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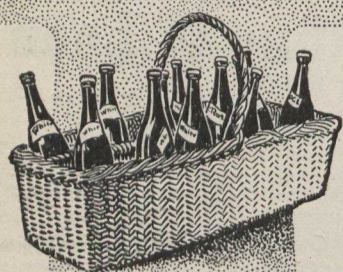
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LITERARY NOTES

THE CHRISTMAS "WINDSOR."

THE Windsor Magazine for December is a spread of seasonable fare, with stories by Rudyard Kipling, Anthony Hope, Eden Phillpotts, S. R. Crockett, Flora Annie Steel, Barry Pain and Katherine Cecil Thurston, affording such a feast of fiction as few of the current magazines provide for their readers. There is hardly an issue of this magazine which does not contain contributions from Canadian writers. Consequently one is not surprised to find poems by Mr. Theodore Roberts and Mr. Archibald Sullivan and a prose sketch by Dr. Charles G. D. Roberts. The poem by the younger Roberts, "Riding Song," is expressive of his joy in the life of the open way that is characteristic of these Maritime poets.

"Let us ride together
(Blowing mane and hair)
Careless of the weather,
Miles ahead of care.
Ring of Hoof and snaffle—
Swing of waist and hip—
Trotting down the twisted road,
With the world let slip.

Let us laugh together,
(Merry as of old)
To the creak of leather
And the morning's gold.
Break into a canter,
Shout to bank and tree,
Rocking down the waking trial—
Steady hand and knee.

Take the life of cities—
Here's the life for me.
'Twere a thousand pities
Not to gallop free.
So we'll ride together
Comrade, you and I,
Careless of the weather,
Letting care go by.

* * *

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAMED.

MISS Edith L. Marsh was not particularly successful when she chose the title "Where the Buffalo Roamed" for her recently published volume. It had been more appropriately called "The Story of Western Canada—For Young People," or "A Child's History of Newer Canada"; or "The Romance of Canadian Exploration." The title she has chosen might have been selected also for a novel, and this is an objection. It does not indicate that this is a story for young people which is another objection. While a third lies in the fact that she deals with the history of vast regions in which the Buffalo never roamed.

Miss Marsh has told her stories well—the stories of Hudson, Radisson, Groseilliers, Verendrye, Hearn, MacKenzie, the Selkirk settlers, Simon Fraser and a number of other explorers and pioneers. The fur-traders, the missionaries and the early nation-builders of the West are made to stand out as uncommon and admirable figures. It is the romance of Canadian history of which Parkman only knew the beginning. Every Canadian youth who reads it will be greatly pleased and benefited.

* * *

BOOKS TO NEWCASTLE.

MR. Runciman, President of the Board of Education in the British Cabinet, recently opened at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, a public library, presented to the city by Sir William H. Stephenson, who has been four times Mayor of Newcastle.

In the course of his address Mr. Runciman referred in strong terms

to the evil influences of the day, remarking: "For skill, speed and facility of the pen, the modern newspaper man is marvellous but so far as literary influence goes, the effect of the newspaper is positively pernicious."

"What could be more monstrous than the way in which English is garbled in the evening newspapers? Think of the garbage of the football edition! You read such ill-placed slang as this; 'Here the custodian of the citadel received a nasty blow on the proboscis, and the invaders succeeded in transferring the sphere into the innermost recesses of the enclosure.'"

With due respect for the head of the British Board of Education we remark that the offensive quotation may be a disagreeable specimen of newspaper English but it is not slang. Mr. Ruciman should see the sporting edition of a Chicago or Toronto paper before professing to have painful experience of newspaper liberties with the Mother Tongue.

Mr. Runciman deplored the large annual crop of poor fiction but rejoiced that the modern novel died young. He finally praised the biographies in English literature, commending among modern production Sir George Trevellyn's "Macaulay," Lord Morley's "Gladstone" and Mr. Churchill's life of his father.

* * *

ACROSS THE SUB-ARCTICS.

THE new edition of Mr. Tyrrell's "Across the Sub-Arctics of Canada" is easily the best of the three. The new cover, new illustrations and new maps bring it quite up to date. The new chapters on Musk-ox and on the Hudson's bay route add much to its value as a library volume. It is a volume which will interest both young and old, for Mr. Tyrrell tells the story of his adventures in a decidedly bright way. No living Canadian has had more thrilling adventures in the field of exploration than have the Tyrrells, and none have done more in recent years to make known the "wonders of the north." The third edition, demanded by the public, is a well-deserved compliment to an enterprising but modest explorer.

* * *

A BOOK ABOUT BOOKS.

MR. E. V. LUCAS is an English writer of fiction who seems to belong to a more leisurely age than this day of bargains and haste. "Listener's Lure" was an early production which won the public favour by its quaint and unconventional philosophy. The latest book, "Over Bemerton's; an Easy-Going Chronicle," is just as gently diverting and whimsical as the first volumes which charmed all those who like a book of quiet ways. However, the middle-aged hero who took up his abode over the second-hand book shop is not altogether out of the modern hurly-burly. He even comes in contact with a suffragette, the heroine's sister, who disappoints us all when she is merely arrested and fails to reach a martyr's cell in prison. The heroine is somewhat dull and prosaic, being given overmuch to philanthropy and affording little excitement to the middle-aged gentleman's heart. In fact, one feels that the author makes a mistake in allowing this bachelor, aged fifty-five, to become engaged. He is really too much attached to his beloved books to make a success of the domestic career. (Toronto: The Macmillan Company.)

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