

FICTION

CHOSEN AND ANNOTATED BY A REVIEWER FOR "THE NATION."

In preparing this list the choice has been limited to two hundred and fifty American, British and Canadian authors and their principal works. While the object has been to select novels and tales of interest to girls and women, great literature appeals to all mankind, and many of the books here named are as attractive to boys and men as to their sisters and mothers. Besides the acknowledged masters of fiction, the present list includes the writers who, without being great, have founded schools or led fashions, also the authors who have passed on from generation to generation the chief traditions of novel-writing, and gradually developed the art. Unfortunately, many writers of fiction enjoy wide popularity without deserving it; of this class the vicious and depraved are unmentioned; others, without being vicious, are frivolous in ideas and defective in taste and skill; of these a few representatives are introduced with a word of warning.

The plan in drawing up this list is, for leading authors, first, to offer brief general characterizations; to follow with a selection of their best works, giving a short note to each book; lastly, to name without comment a few more of their works. With other authors a single note is the rule; in no case is there mention of all an author's volumes. In many cases a wide variety of editions of popular novels are published; from among these editions in one volume, in cloth, at low prices, have been chosen; and also fair editions in paper. The publishers' addresses have been abbreviated. The figures in brackets following a living author's name give the year of birth; in the case of an author not living, also the year of death; in some cases no information has been found. The first note after an author's name is followed by the number for her or his books in the Decimal Classification.

Readers who desire complete lists of novels, including translations, may refer to "The best reading," by F. B. Perkins, with its supplements, published by Putnam, New York. Wm. M. Griswold, Cambridge, Mass., issues various Lists of Fiction, American and foreign, with citations from leading critical reviews. The American Library Association, through the Library Bureau, publishes "Reading for the young," compiled by John F. Sargent, with short descriptive notes; its department of fiction is comprehensive.

New York, June, 1895.

Aguilar, Grace. [1816-1847.]

An English writer of Spanish-Hebrew extraction, who had at heart the interests of her race in all that she wrote. Her power of description is excellent, and, although her dialogue seems often old-fashioned, her novels retain decided interest. Some of them are based on the persecutions of the Jews, as recorded in history, others describe English domestic life. Her style is graceful, her characterization sympathetic, her moral tone elevated. 823.89.

VALE OF CEDARS. N. Y., Appleton, \$1.
Expulsion of Jews from Spain in the 15th century.

HOME INFLUENCE. N. Y., Appleton, \$1.
English home life.

MOTHER'S RECOMPENSE. N. Y., Appleton, \$1.
Sequel to "Home influence."

HOME SCENES AND HEART STUDIES. N. Y.,
Appleton, \$1.
Short stories.

Alcott, Louisa May. [1832-1888.]

A New England writer of stories for young girls. Her wide popularity has been earned by her power of depicting real life, her sensible and stirring inculcation of truth, kindness and courage. Her style is sometimes careless, as if she had worked too hurriedly. Among her best books are the following: 813.41.