

BOOKS OF THE HOUR

SMITH, CLAN CHIEF. By John MacLeay. London: R. A. Everett & Co. Price 1s. Paper cover.

This is a farcical tale of how Smith, who made his fortune in Australia, returned to London to astonish his old associates with his wonderful colonial development. He is inveigled by a friend as a practical joke into putting himself forward as a claimant to the chieftainship of a Highland clan, which office was then vacant. The book tells of his subsequent adventures in a jovial and racy style. It all ended in the undoing of Smith and the complete quenching of his vanity. "Smith, Clan Chief," is light reading of no particular merit and no particular value. It would do to wile away a few wearisome hours, but one wouldn't care to read it twice.

THE STORY OF THE WORLD. By M. B. Synges. Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood & Sons. Price 1s. 6d. per volume.

- Vol. I. On the Shores of the Great Sea.
- Vol. II. The Discovery of New Worlds.
- Vol. III. The Awakening of Europe.

These books are intended for the instruction of the young, and they can be recommended as an admirable introduction for children to the study of history. The first volume starts out on familiar ground in the stories of Abraham, Joseph and the children of Israel. It then passes on to the story of the Phœnicians of Greece, Carthage and Rome and the beginnings of modern Europe. Each book of the series is divided into short chapters, and each chapter deals with a single theme. The language is simple and can be quite readily understood by a child, while at no time does the introduction of uninteresting material make the tale drag. The illustrations are effective and in sympathy with the history, and the books themselves are strongly put together and well printed. In fact, nothing but praise can be bestowed on a work which is destined to prove highly instructive to the youth of the land.

RIDING TO WIN. By Ivan Braker. London: R. A. Everett.

A dashing story of racing life in Australia, with plenty of villainy and intrigue mixed in it. A young Englishman of good family flees from home, fearful that in a moment of anger he had killed a man. He goes to Australia and becomes a jockey. His clean sportmanship there, however, wins for him the dislike and hatred of a gang of racing crooks, headed by an owner named Fenton, and he is persecuted by them. His friends from England discover him and with their assistance and that of Sam Jones, a detective, all trouble is remedied.

VANITY TYPES. By Frank Rutter. London: R. A. Everett & Co., Limited. Price 1s. Paper.

It has been a real pleasure to read this book. In its pages the reader is introduced to a succession of English University undergrads, each with his own peculiarities of character. Beginning with "The Agitator," Suttle, who engineered all the mischief that was afoot, and yet kept serenely out of all trouble himself, the reader passes on to

Grubbe, the pious man, who was considerable of a hypocrite; Debonare, the slacker, who conscientiously put off work; Babington, the marked man, who, notwithstanding his innocence, suffered for the guilty every time; Toogood, the "awot," who studied hard and yet got ploughed; Fenton, who collected trophies of all kinds, and so on. Each character is touched off inimitably. At the back of the book some scenes are added, which throw much interesting light in a highly diverting way on college life.

MRS. PENDLETON'S FOUR-IN-HAND. By Gertrude Atherton. Toronto: George N. Morang & Co. Price, 50 cents.

One might imagine from the title that horses were to be the main theme in this story. That they are not may be a disappointment to some. Few, however, who read through the book and discover what the four-in-hand really is, will grudge Mrs. Atherton the mistake. It is a vivacious story, certain to entertain and even to charm, and the bright young widow, its heroine, will afford the reader plenty of amusement. The plot is worked out after Mrs. Atherton's finished style, with a strong denouement. The book is the latest addition to Morang's Little Novels by Favorite Authors series, and in its dainty blue cover and with its well-executed portrait of Mrs. Atherton, it is an exceedingly neat little piece of book-making.

A REPLY TO HARNACK ON THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTIANITY. By Hermann Cremer, D.D., LL.D., Ordinary Professor of Theology. Translated from the Third German Edition by Bernhard Pick, Ph.D., LL.D. Cloth, 12mo, 268 pp., \$1.00, net. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

Dr. Cremer, who is a theological professor in Greifswald University, the German stronghold of orthodoxy, is recognized not only in his own country but throughout the religious world as one of the ablest and most eloquent of the supporters of evangelical Christianity. His lectures in reply to the critique, "What is Christianity," by Prof. Harnack, the foremost of the so-called "higher critics," attracted instant attention throughout Germany as by far the strongest of the many answers to the attack of the brilliant Berlin professor. Naturally there has been a demand from Anglo-Saxon Christendom for an English translation of Dr. Cremer's lectures and in response to this the present work has been issued. Unlike other opponents of Harnack, Dr. Cremer refuses to meet the higher criticism upon the field that it has chosen for the contest, viz., the critical examination of the New Testament text, particularly that of the Gospels. He denies that the essence of Christianity is comprehended in the teaching of Jesus in the four Gospels, and affirms that it is found rather in the teachings of the evangelists and the apostles about Jesus. He holds that the true nature of Christ and of his mission was revealed to the disciples through their realization of the meaning of his resurrection. This perception, being due to the quickening of their spiritual sense from above, belongs to a higher order of truth than merely rational observation. The soul that accepts it must be illuminated by a higher, diviner light than that of the intellect.