

## MAGAZINE AND BOOK REVIEWS.

Behind a richly-colored cover designed by Tissot the December *Century* has gathered an appropriate and interesting collection of literary value. Jacob A. Riis is peculiarly at ease in striking one of the best notes of any season, the happiness of the poor, deprived but still light of heart. His contribution is entitled *The Passing of Cat Alley*. Uncle Riah's Christmas Eve by Ruth McEnery Stuart is a splendid bit of work. Mention should also be made of the prize poem in the *Century's* College competition. Miss Anna Hempstead Branch was the young lady who obtained the honor. Her poem is called *The Road 'Twi'x Heaven and Hell*, and it certainly is worthy of a place in the *Century* whether as the result of a competition or chosen merely from the outside world.

The *Atlantic Monthly*, for December, contains the first part of Julia Ward Howe's *Reminiscences*. The *Autobiography of a Revolutionist* is also continued, and together these two would be sufficient if one could read nothing else in the magazine. But we also find a most charming descriptive paper by W. D. Howells, *Confessions of a Summer Colonist*, in which he has rendered with fine simplicity the essence of a summer transient. The Contributors' Club is as usual felicitous.

One of the most important articles in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* is devoted to the consideration of the *Playgrounds of Rural and Suburban Schools*, by T. G. Oakley. This is a subject in which all educationists are rightly interested. *Superstition and Crime* by Prof. E. P. Evans, and *Brain Weights and Intellectual Capacity* by Joseph Simms, M.D., are both of great interest. The former

paper is extremely painful, but justifies our present methods of civilization to some extent. The latter indicates that there may after all be something in brains that weigh less than so many ounces.

The *Mystery of Mr. Cain*, by Lafayette McLaws, is the continued novel in the January *Lippincott*. It is full of mystery and excitement. Charles G. D. Roberts contributes six lines of charming verse entitled *At the Drinking-Fountain*. There is something of Christmas in this magazine which is sensible since it was issued in the Christmas week.

The Christmas number of the *Publishers' Circular* is as usual a volume of prodigious size, containing charming illustrations from a great number of holiday and other books, and short descriptive notes indicating what one may expect to find in them. The *Publishers' Circular* is a good place to look for advice before buying any addition to a library.

Messrs. Harper & Brothers, New York, have recently issued a book of remarkable interest called *A Study of a Child*, by Louise E. Hogan. The book is written evidently by the child's mother—and it is illustrated by the child's own drawings. But the value and the main interest of the book does not lie in the fact as might be expected that the child is extremely remarkable. It is plainly an attempt to benefit the childhood of the race by a scientific accuracy in the record of what one child has done at a certain age. The book aims at recording child life. This will necessarily be of great value to teachers.

Books received from the *American Book Company*, New York :

An *Elementary Course in Analytic Geometry*, by J. H. Tanner and J. Allen.