

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

this sixpenny form, the retail price being set at 15c., while that to the trade is \$1.20 per dozen. This Canadian copyright edition will appear simultaneously with the first English edition, while the story will not be published in the United States until the Autumn. This notable departure is of great importance to all Canadian booksellers, as it appeals to a very large constituency of bookbuyers, who, while desirous of reading the latest novels as they appear, are sometimes unwilling to pay 75c. for the ordinary paper-covered edition. It may also be added that "The Adventures of Jennie Baxter" are decidedly entertaining, being full of interesting situations, described with that keen sense of humor which has endeared "Luke Sharp" to the English-speaking world.

The book of the month is, of course, "The Fowler," which is having a large sale. This clever psychological study, which takes its title from an adapted quotation from the 124th Psalm, "Our soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler," was begun soon after "Ships that Pass in the Night," and she has been engaged upon it ever since. It was supposed that it would be published two years ago, but, on account of ill-health and other interruptions, she has been unable until now to complete it to her satisfaction. It certainly contains the author's best work, and its escape from the morbid, depressing spirit of "Ships that Pass in the Night," into the strong, healthy, joyous atmosphere which surrounds Nora Penhurst, would seem to indicate a decided change in either the author's view of life or her physical condition; so much so that we are convinced that the author is thinking of herself when she makes Nora Penhurst say:

My dearest friend who during the last epidemic of women's books wrote one of the most miserable and most successful, was always talking about the burden of living. I must say, however, that since the success of her book her spirits have considerably improved. But I believe it is a known fact that six editions have a wonderful effect on nervous depression, altering one's whole way of looking at existence.

In an appreciative review, Events says: "It is difficult to say upon which of the two chief characters the writer has spent herself—on Nora Penhurst, the partial victim of the fowler, or the fowler himself. Both are admirably and skillfully drawn characters. The book has been aptly called a mental seduction; for the *modus operandi* let one of his victims speak. In her heart's outpouring, poor Madge Carson gave her experiences as follows:

"And just when I was in the hey-day of good health and spirits, self-containedness and bumpiness I met a very strange little man, who first repelled me and then attracted me—and held me

fast . . . I never wished to give in one inch to him, and yet before a few weeks went over he had me completely in subjection, mind and spirit. It was my mind that he wanted to seduce, he let me recognize in his own little way how safe I was with him in all other respects. And that gave him a tremendous power over me, and he knew it, and used it to wither up everything that was bright and joyous in my nature. It was much more satisfaction to a character like his to make a mental wreck of a woman instead of merely entrapping her in the usual way. So he took the flowers of my mind and turned them into hideous weeds, and I don't think any man can do a worse thing to any woman. He was full of rank poison, and his daily joy was to inject me with it. And I never knew. But those around me knew, and they tried to beat him off as one might a foul reptile. I did not understand all that until afterwards. But there came a day when I awoke and found myself alone and friendless. Everyone had been successfully hounded away by him and by me, for he had taught me to see life through his eyes, and I had hurled my bolt of scorn and distrust against everything. But one day I awoke and was free again."

Still, the picture of life is far from being morbid, for, beside the fact that the heroine's soul eventually "escapes as a bird out of the snare of the fowler," the tension of the "snare" is continually relieved by the introduction of men of breadth and culture, and of many delightful women, who, though usually of literary tastes, are eminently womanly, while even the humbler characters are quaintly interesting and are drawn with a broadness of sympathy which is truly delightful. (Price, paper, 75c.; cloth, \$1.50.)

The second edition of "The Span O' Life" is now ready, the first edition being exhausted while it was still on the press. This is a book for which there is likely to be a demand for some time to come, both on account of its historical importance and the good writing which it contains.

Mr. Longley's book "Love" has been so successful that the publishers have just announced a 25c. paper edition for Summer trade.

The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, are also issuing a 50c. paper edition of Mr. W. W. Jacobs' fascinating collection of sea yarns entitled "Many Cargoes," which is just the style of book for the holidays.

A book which has just been published by the same company, and one which is certain to be heard of before many weeks are past, is "Richard Carvel," a novel by Winston Churchill, the author of "The Celebrity." It should be stated here, however, that "The Celebrity," though published first, is not, in point of time, Mr. Churchill's first book, as he has been occupied during the past four years in writing "Richard Carvel," "The Celebrity" having been thrown off between times as a bit of amusement. Mr. Churchill is now anxious that, as a serious writer, his work should be judged by the new novel just published, rather than by his literary jeu d'

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