



BOOKS YOU WILL READ

by Wayfarer

THE STRAIGHT ROAD. Published by George J. McLeod, Ltd. \$1.50.

THE Straight Road is one of those novels which are published anonymously to heighten the air of verisimilitude with which they are written. Married at seventeen to a man she could not love at twenty-two, Callie Baird finds herself disgusted with his animality and so unable to live with him. Taking her boy she runs away and endeavours to find work. The fact that she is a grass widow marks her out as legitimate prey to all the men she meets. To the anonymous writer the sex-passion is the all-dominative factor in every man's life. The author or authoress—I suspect the writer is a woman because the most lurid fiction is written by women—does not

give the males credit for any decent feelings. She may be right.

The rest of the story is taken up with the grass-widow's struggles against the too frankly selfish—not to use a harsher term—attentions of the men. The book ought to sell well. It isn't literature and if it is life it is life of a most sordid kind. It is gratifying to know, however, that the heroine went straight to the very end.

ACROSS FRANCE IN WAR TIME.

By "Kuklos." J. M. Dent & Sons. 35 cents.

FINDING his occupation gone "Kuklos," otherwise W. Fitzwater Wray, took his bicycle, and armed with the necessary passports, proceeded to tour France. The route he plan-

ned for himself took him away from rather than into the country of the war, so we get a picture of the people who have not been driven out of their homes, but who have been not one whit less determined that no jot or tittle shall be abated until the tide of invasion has been rolled back forever. The volume is fully illustrated and is issued in the Wayfarers' Series which is such a credit to the publishers and such a book to him who loves the good things of modern literature.

UNDERTOW. By Kathleen Norris. William Briggs, Toronto. \$1.25.

THEY are not great books but there is a simplicity and wholesomeness about Mrs. Norris' stories that make them very good reading. These qualities are noticeable in this her latest book. In her own fashion she protests with all her strength against the utter uselessness of the so-called fashionable life of to-day.

It used to be the saying that "love flies out at the window when hunger comes in at the door." Nowadays, it is when riches and social distinction come in at the door that Love finds that there is no place in the home for it. The Bradleys start life with little money and lots of love and happiness but as success comes to them love and joy are forgotten in the mad rush of the social whirl until material disaster overtakes them and saves them from the loss of all that makes life sweet.

SPEAKING OF PRUSSIAN. By Irvin S. Cobb. The Musson Book Co. Price 50 cents.

IRVIN COBB'S chief rival for prolific production is H. G. Wells. The main resemblance is that nearly everything each of these authors gets into print ultimately gets into a book. Speaking of Prussians comes right on the heels of Fiddle D. D. by the same author. There is a difference. Fiddle D. D. is a jocularly intended to satirize the idiosyncrasies of a worthy cleric who never knows how much of a fool he may be. Speaking of Prussians is a belated transcription of what Cobb saw in Belgium long ago, what he was unable for political reasons at that time to publish. The book contains nothing about the invasion of Belgium more horrifying than much that has already been printed in various forms. But it has the advantage of a revolting subject treated in a humanly interesting way by a master of savoir faire in writing. The style is consistently readable. It has the easy fluency of the man who knows how to make reading easy. And it can be read in a couple of hours. Well worth any man's fifty cents.

"LAYS, LYRICS AND LEGENDS," cloth, 152 pages, \$1.00. W. A. Sherwood.

OF the making of poetry books there is no end. That is because poetry is continually being made and re-made in individual lives and the self-conscious ones try to express it. It is less common than is supposed, that with each thin volume goes the singer's grand bid for fame. It is otherwise. Likely enough in "Lays, Lyrics and Legends," Mr. W. A. Sherwood, a Toronto painter, has merely tried his twin artistic impulse in sing-

ing. The artistic impulse is often born twins, though some of the great, like Michael Angelo, have been triplets, maestro in painting, architecture and sonnet writing. In fact the artist-soul must make "studies" in whatever modes are available; it belongs to the breed and beyond that to the race. Hence Browning's "I like to know a butcher paints, etc." These grave poems are, we fancy, the expression of say forty years' outlook on life. They range from grave to gay but all of them reflect a kindly spirit. The author is Victorian in his sympathies; his motifs belong to long ante-bellum days when it was the fashion to apostrophize Peace. He is probably the poet of the class of Canadian citizens, rapidly thinning, who put heart fervour into the celebration of "The Twenty-fourth of May"—which is the title of one of his old-fashioned lyrics. We have tributes to Canadian heroes of the '85 and '99 classes, and chaplets hung up in honour of Kipling, Austin, Browning, Tennyson, Schiller, John A. Macdonald and Alex. MacKenzie, the latter being credited with having exhibited "the splendid note of Life—Sincerity." In fact it is constantly this note of sincerity and manhood that Mr. Sherwood pays tribute to, whether in statesman, poet or the new come citizen from Sicily who vends peanuts on the kerb with the sentiments of a true man in his bosom. Sherwood's thoughts show him an advocate of Anglo-Saxon unity and co-operation. His stirring stanzas on a war theme were written in an inspired moment of pre-visionsed hostilities and they are for the present.

"The nation is waking,

The dark clouds are breaking,
The trumpet and drum is arousing
afar;

The foemen are nearing,
And thousands appearing—
Awake, men, awake, it is war, it is
war.

THE BELGIAN MOTHER AND BALLADS OF BATTLE TIME

is a volume of war-time verse written by Mr. T. A. Browne and published by The Macmillan Company at \$1.00. The profits made by the author are being generously contributed by him to the Great War Veterans' Association.

ODDMENTS.

Messrs. McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Ltd., announce for early publication **CONFEDERATION AND ITS LEADERS**, by Mr. M. O. Hammond of the "Globe." It will contain biographies of all the leading men of this momentous period. The book will be fully illustrated.

The Macmillan Company are issuing almost immediately **THE LIFE OF ALGERNON SWINBURNE**, by Mr. E. Gosse. This is, perhaps, the most important literary biography of a decade.

Simultaneously with the publication of the life of Swinburne, Mr. Heinemann is issuing a volume of **POSTHUMOUS POEMS**, by the poet. This first instalment of the great number of poems left by Mr. Swinburne will be eagerly welcomed by all lovers of the poet's work.

From Mr. S. B. Gundy announcement comes of the early publication of
(Concluded on page 21.)

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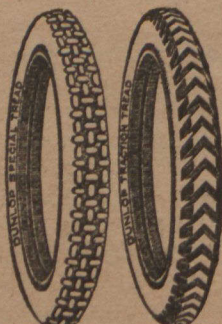
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