

Book Reviews

By HOWARD S. ROSS

TALES FROM BOCCACCIO, by The Stratford Universal Library, is issued by The Stratford Company, Publishers, of Boston. The price is 25c., and many wonder how such a book can be sold at such a low price, particularly at this time.

This is one of The Stratford Universal Library, and contains many of the most popular of Boccaccio's Tales among others: The Scoundrel Becomes a Saint; The Story of the Three Rings; Iphigenia, Mistress of Cimon, and The Story of Griselda.

DAUGHTER OF THE LAND, by Gene Stratton-Porter. Published by Doubleday-Page & Co., Garden City, N.Y. Illustrated. \$1.40 net.

In this story Mrs. Porter, in her own charming way, tells the story of a girl brought up on a farm in the U.S., who fought for her ideals and won, knowing that only through sorrow and the sacrifice of luxury can character be formed.

The book is patriotic in spirit and emphasizes the great importance to a nation of the lives of those who till the soil.

THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS, by Edmund James Carpenter, Litt.D., Brown University, is published (\$1.50 net), by The Abingdon Press Publishers of New York and Cincinnati.

The book is illustrated throughout, the frontispiece being a cut of Governor General Winslow.

"What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine,
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war?
They sought a faith's pure shrine,
Ay, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod:
They have left unstained what there they found—
Freedom to worship God."

The book contains a story of hardship and distresses, of trials and tribulations of every sort; of unbounded, unflinching faith; of triumph at the last. Some of the men and women of the Mayflower were spared to enter fully into the promised land; but those of the greatest faith could hardly have pictured to themselves such a great nation as the United States.

A delightful review of the history of the Pilgrim Fathers.

THE BANKER AT THE BOARDING-HOUSE. By Montgomery Rollins, author of "Money and Investments, etc." Illustrated by Frank T. Merrill. Price, \$1.50.

Published by Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., Boston. There has been a great need of a book on every-day finance. Nearly all have some money to invest; many lack experienced advisers. A high authority has met the need in a very pleasing way. After style of the inimitable "Autoer of the Breakfast Table," the reader is taken into an aristocratic boarding-house. There, in a strangely interesting household, the central character is made to tell the nature and use of money, explain clearly the mysteries of banking and dealing in securities, show the dangers of the stock market, and give wholesome suggestions as to the care and handling of money, all in such a way that the teaching unconsciously strikes home. Here at last is to be found, in simple and understandable language, a pleasant and agreeable treatment of a most perplexing subject. The reader is pleasingly, often humorously, entertained, becomes engrossed in the plot, and then realizes that he has acquired an education in matters of vital importance.

Mr. Rollins, the author of this book, whose untimely death occurred April 18, 1918, while this book was in press, was born at Concord, N.H., August 25, 1867, and was the son of Edward H. Rollins U.S. Senator from New Hampshire, for six years. Mr. Rollins was in the investment banking business for many years, following which he retired to give his whole time to writing of financial books. His early banking experience covered a wider range than could be duplicated to-day. Later, he became the head of a banking house in Boston. His unusual opportunities to acquire a broad and interesting experience added to his years of economic study and research, fitted him peculiarly for writing upon such subjects.

THE SUNSHINE SETTLERS, by Crosbie Garstin (Crown 8 vo., cloth, five shillings net), is published by T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., London, G.B.

The settlers are in the wilds of South Africa, and this is the book of their work and play; it tells of their surroundings and of their manner of life. The book's strong point is the spontaneity of its humour, its gaiety and fun. The author, a native of Great Britain, spent a number of years in the mining camps of America and knows how to make effective use of that experience.

MY BRAVE AND GALLANT GENTLEMAN. A Romance of British Columbia. By Robert Watson. Published by McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto. The price is \$1.50 net.

The wild, free life of the Canadian Northwest forms a fitting background to this romance of a strong man and a brave woman. Both of them have voluntarily abandoned the life of the wealthy aristocrat for the sake of freedom and the open air. Among the lumbermen on the Pacific coast there are fights and robberies, and true friendship, wind and sun and danger and joy. After many vicissitudes and hairbreadth escapes, the "brave and gallant gentleman," comes into his own, and Lady Rosemary becomes Countess of Brammerton—though not in the way she had expected.

FIFTY YEARS AND OTHER POEMS, by James Weldon Johnson, author of "The Autobiography of An Ex-Colored Man," etc., with a sympathetic introduction by Brander Matthews, of Chicago University, is published by The Cornhill Company, Boston, Mass. The book is tastefully gotten up. The price is \$1.25 net.

The author gathers a group of lyrics, delicate in workmanship, filled with sentiment and phrased in pure and clear English. There is a collection of dialect verses, racy of the soil, pungent in flavor and swinging in rhythm. There are also a half-dozen larger poems expressing in fine periods the hopes and ambitions of his own people. He pleads for sympathy and understanding, and most of all for justice.

Professor Matthews, a conservative critic says: "In the superb and soaring stanzas of 'Fifty Years' (published exactly half-a-century after the singing of the Emancipation Proclamation), he has given us one of the noblest commemorative poems yet written by any American—a poem sonorous in its diction, vigorous in its workmanship, elevated in its imagination and sincere in its emotion."

He closes with the following:

"If homely virtues draw from me a tune
In happy jingle or a half-sad croon;
Or if the smoldering future should inspire
My hand to strike the seer's prophetic lyre;
Or if injustice, brutishness and wrong
Should make a blasting trumpet of my song:
O God, give beauty and strength—truth to my words,
Oh, may they fall like sweetly cadenced chords,
Or burn like beacon fires from out the dark,
Or speed like arrows, swift and sure, to the mark."

A LEVY ON CAPITAL, by F. W. Peñhick Lawrence, sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, is published by George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., Ruskin House, 40 Museum St., W.C. The price is one shilling and sixpence net.

Estimates of the pre-war wealth of Great Britain and its distribution are given. A feature of the proposal is the payment of the levy, at the option of the taxpayer, in scrip or other of the title-deeds of wealth instead of in money. The author claims that with the exception of the rentiers and the very rich the levy will bring about a distinct improvement in their net incomes. He says, "The gravity of the task confronting the Chancellor of the Exchequer after the war has now been set out. Somehow or other he must balance the Budget. To do so by ordinary taxation would be to increase the already extraordinarily heavy burdens on the population. To repudiate the debt would be a national disaster. To resort to further loans is unthinkable. The State will be poorer, but the total wealth in private hands will be greater. The levy should fall mainly on individuals and graduated according to the total value of the wealth which they possess."

THE RISE OF ECCLESIASTICAL CONTROL IN QUEBEC, by Walter Alexander Riddell, Ph.D., is published (\$1.75 net), by Longmans, Green & Co. Agents of Columbia University New York City.

The aim of the dissertation has been to present sufficient source material to afford the general reader a basis upon which to form an adequate judgment of the sociological and historical origins in Quebec.

The author has quoted liberally from manuscript and other source material, most of which is the result of researches in the archives of London, Paris and Ottawa.

THE MONEY-MAKER, THE ROMANCE OF A RUTHLESS MAN, by Irving R. Allen, is illustrated by Robert Amick, and published by Dodd, Mead & Co., publishers, of New York. The price is \$1.50 net.

David Power lived to make money—a lot of money until he learned that money made honestly was best worth while, and that the love of a good woman was still more worth while.

Men will be interested in David Power's business methods, and women, with the story of his love for the woman for whom he gave up the pursuit of money. This book of over three hundred pages is filled with striking incidents skillfully described.

PLAYS OF THE 47 WORKSHOP give us **THREE PILLS IN A BOTTLE**, by Rachel Lyman Field, **THE GOOD MEN DO**, by Hubert Osborne, **TWO CROOKS AND A LADY**, by Eugene Pillot and **FREE SPEECH**, by William L. Prosser.

The 47 Workshop grew from a course in play-writing, English 47, for many years offered by the Department of English of Harvard University. Its main purpose is to try out interesting plays written in the courses in Dramatic Technique at Harvard University and Radcliffe College.

These one-act plays have stood the ultimate test of a play—they have been widely given and well liked, and they are considered by competent critics to compare favorably with the general output of European one-act plays.

These plays are published by Brentauos, of New York City.

PLAYS OF THE HARVARD DRAMATIC CLUB, published by Brentauos, of New York City, give us **THE FLORIST SHOP**, by Winifred Hawkrige, **THE BANK ACCOUNT**, by Howard Brock, **THE RESCUE**, by Rita Creighton Smith, and **AMERICA PASSES BY**, by Kenneth Andrews.

These plays have been selected from a large number of one-act pieces produced by the Harvard Dramatic Club in the ten years of its life. The founders of the Club held tenaciously to three ideas. These were: the plays produced must not be reproductions of well-known plays of the professional stage, present or past, nor first productions of foreign plays not seen elsewhere, but original work of students at Harvard or Radcliffe; secondly, women, presumably Radcliffe students, must play the feminine roles; thirdly, the plays must be coached by some professional actor or producer of recognized ability.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN RESEARCH AND CRITICISM, by G. T. Bettany, B.Sc., with many illustrations, is published by Ward, Lock Bowden and Co. Warwick House, Salisbury Square E.C., and New York City.

To all who wish to read a brief narrative of the history of Judaism and Christianity in the light of modern criticism and discoveries, but not written in any spirit of party bias or dogmatism, this little book, completing an account of the World's Religions, is offered as supplying what is needed. It does not repeat the fundamentals with which those who have carefully read the Bible are familiar, and it does not assume that modern theories are necessarily true or that ancient beliefs are necessarily false. The most salient characteristics of Judaism and Christianity, and their sacred books, have been selected and recounted, in a form best suited for comparison with other religions.

No lover of truth need be afraid of impartial inquiry for truth. When any fragment of truth is well established, it becomes necessary to honesty to adopt it; and it is at least necessary for intelligent person to give a fair hearing to new views. In matters which are under controversy between important schools of divinity and history, the salient points on both sides are presented.