

	BOOKS OF THE MONTH	
--	--------------------	--

BEACH, REX.—*"The Spoilers."* Toronto: The Poole Publishing Co. Cloth, \$1.25. The trickery of some politicians, the prostitution of a court of law and the unconscious agency of a girl, combined, deprive a number of Alaskan gold prospectors of their claims. Among them is the hero—a stalwart American—who leads in a plucky fight for the recovery of the claims. He falls in love with the girl aforementioned, who assists him in the fight and ultimate victory crowns their efforts. The story is well told.

BINDLOSS, HAROLD.—*"Alton of Somasco."* Toronto: McLeod & Allen. Cloth, \$1.25. This is a well-told romance of ranch life in British Columbia, giving a clear picture of the trials and hardships of the ranchers. It is also an admirable character study of a splendid type—the big-hearted hero—who takes the lead in the struggle of the ranchers against the inroads of capitalists and speculators. His experiences in discovering a lost silver mine occupy the main portion of the book, but there is also a love interest, which fills in the gaps.

BROWN, VINCENT.—*"The Sacred Cup."* New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Cloth, \$1.50. A story of English country life. Margaret Lyson, the heroine, is a very noble and lovable character, but one has some difficulty in deciding who the real hero is. Ostensibly Gilbert Canroys is the man, but one finds more heroic qualities in the little parson, Mr. Ferred, who, having the courage of his convictions, dares to follow the ethics of Christ in a difficult situation rather than the ethics of expediency. A very interesting story of the analytic order.

CROCKETT, S. R.—*"Kid McGhie."* Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co. Cloth, \$1.50. Mr. Crockett has found his material for this very entertaining book chiefly in the slums of Edinburgh. The Kid is introduced to the reader at the immature age of nine as a lad having a pedigree without patrimony and further handicapped by a vicious parentage and environment, yet possessing a heredity of noble qualities bequeathed by some remote ancestor. His subsequent career, thrust upon him by necessity rather than choice, provided him with a training in vice and association with criminals, influences which he absorbed without assimilating. The instruments of his emancipation are the gentle city missionary, Mr. Molesay, with his gospel of humanity, Lord Athabasca, a colonial millionaire with his industrial reformatory for boys, and Patricia McGhie, whose beauty, wit and bravery charm the fancy and win the heart of the reader. The book possesses interest as a social study and is at the same time a charming story.

FROTHINGHAM, EUGENIA BROOKS.—*"The Evulsion."* Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50. A well-written story of American social life. Two young college men of different types are suitors for the favor of the same girl. Under a somewhat strained sense of honor Dick Copeland submits to an injury inflicted upon him by Arthur Daventry, whereby not only his own career but also the happiness of the girl he loves are wrecked. Finally Nemesis overtakes the wrongdoers and virtue is rewarded. The characters are well drawn and the ac-

tion is lively, so that the interest of the reader is never permitted to flag.

GRANT, ROBERT.—*"The Law Breakers."* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50. The short stories comprised in this book are delightful as stories and interesting as studies. Mr. Grant discourses with a gentle philosophy not unmixed with humor on the inconsistencies of ordinary men and women. A close observer of motives and actions, he shows how often the generous impulse or the heroic spirit overrides cherished theories and well thought out rules of conduct, also that there still exist nobler standards of value than that which prevails in the commercial world. The author brings to his task the mental equipment of a keen yet sympathetic penetration and a sound philosophical judgment.

GREEN, ANNA KATHARINE.—*"The Woman in the Alcove."* Toronto: McLeod & Allen. Cloth, \$1.25. With her usual skill and ingenuity Mrs. Green has contrived a murder case in which all the clues seem to point to one person, whom the reader knows must be innocent. The elucidation of the mystery then proceeds, and until almost the last chapter the reader is kept absolutely in the dark as to the criminal. Few of Mrs. Green's detective stories equal this in its boldness of conception and the skillfulness with which it is worked out.

HORTON, GEORGE.—*"The Edge of Hazard."* Toronto: McLeod & Allen. Cloth, \$1.25. This is the kind of novel that absorbs the reader's attention, serves to wile away a few hours and yet leaves no very lasting impression. It is a harmless antidote to care and worry. In brief, it narrates the adventures of a clever young American society man, sent to Russia to look after an American store. He gets mixed up with the Japanese police, Russian spies and a charming Russian princess, whom he saves from a horrid fate. There are all sorts of thrilling adventures and the usual happy denouement.

HOLLAND, RUPERT SARGENT.—*"The Count at Harvard."* Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Cloth, \$1.50. We seem to dip into a new world when we are introduced to the circle of "The Count" and his friends at the historic university. The happy Bohemian life of the fashionable students finds its expression in the sayings and doings of a typical member of their ranks, for the count is merely a somewhat eccentric American college undergraduate. He is apparently purposeless, amusingly curious, witty to a degree; audacious and experienced in all the customs of the university. Yet underneath the mask we cannot help but feel that there is a man.

LINCOLN, JOSEPH C.—*"Mr. Pratt."* New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. Cloth, \$1.50. No more amusing story-teller than Mr. Pratt, the Cape Cod fisherman, is to be found among this season's romancers. His humor is irresistible and his repartee so clever that no one dare try wordy warfare with him. By chance he becomes major domo and guardian spirit to two young New Yorkers, who are seeking to live the natural life. They secure a house on a little sandy island, where they consider themselves in paradise. Several other characters are introduced, all as a foil to the redoubtable Mr. Pratt.

LONG, JOHN LUTHER.—*"The way of the Gods."* Toronto: The Macmillan Co. of Canada. Cloth, \$1.50. Mr. Long has great skill in picturing the love passion in words and in this story of Japan, with its quaint setting and its odd fancies, he has made the