

THE BOOK PAGE

Books for review to be sent to Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, Editor TEACHERS MONTHLY, Room 37, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Friends and Helpers: Compiled by Sarah J. Eddy. Ginn & Company, Boston. 231 pages, profusely illustrated; price 75c.

By a proof-reader's slip the price of *Friends and Helpers* was announced last month as \$1.50. It is correctly given above at just half that amount, and we embrace the opportunity of saying again what a capital selection of stories it is—stories of animals, told to teach children to love their dumb friends. Teachers and parents will make no mistake in ordering this book.

A Treasury of Canadian Verse, with Brief Biographical Notes; selected and edited by Theodore Harding Rand. William Briggs, Toronto. \$1.25 cloth; \$2.50 half calf.

vv Poets are creators. A single song has often had more influence on a nation's life than a great battle. But it is none the less a fact that poets are the product of their time. It is the inbreathing of what surrounds them, or the influence of a memorable past that gives their inspiration. As Canada, her natural resources as yet so undeveloped, much, even, of her vast territory unexplored, grows into a fuller nationhood, her singers will doubtless take longer and stronger and loftier flight. Of this the contents of Professor Rand's anthology of Canadian verse give rich promise. The heroic days that have been, the romance of the early settlement, the praise of our mighty lakes and rivers, and of our woods and skies—have already called forth a poetic literature of no mean value. We shall hope later to recur to this careful and discriminating selection from its riches. We need only say now that the work has been competently done by a competent hand and that its publication has fallen upon a fortunate time, when Canada is awaking to some adequate sense of her own possibilities as a nation.

The Boy's Book of Inventions: Stories of the Wonders of Modern Science. By Ray Stannard Baker. Doubleday & McClure Co., New York. (The Publishers' Syndicate, Toronto.) 354 pages, about 200 illustrations; price \$2.00.

en The Publishers' Syndicate have done a good turn to fathers and mothers and to all who are seeking entertaining and instructive literature for boys and girls, by bringing forward in Canada *The Boy's Book of Inventions*. It will be eagerly read, the more so for the 200 illustrations, most of them full page, and all of them upon the finest quality of paper, and therefore shown to the best advantage. The book is modern in every line of it, and the nine inventions described bring one

up to the very latest, treating, as they do, of such topics as Telegraphing Without Wires, Liquid Air, A Voyage on the Bottom of the Sea, etc. The descriptions are thoroughly scientific, but so free from twisty terminology and so enlivened by the personal element that one forgets it is dry science he is reading. A book like this makes one's eyes open wide in thought of the possibilities that are still before the ingenious discoverer and inventor. As, for example, in the case of liquid air, "I saw Mr. Tripler admit a quart or more of the liquid air into a small engine. A few seconds later the piston began to pump vigorously, driving the fly-wheel as if under a heavy load of steam. The liquid air had not been forced into the engine under pressure, and there was no perceptible heat under the boiler; indeed, the tube which passed for a boiler was soon shaggy with white frost. Yet the little engine stood there in the middle of the room, running apparently without motive power, making no noise and giving out no heat and no smoke, and producing no ashes. And that is something that can be seen nowhere else in the world."

"If I can make little engines run by this power, why not big ones?" asks Mr. Tripler." Every Public and Mechanic's Library should have *The Boy's Book of Inventions* on its shelves.

Matthew, The Genesis of the New Testament. By Rev. Henry G. Weston, D.D., President Crozer Theological Seminary. The Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. 147 pages; price 75c.

Studies in the Four Gospels. By Professor William G. Moorhead, D.D. Same Publishers. 230 pages, price \$1.00.

Principal MacVicar, of Montreal, says: "The only way to keep older scholars in the Sabbath School is to give them something to think about." To do this is partly a matter of brains and partly of study. But even the most slenderly furnished intellectually may, by diligent study, come to have a knowledge of Scripture that will attract and hold. The volumes whose titles are given above are distinctly pedagogical, written by students of the Bible for students of the Bible. To assimilate the contents of either one of them will result both in intellectual stimulus and the possession of much valuable teaching material. They are not intended to be skimmed, but to be patiently thought out.

Professor Moorhead makes special acknowledgment of his indebtedness to Dr. Weston's volume on *Matthew*, and indeed both books have the same purpose, "to point out clearly and briefly the main design of the Spirit of God in these precious records." Probably the reader may not, in either case, agree with all the conclusions reached, but, at any rate, he is delivered from the insipidity of a treatment of the Gospels as mere collections of stories about Jesus of Naz-