

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

A GREAT MISSIONARY BOOK.

FROM the press of Fleming H. Revell, Toronto, comes "A Cycle of Cathay," by W. A. P. Martin, D.D., LL.D. (cloth, \$2), dealing with many years' missionary experience in China. Says its author: "My object is not so much to write a history of events as to exhibit the Chinese as I have seen them in their social and political life." The result is a highly instructive and most entertaining narrative, one of the very best books of the kind issued in recent years. Nor does the attraction stop with the literary contents. It is beautifully bound in scarlet cloth and gilt lettering and a circular symbol in yellow, black and white, representing the Chinese cycle, upon the outside front cover. The illustrations are numerous and striking. The book should sell well at two dollars, and for the approaching holiday season will be good property on any counter.

A SERIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Brief mention was made in our last issue of the new series of books for the young issued by the Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto, entitled "Stories of Childhood." This is one of the most delightful series which these publishers have lately sent out. So far, five volumes have been issued: "How the Children Raised the Wind," by Edna Lyall, is an amusing story of how two children paid the debt off their father's church by unusual methods. "Adolph, and How He Found the Beautiful Lady" is a touching story of the devotion of a poor German immigrant and her son Adolph to a little girl, who, coming to this country on a cholera-laden ship, was taken from her mother by the health officers, and, together with Adolph and many others, placed in the hospital. Owing to a mistake in identity she was reported to have died, and Adolph's mother, though nearly penniless, adopted her. The story turns on the boy's efforts to find the child's mother, the "Beautiful Lady."

Another volume in the series is "The Making of a Hero, and Other Stories for Boys," by Mrs. George A. Paull. These are six stirring stories of real, live, every-day boys, who do the things that boys do in real life, as distinguished from what they do in books—and nowhere else. The titles are "The Making of a Hero," "A Matter of Honor," "How the Twins went to the Fair," "Apron Strings," "An Amateur Detective," and "The Old Fort." Two others by a skilful writer are "Probable Sons" and "Teddy's Button," the first relating a child's success in religious work, and the second the influence a button

from his father's coat had upon a boy's life.

The handsomely decorated cloth covers of these attractive small quarto books, each volume at 50c. and well illustrated, is not the least interesting feature of them.

A SUCCESSFUL BOOK.

The sale within three months of the first thousand copies of Mr. Clifford Smith's "A Lover in Homespun," very happily shows that the short story is winning its way in Canada, and that the native author is better succeeding in catching the ear—or eye—of his countrymen. The author is to be congratulated on the success of his first venture. The book was given most kindly treatment by the reviewers, and won many warm encomiums. Among the most striking of these comes from a source not always kindly in its expressions toward Young Canada, to wit, The London Literary World, which observed as follows:

"A Lover in Homespun and other Stories," by Mr. F. Clifford Smith (Toronto: W. Briggs), comprises a selection of brief sketches of life in Canadian villages and forests. The stories are of good merit, and comprise some excellent descriptions of forest and clearing, and a clever delineation of the passions which actuate humanity in the rough, although their brevity limits the author to brief outlining in the place of the close and careful analysis that Mr. Smith might have brought into them had space permitted. The stories, eleven in all, deal with love and life and re-

ligion in many aspects, and as character studies of the simple Canadian peasantry, French and English, can compare favorably with similar selections in which Scotch, Welsh and Irish rural life have been exploited. The book reaches us from across the water, and in the absence of any indication of an English agency it is unnecessary to go into details about the contents, or to dwell on its readability." A second edition of the book is in press.

A POET IN THE WEST.

Not Eastern Canada only is feeding the swelling poem of Canadian poesy, but even from far Western British Columbia, the Eldorado of the gold-seeker, comes a strain of song to which many are likely to give a listening and interested ear. Mr. Eric Duncan, of Comox, farmer and poet, has in the press a little volume of poems, soon to appear, with the title of "Rural Rhymes," and bearing the imprint of William Briggs. Mr. Duncan does not affect lofty themes, "An Ox Song," "A Mosquito Song," "A Hog Song" and "The Sheep Thief," are some of his subjects; but he handles these homely topics with a felicity of description and with a quaint humor that to the average reader—especially him of the farm—it will be more attractive by far than the delicate verbal photography of the better-known poets of Canada.

AMELIA BARR'S LATEST.

Mrs. Amelia E. Barr's new story, "A Knight of the Nets," shortly to be issued in a Canadian copyright edition by William Briggs, is said to be one of the strongest and most charming of her stories, and those

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