

his good fortune to have met several examples of this *genus homo*, and he has certainly not lacked generosity in sharing their acquaintance with us. "Major Slocum" arouses a lurking suspicion that we are being deceived in him, and that there is something wanting to that gentleman's perfection. In fact, an afterthought may be convincing on this point. There is an audacity in the sketch, and a freshness of Southern life and warmth of colour which are fascinating. The individual in these stories may be different, but the type is the same, whether they be found in the apartment of a Continental express, in the grafted product of southern chivalry, or in the nondescript flagmen in a railroad yard. "Baader" and "The Lady of Lucerne" are European experiences, the latter story remarkable if for nothing else than for the description of the organ recital at vespers in the great church at Lucerne. "Jonathan" and the May time pictures of the Bronx banks and Brockway's Hulk are bits of canvas, that will fit very delightfully and familiarly into some panel of one's vacation or spring ramble experiences.

BLACK DIAMONDS. By Maurus Jokai. London, Eng., Bell & Son. Toronto Copp Clark Co. Ltd.

A very good translation of Maurus Jokai's strange and mystic work of fiction, *Black Diamonds*, by Frances A. Gerard, is the latest volume to the Indian and Colonial Library.

FAITH BUILDING. By Revd. Wm. P. Merrill Pastor of sixth Presbyterian Church Chicago Ill., Price 50 cents Philadelphia and Toronto Presbyterian Board of Publication.

No better statement of the objects of this little book can be given than to quote the brief preface. "To the earnest, honest young people of our day—who are doubtful in the midst of their faith; and faithful in the midst of their doubt, these thoughts are given by one of their brothers."

BIBLICAL DIFFICULTIES DISPELLED by George Sexton L.L.D., F.A.S. Toronto, William Briggs.

Most of the answers which appear in this book were first published in "The Shield of Faith," which the author edited some years ago. During his many years of experience numerous questions were presented to him, and the present volume is as far as possible answers to those questions. This little book which has now reached its third edition will be found of great interest to students and teachers as well as those thoughtful readers of the Bible at home who come face to face with what appear to them discrepancies in the Word of God.

THE CRIME OF A CENTURY by Rodrigues Ottolengue London, Geo. Bell & Son. Toronto, Copp Clark Co., Ltd.

This book is a recent addition to Bell's Indian and Colonial Library and is from the pen of one who in his earlier publications made for himself a reputation, "An artist in crime" having been well received and met with large sale. The scene of his present book is laid in the United States and the opening chapter introduces the reader into the detective society of New York. The author certainly introduces some rather novel situations, the heroine for instance commencing life as a foundling and ending as a society lady worth five millions is to say the least interesting. The author having made a special study of crime and criminals, enables him to clothe his characters with a certain amount of reality that is often attempted but seldom carried out by less experienced writers.

The *Critical Review* for October as usual gives an admirable conspectus of all the recent theological and philosophical publications wherever issued, and if this number seems to fall short of others in interest, it is not for lack of ability on the part of the contributors but rather because the works treated of are less original and striking. Among other books noticed, however, are Gladstone's new edition of Butler's "Analogy," White's "History of the Warfare of Science with Theology," Schreckler's Studies in "Indoism," Bradford's Herodity, "Life and Letters of Dr. Hart." The only independent article in the number is by Dr. L. H. Mills on the "Unity of God and the Moral Idea in the Avesta." T. & T. Clark Edinburgh, etc.

The *Homiletic Review* for November is an attractive one. Among the articles are two from Canadian writers Dr. Pollok of Halifax writes on Homiletics viewed as Rhetoric, and Dr. McCurdy continues his Light on Scriptural Texts from Recent Discoveries. The most striking sermon is undoubtedly that by Dr. Watson (Ian MacLaren) on the "Urgency of the Gospel." A number of timely and appropriate suggestions are given for Thanksgiving sermons. Funk & Wagnalls, New York etc.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterian and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

The whole world is marveling at the modern young people's movement in the church. Good and bad people view its wonderful character and growth with varying feelings of surprise, delight and fear. Many persons, even in the church, do not understand it. They see its immensity and power and tremble for its future. Eyes made keen by hearts of love behold its dangers and often warning voices are raised. In the great works that are engaging the attention of the young people of the churches,—a missionary revival, citizenship reforms, and church and denominational fellowship,—shrewd friends detect possibilities of harm.

A word ought to be sufficient to allay those fears and at the same time recall the attention of the young people themselves to a fundamental principle. All these endeavors for missions, citizenship and fellowship are of secondary importance. The supreme purpose of the Christian Endeavor Society, and of kindred young people's organizations, is to help the Church of Christ. The first word spoken by this child, that has now become a giant, was "loyalty." And this is its life watchword. This is its ultimate endeavor.

The society of young people that fails in decided and active loyalty to its own individual church, and to its own denomination, is recreant to the genius of the modern young people's movement. The prime place and scope of the young people's society is in the local church. Its first duty is the faithful support of her regular services and ordinances.

The ministries of the church must be the principal lines of service for young people. These societies, by all their meetings and their exercises, are intended to develop the Christian character and ability of the members for the church herself. The accomplishments acquired in Christian Endeavor should be applied to the works of the organized church. Within her bounds, and according to her direction, the constant and principal labor of the young people must be performed.

The Young People's Society is part of the Church. Though some over-enthusiastic and thoughtless persons may for the moment forget this, it is none the less an abiding truth that the Young People's Society is simply one agency of the Church herself. Its endeavors should be along the lines laid down and approved by Church authorities. Its only enlargements are those natural and proper for members of a Christian Church. No matter how far the lines of activity may radiate they must have the local Church as a centre. The motto of the Christian Endeavor Society—and its spirit animates all similar societies—is "For Christ and the Church"—"For Christ through the Church" one has wisely paraphrased it.

Some may dream of victories in the city and state, and in the world at large, for Christian Endeavor, but they know not the animus of the movement. It has no higher destiny, it desires no higher destiny, than to add its life and enthusiasm and power to the living Church founded by our risen Lord. It cares for no existence as a society. It is content to add its members one by one to the Church of Christ, to help make her the supreme and overmastering force of all the ages. It does not aspire to become powerful or wax great or make a name for itself, but it does aspire to remain a loyal and faithful subject and supporter of the Church that gave it birth.

Let it be said again and again; let the refrain be repeated constantly, until young and old may hear and understand it, that the Young People's Society is "for the Church." Its first word is loyalty; its first principle fidelity.

Boston, Mass.

There come to us all the opportunities to do good in myriad little ways. The kind word, the sympathetic utterance, the bright smile, the sunny face, the pleasant greeting, the helpful and encouraging expression are all of them attributes, not of greatness, but of goodness. The one who is good at heart may command all these, but if any one be not good enough to employ them when he can, he makes a failure in life, even though men may call him great.