

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction.—Gladstone.

BUDDHISM AND ITS CHRISTIAN CRITICS.—By Dr. Paul Carus. Cloth, 316 pp., \$1.25. Open Court Pub. Co., Chicago. The author deals with the origin and development and the doctrines of Buddhism, addressing himself mainly to Christians. The book he desires to be considered a contribution to comparative religion, and he bases his researches upon the belief that mankind will ultimately have one religion, and that whatever the fate of creeds may be, truth will ultimately prevail. As an intelligent examination of the contrasts and analogies of Buddhism and Christianity the work is readable and informing.

THE UNNAMED LAKE.—By Frederick George Scott. Cloth, \$1.48 pp. William Briggs, Toronto. We need not trouble our readers with a literary critic's views of Mr. Scott's poetry. His poems are noteworthy for purity of thought and style and a simple imagery which is highly effective. Mr. Scott has a place among the half-dozen Canadians who have secured a great deal of popularity on this continent during the past ten years: Roberts, Carman, Campbell, Lampman and D. C. Scott. This is a "first edition," and it is worthy of note, for the people who make a fad of collecting "firsts," that Mr. Scott's volume, "The Soul's Quest," is out of print. The present volume is a charming little book as to binding, printing, paper, etc.

TO LONDON FOR THE JUBILEE.—By Kit. Cloth, 75c., 154 pp. George N. Morang, Toronto. This book had a large holiday sale, and there is no reason to suppose that interest in it lapses because that season is over. The account of the Jubilee by "Kit" (Mrs. Watkins) was infinitely the cleverest and brightest piece of descriptive writing about the Jubilee by a Canadian pen. As a little memorial volume Kit's book should be in many Canadian bookshelves. The brown cloth and gilt cover design attract the eye and show how the publisher has done his part in "playing up" to the text.

BOOKS: A GUIDE TO GOOD READING.—By John Millar, B.A. Cloth, \$1.12 pp. William Briggs, Toronto. Mr. Millar is the Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario, and, though he has other claims to pose as an adviser upon books, his official position has doubtless had its weight in considering the usefulness as well as the enjoyment of reading. One may not coin-

cide with all the author's views, but they seem practical and sensible and are not wearisome. Each period of youth or school life is taken up, and a list of books suitable for each is given. We do not agree with Mr. Millar's choice in several cases, but in general his lists are chosen with care and propriety. As instances where we would have selected other works by the same author, may be mentioned Henty's "Curse of Carne's Hold," Dickens' "Dombey & Son," Thackeray's "Virginians," Goldwin Smith's "Life of Cowper," Pope's "Essay on Man," etc. Among Canadian books there are also some omissions, for instance, (so far as a quick reading of the lists shows) none of Sir William Dawson's books appear, nor does Mr. Lesperance's "Bastonnais" (one of the best of Canadian historical novels), nor Mr. Cumberland's "Story of the Flag," and some others. Also, why is Dr. Bourinot preferred to Todd as a constitutional authority? It is fair to add, however, that Mr. Millar has tried to select works which are issued at a popular price, and not to choose books that are apt to be scarce or expensive.

BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY.—By E. W. Thomson. Cloth, \$1.25, art cover design, 295 pp. William Briggs, Toronto. This is a thoroughly enjoyable book of short stories. There are twenty-one tales, dealing with escapes from peril, and they are written in the author's most vivid and engaging style. Mr. Thomson, the clever Canadian who is editor of "The Youth's Companion," Boston, has specially devoted his talent for story-writing to short tales, and his volume "Old Man Savarin and Other Stories" has had an immense sale in Canada. The new volume has many thrilling adventures, and the last tale is "Petherick's Peril," one of the most enlivening stories of a boy's narrow escapes from death that have been written. In appearance, the book is most attractive.

GOLDEN TREASURY OF AMERICAN SONGS AND LYRICS.—Edited by F. L. Knowles. Cloth, art cover, gilt top, \$1.25; 319 pp. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. This dainty publication is an ideal gift book. It is handsomely and tastefully gotten up. Its contents include the most notable specimens of American songs and lyrics. The editor has tried to make a critical selection, not devoting the largest part of the book to the products of a few famous names, but taking care to gather all that comes up to the

standard. It is, therefore, representative in a good sense. Mr. Knowles' preface is in itself a gem, being marked by courage, discrimination and taste.

A HANDFUL OF SILVER.—By L. T. Meade. Cloth, illus.; 316 pp.; 3s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. Mrs. Meade is well known as a writer of healthy entertaining fiction. The present tale is satisfactory reading. Audrey Church, a lovely English girl, lives with her mother who keeps boarders in Brussels. A relative, Sir Julius Le Breton, leaves his daughter Dorothy to Mrs. Church's care. This embarrassing legacy, since all are poor, threatens Mrs. Church's peace of mind until a windfall relieves the family. Audrey becomes engaged to Paul Greville, whom Dorothy had declined to marry owing to her poverty. Audrey is a selfish, scheming girl, and conceals her knowledge that the windfall is not honestly her mother's. She repents of her plot to keep Greville and Dorothy apart and marries someone else. The lovers are thus united.

THE BETH BOOK.—By Sarah Grand. Paper, 75c.; 573 pp. George Morang, Toronto. This novel is, like the publisher's other copyright Canadian editions, an excellent piece of work. The story itself centres around Beth, a wayward, handsome girl, whose girlhood is made uncomfortable and unsatisfying to her by parents who do not understand her and who are poor. The girl is practically driven by circumstances into marriage with Dr. Daniel Maclure, who is a low-minded person, with neither the manners of a gentleman nor the courage of a man. Unknown to Beth, his income is derived from a hospital for women with an incurable disease. Beth, with all her eccentricities and unconventionalities, is represented by the authoress as a pure and modest woman. She finds that a young girl staying in her house as a patient is her husband's paramour. Leaving her husband, Beth goes to London and makes a living by her pen, and becomes friendly with a young American artist, Arthur Brock, who resides in the same lodging house as herself. He falls ill, and she nurses him as a sister would do and keeps him from starvation from her own slender stock of money. He leaves to regain his health, and she is found by friends interested in the cause of women ill and half starved. Once recovered, she finds her true mission as a platform orator. The last page of the book gives us a peep of Brock appearing again on the scene as Beth's lover. The story is long, written in parts with power, but without much refinement, and more likely to attain success by its handling of themes usually deemed forbidden than by any other quality.