

Book Notices.

"Turkish Life in Town and Country."

By Lucy M. J. Garnett. Illustrated. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. viii-336. Price, \$1.20 net.

This is another volume of the admirable series of town and country life in the principal nations of Europe. The chance tourist through Turkey does not come in contact with the best classes of its people nor get an inside view of its society. The dragomen and guides, the government officials and parasites do not represent Turkey at its best. This book, based on long and intimate acquaintance with Turkey and its people, gives a much more favourable idea of the domestic life, especially away from the corruptions and distractions of the cities, than we have been led to expect. God has not left himself without a witness in the hearts of these people. The domestic affections and patriotic feelings, the love of wife and child and fatherland, produce a far better type of character than we see in the pur-lieus of the great cities.

The civil and economic conditions of Turkey, of course, differ widely from those of Christian countries. A blight seems to follow Turkish rule, so that we may almost quote the words of Attila, that where its horses' hoofs tread no grass will grow. A perfect polyglot of races inhabit this wide empire, some kept under restraint by the Turkish soldiery, or terrorized by the scarcely more lawless domination of brigands. An instructive chapter is that on the religious life of Turkey—a strange mixture of superstition, fanaticism and honest devotion.

"Strong Mac." By S. R. Crockett.

Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company, Limited. Pp. 406. Illustrated. Price, \$1.50.

This is another of those Galloway stories by which Crockett won his name and fame. In this border country his foot is on his native heath, and he depicts Scottish life and character as can few living writers. The story is one of great power and pathos, with a vein of "pawky" humour and no end of adventure. A "stickit dominie," Donald Gracie, the younger son of an ancient house, becomes a parish

schoolmaster. The drink habit drags down the unvenerable old man despite the loving watch-care of his daughter Dora. By a mean, revengeful trick the teacher is made drunk on school examination day, and is turned out of office. By a strange complication of circumstances, the girl's rival lovers disappear in the night. One is found dead on the muir, the other is captured by a press gang and goes to Spain to fight under Wellington. A third lover, for she had three strings to her bow, or beaux to her string, is tried for the double murder. The brave girl goes to Spain to bring back the gallant soldier whose evidence exculpates his accused rival of the alleged crime. The complications are removed, the mystery explained, and all goes merry as a wedding bell. Apart from the interest of the story is the fascination of its telling. The studies of the members of the Presbytery, the lawyers and judges, the lairds and poachers and peasants, the saintly women and scolding viragoes, and, above all, the brave-souled Dora Gracie, are sketched like portraits. The word-painting of the high, bleak muirs, the heather-covered mountains, the lonely tarns and wide sea-scapes are in Crockett's best manner. This is, in our judgment, one of his best books. The Galloway dialect is a prose-poem in itself. The Scottish diminutives have a fascinating charm. The numerous illustrations by Griffenhagen are as good as the text.

"The Souter's Lamp." By Hector Macgregor.

Chicago, New York, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. Pp. 272.

This is another of those stories of Scottish life which have had such a vogue since Ian Maclaren described for us the glen of Drumtochty and its people. It has much of the blended pathos and humour, clever character study and sympathetic treatment of religion and sacred things which characterize the immortal "Bonnie Brier Bush." The stories of the manse and the saintly minister and his quite unsaintly nephew, a boy full of pranks and mischief, and especially the character of the Souter or cobbler, in whose house most of the "foregatherings" described took place, are