

man would peruse this wonderful story of a self-made man, and taking courage, press forward.

Miss Gray has written a pretty little waif story (11), its more immediate object being apparently to advocate the cause of the Home for Little Boys, a society which has our warmest commendation.

The author of "The Wide, Wide World," has by that one book endeared herself to the hearts of the present generation, and even a slight falling off in style would be willingly passed by. But so far from retrograding, in her new book (12) Susan Warner has surpassed herself. Diana, the heroine, is a wonderful creation, speaking, moving, living, with human faults and everyday failings, but with a soul fired with love to God and man; thorough in her own love, and believing no wrong until the truth forces itself upon her, her heart's duty almost succumbing to its tenderness, but gradually overcoming, to find a grand reward. The minister of the story is a true man, loving, modest, and tender, but stern and uncompromising when duty calls, while the soldier, though not so attractive to one's inner feelings, is no less a success from the author's point of view. The whole book is a picture, vivid and lifelike in its details, truthful in its coloring, and bold in its execution, and we can unhesitatingly give it our heartiest commendation.

One of the Patriarchs of Nonconformity was the late Dr Brock; many a time have we listened almost spell-bound to his inimitable discourses, now as rugged as the rock, now as tender as the silvery stream. Mr. Birrell, his old friend and colleague, has performed his biographical task (13) remarkably well, and the volume should be in every library, fitted as it is to kindle the courage of true faith in hearts warring with the difficulties of early life.

The two magazines, edited for years past by the Rev. W. M. Whittemore, are too well known to need commendation from us. "Sunshine" (14) well christened, must carry many a joyous gleam into the hearts of its youthful readers, instilling lessons of gentleness and truth, while "Golden Hours" (15), for those of older growth, surely belies not its title, with its cheerful, homely stories, its gems of poetry, and its effective illustrations. Dr. Whittemore may well be proud of these his children.

Mr. Green writes enthusiastically, but not extravagantly, and we can heartily recommend his pamphlet (16) to our readers.

Mr. Wakeham has hit upon a first rate idea in his "Mental Scenes" (17). He gives us a hundred capitally told Biblical stories, about a page each in length, giving the broad features, without indicating too closely the actual subject. His object is to present a kind of enigma, to be propounded to the young ones by their parents and teachers, the answer to be written and then compared with the key. The whole thing is admirably done; terse, graphic, and suggesting innumerable fields for thought, we heartily congratulate the author on his unpretentious, but useful little volume.

Missionary stories have always a fascination for the young, and the little volume before us (18) is a very good specimen of its class. The narration ranges from our own times back to those of St. Augustine, and is given in an interesting and instructive style, and the book is very fairly illustrated.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

A MONUMENT is to be erected in Glasgow to the memory of Dr. Norman Macleod. Over £800 has already been subscribed towards the cost.

A circular has been issued by the Eastern Question Association, which has the Duke of Westminster for its president and the Earl of Shaftesbury for its vice-president, declaring that a war policy is one which the English people will not support.

While most of us have been enjoying home comforts and shelter during the many storms of the past year, the men of the National Lifeboat Institution have been bravely employed. Over eight hundred lives have been saved, and thirty-five vessels have been rescued from destruction by means of the boats of the society.

It seems that "difficulties" have arisen in the re-establishment of the Romish hierarchy in Scotland, and Cardinal Manning is authorised by the Pope to "treat with the

British Government," with a view to effect such a "compromise" as it may be expedient to make for the removal of the said difficulties.

The visit to England of Mr. H. M. Stanley, the African explorer, is looked forward to with much interest. While his "intrepidity" (which is unquestioned) has been the subject of much comment, both favourable and the reverse, his services have been of undeniable value. His work is that of a pioneer, and commerce, civilisation, and religion will follow in the wake.

The death of the King of Italy has evoked the concurrent regret, and the almost rival testimonials of praise for his patriotism and honest worth, of all shades of the British and the continental press. Of course he died, as he lived, a Catholic of the Romish Church, and it is said that the Pope, if he had been able, would have gone and have given his personal blessing to the king's departing soul; but, for all that, the tolerance of Victor Emmanuel to other churches has done much to serve the cause of our common Christianity, and, while his faults will be forgotten, his memory will be fragrant, and his name will be prominent in future history.

Maharajah Dhuleep Singh of India, a convert to Christianity, and now residing in England, has presented 5,000 dollars to the American Presbyterian Mission in Egypt. Through the instrumentality of that mission, the lady who is now his wife was educated.

Whatsoever may be the skill of Cardinal Manning in steering through the difficulties of the hierarchical seas, the sturdy resistance of many "staunch and true" men of the various Protestant Associations of Scotland may be counted upon. At a meeting recently held in Edinburgh, it was resolved to put the law in force against those assuming legal titles.

Tahiti is threatened with famine. Writing on November 7, a correspondent says:—"Bread is at the rate of 2s. 3d. per 4lb. loaf. There is only about three weeks' supply of meat on the island, and no prospect of a further supply for at least two-and-a-half months." He adds, "We are, moreover, just recovering from an epidemic which has prostrated nearly everybody, although we have happily had but few cases of death."

Great distress prevails in Sheffield, in consequence of the depression of trade. The mayor has headed a fund with the donation of £100 for the relief of the sufferers, and announced that he would be responsible for £500. In a large number of cases almost everything has gone to the pawnbrokers, and whole families are in a state of helpless want. Death from privation has taken place in at least one instance.

At a public meeting held at Sheffield it was resolved to invite the British Association to hold its annual conference in that town next year.

The public have responded to the numerous informal appeals for the relief of the suffering in South Wales, and measures have been taken by the authorities and local committees for the careful distribution of the funds contributed.

A fund has been started for the providing of toys for pauper and sick children. The Queen and the Princess Beatrice have each contributed to the fund, and the matter is receiving gratifying support. The *Lancet* warns donors against the supply of toys poisoned by paint.

It has been stated by Mr. John Macgregor, of the *Rob Roy* canoe, that the members of the different shoeblick brigades have earned about £180,000 by blacking shoes in the streets of London.

The Rev. Arthur Mursell has resigned his pastorate of the Baptist Church, Stockwell, and has undertaken the charge of Cannon-street Chapel, Birmingham, for a period of six months ending July next.

The second week in January was observed universally as a week of united prayer. The principal meetings in the metropolis were held in Langham Hall, Great Portland-street, in the Centenary Hall, Bishopsgate-street, and in the Conference Hall, Mildmay-park. Addresses were given by well-known ministers of all sections of the evangelical church, and by a few prominent laymen. The meetings generally were well attended.

The foreign-speaking population of London is estimated at 100,000 persons. A conference, preceded by a tea, has been held at the Friends' Temperance Hotel, in Bishopsgate-street, London, on the varied means employed to reach these. After