

THE ANNUAL MIRACLE.

The annual miracle of the returning verdure is now in progress; now is the time to observe and admire. There are the first flowers; the first greening trees, in which the folded leaf is wooed from out the bud; the first tender shades of color. With many persons there is an attitude of waiting until the wealth of foliage arrives at its consummation. To watch God's green things growing, to observe the unfolding panorama of verdure from the beginning, is more interesting and replete with variety and beauty.

DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW.

There are people who pride themselves on their candor. There are those whose criticism is three parts censoriousness. There are people who excuse the gross brutalities of speech they bestow on persons of perhaps shrinking temperament on the ground that blunt, honest folk always speak their mind. There is another view worthy of consideration, namely, that some measure of success and encouragement is a moral necessity to the timid, and that with many natures most can be done by a word of encouragement for those good qualities, few though they may seem to be, which are seldom entirely absent from any son or daughter of Adam.

A successor to the late Halliday Douglas as professor of apologetics and practical training in Knox College will probably be appointed on Thursday. A joint meeting has been called of the Board of Management and Senate to receive the report of a committee appointed to recommend an incumbent to the vacant chair. Their unanimous choice is Rev. J. D. Robertson, M.A., D.Sc., of the United Free Church, North Berwick, Scotland. No doubt is entertained that the recommendation will be approved, and it is understood that Mr. Robertson will accept.

Literary Notes.

The April number of *The Studio* contains the first article of a series on Impressionist Painting; Its Genesis and Development, by Wyndford Dewhurst. The Art of Painted Enamels is the most beautifully illustrated article giving a comprehensive description of the subject. A third notice is given of The Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the New Gallery, and M. H. Baillie Scott describes *Yellowsands*, A Sea Side House. *Studio Talk* is of even more than usual interest. 44 Leicester Square, London, England.

Living for the Best, by James G. K. McLure. As the writer of this little book says, "Its purpose is to set forth great ideas, and so to set them forth, each one illustrated by a historic life already familiar, that these ideas shall be made luminous, and even vivid, to the reader." The characters chosen are from the Old Testament and include Daniel, David, Joseph, Elijah and other of the great heroes of olden times. The book is suggestive. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto.

The Creed of Presbyterians, by Rev. Egbert Watson Smith, D.D. This work has the following introductory note by Rev. Principal Caven: "The Creed of Presbyterians, by Dr. Egbert W. Smith, sets forth with great appreciation and in a glowing

style, but with perfect fairness and in a catholic spirit the testimony of history to the good fruit which Calvinism has borne in the countries mainly influenced by this system of doctrine. Calvinism has produced strong and pure character wherever it has been received. The tributes paid to this doctrine by historical writers are summarized by Dr. Smith in a very interesting manner." The book, which is clearly and concisely written, treats of *The Creed Formulated*, *The Creed Tested by its Fruits*, *The Creed Illustrated* and *The Creed Catholic*. Poole-Stewart, Limited, Publishers, Toronto.

David the Hero, by Sarah Dickson Lowrie. In her foreword the author tells us that this book was written to disarm the prejudices of a little girl who could see nothing heroic in David but who thought of him as a "tiresome, gold-crowned person, given over to the constant playing of a harp." The story is written simply and the main incidents are taken from the Bible, but it is woven together in a charming manner, and the writer's style will make even more attractive to children what is usually considered one of the most interesting of all the Bible stories. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia.

Medical Missions: Teaching and Healing, by Louise C. Perington, M.D. This little pamphlet gives a short sketch of the place women doctors have held from earliest times, and shows how great a work they are doing in all foreign mission fields. It is published by the Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, and costs only ten cents.

The Cosmopolitan for May opens with a most interesting article on Governmental Parcel-Post in Great Britain. Then follow articles on *The Power and Beauty of Woman's Eyes*, *The Marvels of Corn Culture*, *Platonic Friendship*, and other subjects of varied interest. Several short stories and an instalment of the serial go to make up an excellent number of this magazine.

The opening article in *Harper's Monthly Magazine for May* is on King John, Critical Comment by Joseph Knight and Pictures by Edwin A. Abbey, R. A. Other subjects discussed are *A Strange People of the North*, *Constantinople*; an Impression, Photographing the Nebulae, Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1903, *The Mechanism of the Brain*, and *A Day in the Salt Meadows*. This number is particularly strong in fiction, though we find no serial story to take the place of Miss Johnston's which was promised for this month but was delayed through her illness. Justus Miles Forman, Octave Thanet, Arthur Colton, Van Tassel Sutphen, Margaret Deland—these are some of the writers of the stories for this month. Harper and Brothers, New York.

The Workingman and Social Problems, by Charles Stelzle. This work is the outcome of first, several years as a workingman; second, a series of circular letters to labor leaders; third, practical work among workmen, settlement and city mission work. Some of the material used has appeared in the form of special articles in different periodicals, for instance, *The Sunday School Times*, *The Outlook*, *The Interior*, and *The Independent*. Among the subjects dealt with are the following: *The Workingman and His Environment*, *The Workingman and the Saloon*, *The Workingman and Shop Ethics*, and *The Workingman and the Church*. The book is written in a clear, vigorous style, and will appeal to all as a fair and judicious study of the question. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto.

Studies of Familiar Hymns, by Louis F. Benson, D.D. As the writer says, "This book grew out of a series of six papers (expanding, under encouragement, to twenty-five) written for *Forward* and *The Well-spring*." There is no connection between the hymns chosen, which include many old favourites and some which are not old but which have made a place for themselves in our modern hymnals. The first place is given to Phillips Brooks' *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, while Tennyson's *Crossing the Bar* is the last in the book. In each case Dr. Benson first gives the text of the hymn; then some account of the writer; and after that tells the circumstance under which the hymn was written. The book is beautifully printed and bound, while the large number of illustrations add to its value. There are portraits of the different hymn writers, facsimiles of title pages of hymnals and autograph verses of some of the hymns. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia.

THE BIBLET (T. B. Mosher, Portland, Maine) for May is entitled *A Second Little Gland of Celtic Verse*. The preface says, "Between the first poem and the last we have brought together such other lyrics by the 'Young Ireland' group as in our opinion are most 'touched by the wind of old romance.'" We give one specimen:

A little sun, a little rain,
A soft wind blowing from the west
And woods and fields are sweet again
And warmth within the mountain's breast.

So simple is the earth we tread,
So quick with love and life her frame,
Ten thousand years have dawned and fled,
And still her magic is the same.

A little love a little trust
A soft impulse, a sudden dream
And life as dry as desert dust
Is fresher than a mountain stream.

So simple is the heart of man
So ready for new hope and joy
Ten thousand years since it began
Have left it younger than a boy.

—Stafforde H. Brooke.

Lady Rose's Daughter, by Mrs. Humphrey Ward. From an intellectual standpoint Mrs. Ward is very satisfying, if from an emotional one she is somewhat lacking. She appeals always to the head, not to the heart. *Lady Rose's Daughter* is a magnificent psychological study, and it is with the strongest interest that one follows the workings of Julie's mind and heart, though the interest remains somewhat impersonal and is not the close sympathy we give some characters in fiction who seem to appeal to our affections as living beings. In this book, which has received so much attention as it ran its course as a serial in *Harper's Magazine*, Mrs. Ward reaches an even higher level than that attained in *Eleanor*, which was by all odds her finest work up to the time of the appearance of *Lady Rose's Daughter*. We have a splendid picture of the aristocracy of England; their ways and methods of thought, and if we feel no love for any of the characters created, we do feel admiration for the genius which has rendered them so lifelike. It seems unnecessary to give any resume of the plot of the novel; the book has been so much talked of that the majority of people are familiar with it. In any case the plot is not the important part of the book. The Poole-Stewart Company of Toronto have published a handsome Canadian copyright edition, well illustrated by H. C. Christy, and bound in red linen.

New disclosures of Christ's love give new glimpses of his power and Godhead.