

works of merit is the object of this book entitled "How to Judge Pictures." It is written well and simply.

TALES OF THE MERMAID TAVERN.

BY ALFRED NOYES.

That Alfred Noyes has attained to mastery in the field of literature wherein his special genius lies is not to be gainsaid, while in none of his productions does he show more inspiration, versatility and lyrical charm than in "Tales of the Mermaid Tavern."

The Mermaid Tavern is pleasantly used to link together a number of poems as well as to bind them to the Elizabethan age; since under its roof Shakespeare, Kit Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Raleigh and other prominent figures of the day, a group of men the like of which does not live in every age, met without affectation to discuss sincerely their virtues and vices.

So impressive are these poems, so full of idealism and thought that it is not alone their music that clings to the mind of the reader. They possess dramatic power and a certain timbre of tragedy such as in "The Sign of the Golden Shoe" and "Raleigh," sets the blood astirring. "Black Bill's Honeymoon," on the contrary, is replete with blustering, free humor and imagery. As examples of Mr. Noyes' work several of the poems of this book are among the best that have come from his pen.

In the make-up "The Mermaid Tavern" is plain and attractive; the full page reproductions of the men that frequented the inn adding to its value.

A GUIDE TO THE MONTESSORI METHOD.

BY ALLEN YALE STEVENS.

So universally recognized and discussed is the Montessori method as applies to child education that it seems fitting the general public should have provided some well-paved road leading directly toward its comprehension. Such is the book entitled "A Guide to the Montessori Method." The value of this book is that it enables every mother who reads it to grasp with ease and interest the full import of this manner of teaching, its conceptions and ideals, as well as the basic principles on which it has been upbuilt. It reviews the movement from its inception as it developed under the master hand of this remarkable woman, Dr. Montessori, laying the various steps by which she moved forward plainly before the reader. Hints, suggestions and a word of cau-

tion are besides given that the method may be guarded from a too hasty impression and too liberal an adoption without testing it judiciously in connection with modern child physiology.

For all those interested in the subject of child education, and who should not be the "Guide to the Montessori Method" offers undoubtedly a key to the most individual conception of its age.

GROWING PAINS: A NOVEL.

BY IVY LOW.

Everybody has them—growing pains—pains of the body and pains of the soul—and those of us who have got beyond our "teens" realize with philosophy that growth of any sort implies more or less pain. But then, who would want to stop growing? It is with these sympathetic feelings that one begins the reading of Gertrude's young and absorbing career.

It is unusual to find a novel so thoroughly naive and captivating. On the first page, which begins with Gertrude at the alluring age of six, you know you are going to like it, and you settle yourself down to several hours of solid delight. The author seems to have instinctively mixed into his pages most of the necessary ingredients for the literary success. The characters, especially the chief ones, are intensely and frankly human. The things that happen to them are just the sort of things that happen to real people in real life, and the style is so simple and fluent that you have no consciousness of it, leaving the writer free to tell the story with practically none of that friction which usually exists, to a greater or less degree, between the reader and the type.

Amused, surprised, always interested, you follow with genuine concern the ups and downs of this emotional nature in which you may find, incidentally, such reflections of your own. Perhaps it is these very reflections that make the book so readable and convincing. For Gertrude, while essentially a most individualistic person, is equally a type. Her faults and virtues—hopelessly confused and intermingled as they be almost interchangeable terms—are very much like the faults and virtues of other girls of her age, inheritance and education. Her generous actions, with their selfish motives, are just like those of other "Gertrudes" you know. Her rebellious spirit and desire for affection are characteristic of every normal growing girl, and her passion for morbid introspection is likewise familiar modern stuff. The morbidness

is not very serious, for her sense is too keen, and it is this sense that prevents her occasional spasms of religion from ending in the nun. At other times prevents her from her unconventional theories to ex-

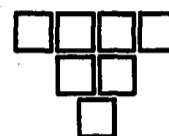
ternately sentimental and cynical toward the men she meets is amusing, and finally as her disillusionment still ardent being begins to find equal and physical bearings, she meets "the right man"—a quiet, strong, somewhat artist, who seems likely to stand the test of her analytical soul. And at last she finds him.

The end of the book is a little disappointing, both as to subject matter and treatment. You feel that it lacks the sincerity and frankness for which the first part is remarkable. However, this sense of incompleteness may perhaps merely prelude to a sequel for certainly marriage, with all its complications and adjustments, would hold out valuable experience for a woman of Gertrude's temperament. We shall look forward with pleasant anticipation for another novel from this author's pen.

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