return of the pilgrim train with here and there a triumph of faith and never despair of future healing, is a lofty lesson in patience, in trust and in hope. Zola has not missed opportunity for weaving from obvious pathos an absorbing romance.

*Wild Neighbors* is a graphic and partially illustrated description of the animals native to America. Students of natural history will find the book an agreeable adjunct to more formal and exacting researches. Not that the author is untrustworthy, but he furnishes us only with the habits of our animal neighbors and describes their methods of living, the color and texture of their furs or feathers, their tempers and affections. Few of them are friendly to man, instinctively realizing that he is their superior, and their socialistic impulses are inimical to superiors.

Miss Fiedle's *Political Primer of New York State and City* is a particularly timely work in connection with the Autumn campaign and the first municipal election in Greater New York. The book contains a complete, simple and clear account of the administration of the city as it will be under the new charter, as well as much else of value in the way of statistical tables, political platforms, etc.

From Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York:

*Lying Prophets*, by Eden Phillpotts.

*Sheilah McLeod*, by Guy Boothby.

*Authors' Readings*, compiled and illustrated by Arthur H. Young.

*Lying Prophets* is a story of the lowly dwellers on the Cornish coast, folk with superstitions that warped and thwarted intelligence and yet lifted them at times up to heroic and poetic heights. The differences in their faiths and creeds wrought fierce feuds between neighbors, with terrible consequences. Says one of the characters: "A body must believe in something, else he is a rudderless vessel seemingly. With such a flood of opinions about the earth, how is a sailor to know what is safe anchorage and what is not?" It is a love story as well as a study of the vital social forces underlying a strange and peculiar

people. To one desolate woman, the heroine, a belief in the Man of Sorrows came slowly but vividly, and she was saved from herself, strengthened to bear the aching turmoil in her soul and then—but readers of this uncommon novel will like to learn its sequel at first hand. Its author knows the human heart, learned and unlearned, and what is beautiful and ennobling in Nature, animate and inanimate.

*Sheilah McLeod* is a tale with its scenes located in the Samoan Islands, where the sky is bluer and the flowers sweeter and more beautiful than anywhere else—if Guy Boothby is to be believed. The story is as wild and weird as have been others from this author's pen. But, improbable as are its adventures when remembered in cold blood, they seem natural enough as one is carried along in the current of the story.

*Authors' Readings* are groups of selected writings illustrated with portraits of the authors and marginal pictures of their poses and expressions as they appeared while reading the selections on the platform. There are nine authors, men and women, represented in the volume, which also contains brief biographies of them all.

From G. W. Dillingham Co., New York:

*Near a Whole City Full*, by Edward W. Townsend.

*The Drones Must Die*, by Max Nordau.

Artistic, vivid and tear-stirring are Mr. Townsend's pictures of New York life. Some of them are silhouettes, sharp, cruel and despairing in tone, and some are melodramatic. Some are sentimental and others heroic, but all are realistic and brilliant. Students of sociology will find much of value in this volume, because most of the tales have a texture of realism that demands consideration from warm-hearted people who want to be truly philanthropic. *Near a Whole City Full* is, however, too inclusive and sweeping a title if the author means by it that the population of New York is almost exclusively made up of the sinners and sufferers he describes.

Max Nordau has hitherto done not a little good by warning away from marriage such as have inherited evil tendencies of body and mind which they would transmit to posterity. He has done an equal amount of harm to young persons who are aware of bad currents in their blood and have hitherto striven to purify them, but become hopeless when assured that such effort is hopeless. *The Drones Must Die* is a novel, and it has a touch of justice in its title, a hint of the stern decree that those who will not work shall not eat. It holds up encouraging examples of material and moral success, of struggle to maintain self respect, to attain to artistic possessions, to love and be loved in noble ways. For everyone he holds up bread-earning occupation as necessary to reach contentment and a proper relationship to the body politic. He points a finger of warning at ignoble financial processes. On the whole, however, his novel is pessimistic. He makes life a dreary grinding away of youth and its finer ambitions to end at last in mediocrity or despair.

From J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia:

*A Point of Conscience*, by "The Duchess."

This is a painful story, but because "The Duchess" is gone, many will read it as her "In Memoriam." Its sorrows suit the occasion and its author's admirers are likely to revel in their unwholesome needlessness.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

From The G. W. Dillingham Co.:

*Peg Busen*, by John W. Spear.

*The Night Before Christmas*, by Clement C. Moore, LL.D.

*Desmond, M.D.*, by Hugh Wakefield.

*Claude Duval of Ninety-Five*, by Fergus Hume.



**THE GRAND ALBUM.**—This superb monthly publication has won a substantial place in public favor, though now only in its second volume. With the March, June, September and December numbers is given A HANDSOME LITHOGRAPHIC PLATE 29x30 INCHES IN SIZE, illustrating in colors the latest Ladies' Fashions. With the November issue was given a Plate representing the Styles in Evening and Opera Cloaks for the coming season, while the present

(December) number is accompanied by the Quarterly Plate mentioned above and a Supplementary Plate illustrating **ORNAMENTAL TEXTS FOR CHURCH DECORATION AT THE HOLIDAY SEASON.** Every issue of this magazine includes a series of artistic plates illustrating in Colors and Tints the Latest Modes in Costuming, Millinery, etc., with the necessary descriptive matter, and original articles in Dressmaking and Millinery, the text being in English, Spanish and German. Additional value is given it by the arrangement of the plates, which may be cut from the book and framed or otherwise displayed in show windows or on sales-counters. The Publication is indispensable to Dressmakers and Milliners. The Subscription price is 12s. or \$2 a year. Single copies, 1s. (by post, 1s. 3d.) or 25-cents. SEND FOR A SPECIMEN COPY.