

## LITERARY NOTES

## CONCERNING FISH.

ANYONE interested in fish may write to the Minister of Education, Toronto, and get a copy of "Fishes," by C. W. Nash, lecturer on Biology for the Ontario Department of Agriculture. This 122-page volume gives concise descriptions of all the fish known to inhabit the waters of the province, with good drawings of the leading varieties. It will be found that, contrary to general belief the pike and the mascalonge are of one family, the Lucidae. There are three varieties, green pike, common or northern pike and the mascalonge. It will also be found that whitefish, salmon and trout are all grouped in one family known as Salmonidae. The whitefishes form one genus, the ciscoes or herrings another, and the salmon and trout a third. There are good descriptions of the small-mouthed black bass and the large-mouthed, green or yellow bass, which are two varieties of the genus micropterus of the family centrarchidae or sunfishes. Every real sportsman will want to take a copy of this handy volume with him on his next fishing trip.

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## "LITTLE PEOPLE."

A CHARMING and wonderful book is "Little People," by Richard Whiteing, author of "No. 5 John Street." It is a delightful story which is not a story, a book of economics, social science and philosophy without any reference to these three great sciences. The Little People are those who are never heard of; in other words, the masses. They are "a section of the quiet folk who form the vast majority of our kind." You cut out the great men in politics, literature, science, art and commerce, and the rest are the Little People. Some of them are peers, some peasants, some duchesses and some needlewomen, but they are all Little People "who just want to keep themselves to themselves." Most of them in England, of which Mr. Whiteing writes, are ratepayers, but not all. They "are the average people, many of them failures as we reckon success, some of them incompetent, all of no account."

Mr. Whiteing tells about them sympathetically, how they are born, how educated, how they learn the lessons of life, how they fade away into the great beyond. He aims apparently to awaken sympathy for those not mentioned in newspapers and illustrated periodicals, but who nevertheless perform the great tasks in life and uphold by their industry and labour the upper and famous classes. But it is the spirit, the kindly spirit of these little essays which makes them so attractive. (Toronto: Cassell & Co. Cloth, \$1.30.)

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## MODERN LIFE.

A REALLY remarkable book at a low price is what may be truly said of "The Meaning of Modern Life," edited by Professor Charles F. Horne. It contains a series of lofty lectures and addresses by the leaders of modern thought including Sir Oliver Lodge, Prince Kropotkin, Count Tolstoi, President Eliot, President Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Max Nordau, Maurice Maeterlinck, Carroll D. Wright and other well-known thinkers. The latest information on many phases of modern thought is to be found in these essays, including hypnotism, psychic research, anarchism, labour organisations, sport, universal suffrage, art, patriotism, evolution, beliefs, religion, and economic problems. A tremendous mass of

facts and ideas, in a readable form, is combined in this volume of over five hundred pages. At the end are references to other works on each of the forty subjects dealt with by the forty essayists, with suggestions as to further study along the particular line of thought which has been dealt with. The volume is sold at one dollar by the Canadian Newspaper Association, Stair Building, Toronto.

## El Farsi, the Barber

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friend and me,' observed Ahmed, 'but so be it, it is settled.' And he paid the price required before numerous witnesses among idle people who had gathered around them. Then he left the place.



A SHORT time afterward he came back, pulling his donkey, which looked as sad as its master was joyful, and, stopping before the barber, he exclaimed:

"Eh, El Farsi, celebrated barber, time passes! Hurry to thy work! We are waiting to be shaved."

"And thy friend?" inquired the barber.

"Forsooth! here he is, my friend, my best friend," and he drew his donkey nearer to him.

"How is that, old ruffian? Thou wouldst like to have thy donkey shaved by me?"

"That is just what I say, good man. Hast thou not promised to shave us both, my friend and me? Well, as thou saidst in another circumstance, it is a settled bargain—a regular bargain, as said the kadi after you."

"They went to see the judge again in great pomp, for all the people of the town followed the two parties; but the judge could not say a word, he laughed so much."

"To say nothing is not a judgment, and the barber refused to comply with the request. So they went before the Chief of the Believers."

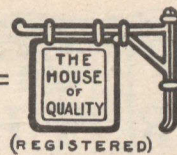
"Then, barber, it has been arranged that thou wouldst shave the ass driver and his friend for a small silver piece?" said the illustrious monarch. "Then the ass driver is right, and thou art going to comply with the conditions of the bargain right before me!"

"He was forced to obey. From the top of the tail to the top of the ears, the hair of Ahmed's best friend fell under the famous razor. Never was such a festival in the small town; for the executions of the Prince's verdicts were rendered in public."

"From that day El Farsi had only fakirs and beggars to shave, and most of the time these did not pay him. So, like his father the camel driver, he never made a fortune. The donkey driver, on the contrary, enjoyed high rank at court for having in one day amused the Prince so much."

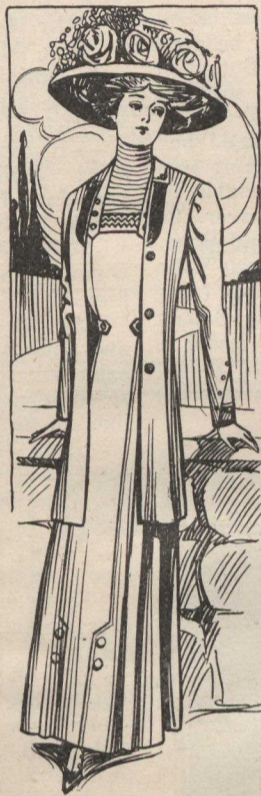
Such was Mohammed's Syrian story. After having finished it, he stretched himself on the bare ground, and I departed for my hut amid the furious barking of watchdogs. — *Sunday Magazine*.

A student at a medical college was under examination. The instructor asked him: "Of what cause, specifically, did the people die who lost their lives at the destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii?" "I think they died of an eruption, sir," answered the student. — *The Argonaut*.



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