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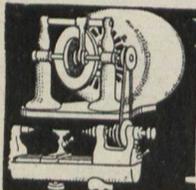
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## LITERARY NOTES

### A BOOK OF MONTHS.

A SEASONABLE little volume is "A Canadian Book of Months, Verse and Prose," by Suzanne Marny. There are twelve chapters of reverie and reflection, pertaining to the calendar divisions of the year, followed by a score or so of lyrics picturing pleasantly the varied aspects of Canadian rural scenery. Perhaps one might substitute Southern Ontarian for Canadian. It is no matter for surprise that there are two stanzas on "October." The Canadian artist or poet who has not contributed a bit of October colouring in picture or verse to the art gallery or to the bookshelves of the national library should be given a cabinet of solid silver. Our art "runs" to October; yet we can hardly wonder at this tendency when we consider the mellow beauty which touches our woods and waters in the tenth month of the year.

In the author's chapter on February there is a cheerful touch of winter joys: "As we sip at our cheering cups we gaze into the evergreen-planted lawn. Erect and dark, the mysterious trees strike their note upon the whiteness. We hold our breath with delight, and drink in the fairy-like aspect of the frost-bound spot. The blue shadows have inundated the land, and only one amber beam lingers in the dark group. It is nearly six when we take our leave, but the February afternoon is generous and the light dies slowly in the paling half pearl above us." Toronto: William Briggs.

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### THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE.

IN the sixteen features of the December number of *The University Magazine*, there is a variety which might appeal to the most jaded reader. Should one wish to read an article of classic retrospect and modern prophecy, with a delightful play of fancy over the whole fabric, there is Principal Hutton's article, "Plato's Watch Dog," which seeks to find in our new Dominion the blend of Pagan and Christian virtues which Plato beheld in the common watch-dog. Surely, the following is a hopeful outlook!

"If then the British element in this Atlantean blend can provide the primary virtue, the French element can provide the secondary, can 'soothe us with their finer fancy, touch us with their lighter thought'; can supply the keener intelligence and the more feminine grace. Or if there be still doubt of this, Plato, look at another element in this kingdom of Atlantis: one section of the British stock of this kingdom came up from the south when their neighbours, henceforth called Americans, quarrelled with their British mother-country, as your Greeks always quarrelled with their mother-city. This part of the people refused to quarrel lightly with their mother-country; they thought of their duties no less than of their rights: they cherished ancient memories: they were loyal to old ties: they refused to break with all their past for an old man's obstinacy and a few pounds of tea: and they sacrificed their American homes and came north in recognition of the virtue of patience, loyalty, considerateness; yes and they must have had their measure too of the other and first virtue, or they could never have hewed them hopes and homes out of the northern wilderness, where the timber-wolf howled after its prey and sought its meat from God.

"And so, Plato, have not these Atlanteans the promise of the three virtues, self-reliance, forbearance, intel-

lect? The masterfulness of the Briton, the fidelity of the Loyalists, and the genius of the Frenchman? What do you say?"

No writer in Canada to-day is more happy in his treatment of such grave fantasy than Principal Hutton, whose "Oxford Types" first gave the public outside the University of Toronto some idea of the flavour of his fruitful philosophy. It is impossible for this Professor of Greek to be either dull or didactic, and the suggestion that Canada may possess this trinity of virtues is a delightful bit of inspiration.

Dr. MacPhail contributes a wise-after-the-event article on "Why the Conservatives Failed," and Mr. Archibald McGoun dilates on the subject of "Fiscal Fair Play." The Ashburton Treaty comes to light once more in an article concerning "British Diplomacy and Canada" by a writer whose name is indicated by three stars. Mr. Arnold Haultain wades boldly and not ungracefully into philosophic depths in "The Search for the Ultimate," while Mr. E. M. Hardinge comes to the rescue of "Realism" and repudiates the practice of those who would apply the term to all manner of nastiness. Mr. William Trant, in an article on "The Treatment of Criminals," deals in an enlightened fashion with a question which is agitating all publications in these days. If the criminal is not receiving all the attention he deserves in our weekly, monthly and quarterly publications, then the criminologist is hard to please. *The University Magazine* is a publication which is devoted to the finer issues of literature and affairs and one hopes to see it in many Canadian libraries. The Macmillan Company of Canada.

### AMERICAN CHIVALRY.

THE London *Chronicle* has a good word to say for American chivalry. It is not in vain, we are told, that American men call their attitude towards women "chivalrous." It is in fact a precise reproduction of that of sixteenth-century Italy, allowing for difference of idiom—a quite delightful difference. Here, for example, are the two declarations in regard to a gentle fiction of love intended to offer woman an appropriate but temporary compliment. This is the word of Count Baldassare Castiglione, writing of high life and manners: "Discourse of love is used by every gentleman . . . not only when impelled by passion, but also merely to do honour to the lady with whom he speaks. The pretense of loving her is at any rate a testimony to her worthiness to be loved. She, on her part, will for a time seem to fail to understand, and anon will take it all as a merry jest."

And here is the American gentleman's equivalent course of action. He was telling us of the visits of girls to country houses of the South where he and his contemporary young men were also guests. "We want to give them a good time," he said (generous wish! we can hardly imagine any other nation's men deliberately setting out with it), "and so we always propose to them." "Well, that is no doubt cheerful," said the Englishman, "and they, of course, understand it. But," he added, as an afterthought that apparently had not occurred to Count Baldassare Castiglione, "suppose one of them should take your courtship in earnest." "Then," said the American, and the fine phrase of the sixteenth century could not have been more expressive, "then, of course, I should see her through."