

BOOK BREVITIES

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A STRONG list of novels is promised this fall by the Copp, Clark Co. At the head stands Sir Gilbert Parker's "Ladder of Swords," and F. Marion Crawford's "Whosoever Shall Offend." Other important books are "Jess & Co.," by the author of "Wee Macgregor," "Dialstone Lane," by W. W. Jacobs, "Beatrice of Venice," by Max Pemberton, and "The Abbess of Vlaye," by Stanley J. Weyman.

A biography of Joseph Chamberlain by S. H. Jeyes, has been published by the Gresham Publishing Company, of London. It is claimed for this work that it is the only real biography of Mr. Chamberlain that it is written with complete knowledge, that it is free from party bias and that it is indispensable to the understanding of the fiscal question. Great care has been expended upon the material get-up of the book. It is issued in two volumes, illustrated, at the net price of 25 shillings.

Opie Read is to-day heralded as the American Dickens, and any one who is so fortunate as to read "Turk," the latest novel by this author will agree that he possesses many of Dickens' best characteristics. The story is a powerful character study. The book is most attractive in appearance. (Laird & Lee, Chicago.)

Laird & Lee, of Chicago, are building up a reputation for children's books. They have this year published "Santa Claus' Wonderful Candy Circus," by Olive Aye, "Uncle Bob and Aunt Beckey's Strange Adventures," "The Tale of a Tail," by Annette S. Crafts, and "Yellow Beauty," a cat book, by Marion Martin. The last book is to the end what "Black Beauty" has long been to the horse. This publishing house have also issued an album of World's Fair views, containing 200 pictures, 32 of which are colorgraphs and the balance printed in tints. The book in paper covers is 25 cents and in cloth, boxed, 60 cents.

Blackie's 1904 picture books are now ready for the trade. As usual, judging from the reputation of the publishers and the titles of the books, the volumes are just what will be sure to please the most fastidious child. The 6d series contain six or seven pages in color and twenty-three pages in black and white. The shilling series contain eighteen pages in color and seventy pages in black and white.

No bookseller will be safe this year, if he neglects to have in stock "By Conduct and Courage," the best story from the pen of G. A. Henty, that immutable writer of boys' books. At the same time he would be wise to strengthen his stock of juveniles by the addition of new boys' books of Captain Breton and Herbert Strang.

These are capital books for the youth of Canada, with a healthy influence and brimful of instruction. Some of the titles are "With the Dyaks of Borneo," "Foes of the Red Cockade," "In the Grip of the Mullah," "Boys of the Old Brigade" and "Koho, a story of Japan." All these books are issued by a firm, which has for years made a specialty of boys' books. Blackie & Sons, of Edinburgh. The Copp, Clark Co., and William Briggs are the Canadian agents.

R. A. Everett & Co., Limited, are the publishers of a colonial library of fiction in both paper and cloth, which includes some interesting novels. These stories are all by popular novelists, such as Fox Russell, Arthur Griffiths, Richard Marsh, Florence Warden Mrs. C. N. Williamson, Nat Gould, etc. They appeal to the great mass of readers of fiction and should prove first rate sellers in Canada.

"A Ladder of Swords" is the title of Sir Gilbert Parker's new novel, which has just been issued by the Copp, Clark Co. It is an exquisitely conceived love story, the scenes laid in the time of Elizabeth. The hero, Michel, a gallant young soldier, is separated by religious persecutions from his sweetheart, Angele, he in France and she on a small island near England. The lord of the island falls in love with Angele's beauty, and wishes to marry her, but though weary months pass without a word from Michel, she gently resists her powerful suitor and remains loyal. A freak of fortune brings the pair into the castle of Queen Elizabeth, and her admiration for the handsome young soldier arouses the jealousy of the Earl of Leicester, and bids fair to separate Michel and Angele. The scenes with the Queen are most fascinating, and equal, if they do not excel, anything the author has ever done. Exciting intrigue and many startling situations in the Queen's palace result in repeated and desperate dangers for the faithful lovers, but they finally escape the hazardous favor of the great Queen and are united.

This is the time to remind booksellers of the new and enlarged edition of "Webster's International Dictionary" which is published by G. & C. Merriam Co., of Springfield, Mass. There are 25,000 new words in this edition and all the plates are new. The binding is rich. The same firm issue the "Webster Collegiate Dictionary" containing 1,100 pages and measuring 7x10 inches. A special thin paper edition of this dictionary is a marvelous production, reducing the bulk to one-half that of the ordinary issue.

"Jess & Co." by the author of "Wee Macgregor," is a new story in Scotch dialect that will rank with the popular Wee Macgregor stories in originality, humor, and charm. Jess is a sweet Scotch lassie, newly married to a sturdy, happy-go-lucky young fellow named David Houston. How this young couple get under way on the sea of matrimonial life—their trials, joys, and disappointments—furnish the thread of the story. But the young people are not left to solve their problems by themselves. Various members of the little village community are eager to offer their advice to the young couple. Aunt Wallace, Miss Perk—an angular spinster—Mr. Ogilvie—the vil-