

## Books of the Month.

THE Toronto News Co. are handling "Gillespie's Draught Player's Text Book," a useful little paper-covered manual (50c.) for those who wish to play this game on a scientific basis. It contains instructions for beginners as well as pointers for experienced players.

The Copp, Clark Co. announce that paper editions of several current popular novels which sold so well in cloth for noli day trade will appear this month. They have now ready in this guise Neil Munro's "Shoes of Fortune," which admirers of Scotch novels pronounce a worthy successor to the same author's "Doom Castle" and "John Splendid." On January 17 a paper edition will be out of "Marietta. A Maid of Venice," by Marion Crawford, which has proved itself a remarkably good seller since its appearance in cloth, and is well entitled to the place it has made for itself. Mr. Crawford has done no better work in recent years. His study of early Venice and curious conditions of skilled craftsmanship there is carefully done, and the atmosphere of intrigue and danger which surrounds the hero and heroine makes it an absorbingly interesting story. A paper edition of "The Benefactress," by the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," will be welcome. It will be especially interesting to women readers, who find in the writings of this anonymous author an unfailing source of amusement and sympathetic treatment of familiar things in home life.

Coming on the heels of "The Benefactress," with its half-cynical treatment of modern society in Germany, is "Cynthia's Way," by Mrs. Sidgwick, a charming tale of an English heiress who conceals her identity and goes to Germany as a governess to some orphan children. The family take to her and she to them. The eldest son comes on the scene and soon displays an admiration for Cynthia. The heroine, who has a strong sense of humor, manages to draw out the best qualities in all these German folk with whom she comes in contact. The pranks of the children, the absurdly sentimental Wanda, the grown-up sister, who is saved from a ruinous elopement by the sense and courage of the English girl and the rich widow who wants to marry the head of the family are all

brought together into an agreeable narrative. And the English reader is quite prepared when Cynthia bestows herself and her immense fortune on the young German count and gives up her native land for his sake. The pictures of German life are altogether pleasant.

"The Fiery Dawn," by M. E. Colridge, is another colonial edition which the Copp, Clark Co. have just to hand. It is a stirring tale of French politics and revolution in the early part of the last century. The author somewhat candidly says it is stolen from several masterpieces of French romance. It is none the worse on this account and reads remarkably well.

The favorite gift book of this year undoubtedly was "The Man from Glen-garry." Indeed, the publishers were driven almost beyond their resources to supply the demand. A special binding in limp leather, with a burnt design executed by a local artist, was, although issued less than a fortnight before Christmas, sold to the extent of nearly 500 copies, besides a large number in a very handsome half calf binding. Had these special editions appeared a fortnight earlier, doubtless the sale would have been much greater. The general opinion seems to be that the book has enhanced the author's reputation. There are some who prefer one or other of his previous works, but, in spite of defects that are apparent to the careful reader, "The Man from Glen-garry" stands as one of the strongest and best stories of the year, and in Canada, at least, is selling beyond any. Already the issue has reached 17,500 copies, and this within a few weeks of publication. The author is to be congratulated also that the success of his new story has stimulated the demand for "Black Rock" and "The Sky Pilot." All three books will probably continue to sell for years to come. They are of a class that live where many of the popular romances die and are forgotten. It certainly is a satisfaction to Canadians to find that their writers, such as Ralph Connor, Gilbert Parker and W. A. Fraser, are holding their own with the best writers of the other Anglo-Saxon countries.

One of the most interesting books on the South-African War is that entitled "For the Flag," by Mrs. MacLeod, of Charlottetown, P.E.I., author of "Carols of Canada."

It is packed from cover to cover with interesting incidents of the war, deeds of bravery, etc., and is good reading, every page of it. Mrs. MacLeod must have been a constant reader of the newspapers and magazines. No striking incident seems to have escaped her. Several of her own poems distributed through the volume are by no means the least interesting reading it affords. Many of them are very fine—instance the following entitled "Beneath One Flag":

Wave out, Oh, glorious standard!

To every breeze that blows;

Thus wave in halycon days of peace,

Thus front a world of foes.

Britain! Australia! Canada!

One speech, one mind, one soul,

Like arm within the ridge of time,

Like beam beyond the goal.

beneath that flag, that glorious flag!

No foreign foe, nor loss

But stirs the soul from Polar Star

Unto the Southern Cross.

New Zealand! Ind! South Africa!

United heart and hand,

Thy sons have traversed land and wave

In phalanx firm to stand.

Float on forever, conquering Flag!

Wave out Red, White and Blue!

What enemy may dare thy wrath

Since thine to thee prove true?

Britannia and her loyal sons

With Freedom's flag unfurled,

Out of the din shall dawn in peace

A fair millennial world!

Rev. Dr. Saunders, of Halifax, N.S., Baptist clergyman, and father of Miss Marshall Saunders, the author of "Beautiful Joe," "Lida Jane," and other popular stories, has in the press a "History of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces."

A work of great importance now in the press is that entitled "Christendom, Anno Domini, 1901," edited by Rev. Wm. D. Grant, Ph.D., minister of one of the Presbyterian churches in New York, and a Canadian by birth and education. The introductory note to the book is written by President Cuthbert C. Hall, D.D. The book, as its title suggests, is a presentation of Christian conditions and activities in every country of the world at the beginning of the 20th century. Dr. Grant has secured some 60 contributors; men who are prominent in Christian work in the various countries of the globe, prominent missionaries, educationists, and others. The work is in two volumes, the first of these containing articles on Christian work in these various countries, and the second volume comprising a series of papers on such topics as "Gains of Christianity," by President Barrows; "Church Union," by Bishop Hurst; "Social Settlements," by Robert