

A CHAT ABOUT AUTHORS

IN choosing a book the author's name is of more importance than the title. Having read one or more novels by an author, a shrewd guess can be made at the sort of fare that will be provided. To take the case of Jeffery Farnol, almost every one has read two or three of his books, and is prepared for patches and pistols, dominoes and duels. One of the duties of a publishing house is therefore to make such a skilful selection of authors as will please readers of various tastes. The present publishers are striving to attain this ideal, and the following pages give a short account of their more important issues of the moment.

Amongst the authors it should be noted that DONN BYRNE provides another of those virile studies of modern life for which he is famous throughout two continents. HERBERT HARRISON, who made his name at once with his "Braganza Necklace," follows this up with another story of Old London Life of the same picturesque period. The big following of SILAS K. HOCKING will find what they have every right to expect in the new book by this famous author.

But authors, like badgers, must be caught young, and sometimes the difficulty is to get their first novel read by the right people. Luckily the same feeling of security that operates to give the successful author his devoted following here comes to the assistance of the publishers. Readers, seeing that publishers who already put out novels of the first-class are announcing one by a new author, rightly assume that they would not be doing so unless they were assured that it was of suitable calibre to rank with their other books. It is to such readers that we recommend a novel by CHARMAN EDWARDS, whose future books will be eagerly expected.

Whilst on the subject of authors, mention must be made of the book by A. ST. JOHN ADCOCK exclusively about well-known modern authors, wherein such men as Jeffery Farnol and Donn Byrne, to instance two out of many, are themselves made as familiar to us as many of their own characters are already.