

The Reviewer's Corner.

Book Review.

"Kate of Kate Hall" by Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, is a book, bright, clever, entertaining and 'thoroughly up to date. "Smart" seems to describe it better than any other word.

The plot is especially well thought out; unlike most novels this one does not reveal the whole plot in the first two or three chapters. Surprise follows surprise and events are constantly introduced for which the reader can find no possible explanation. Thus the interest never lags but is sustained until the closing line.

There is a noticeable absence of lengthy descriptions of people or scenes. The characters speak almost constantly. Only seven or eight months pass while the whole story is being worked out.

A dry humor runs through the book that reminds one of Dickens. Many a clever sarcastic phrase is noticeable too.

The characters are just human enough to each in turn disappoint us a little.

While one reads the book for the first time with breathless interest 'tis a question whether it is worthy of a second or a third perusal—or, in other words, whether it is literature or not.

One feels a sort of uncertainty about the earnestness of the writer. She may be laughing at human nature even when she seems most serious. The book is in danger of offending by its ultra-smartness.

B. D.

"Beverly of Graustark". Geo. B. McCutcheon. Ginn & Co.

George Barr McCutcheon, who belongs to the new school of entertainers from the Middle West—a school chiefly known through the work of Peter Dunne, the creator of Mr. Dooley.

In a spirit, characteristically American, George Barr McCutcheon portrays the Americans' pride as a nation, not forgetting to draw attention to their power of bluff, of which the heroine, Beverly Calhoun, made frequent use. The book keeps us interested for the greatest part of the time, in Graustark, a mite of a principality in north eastern Germany. "Graustark, the Ancient": as