

AMONG THE BOOKS

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School teacher, reporter, homesteader and then a fruit farmer in British Columbia,—such were the different roles filled by the enterprising girl whom the reader learns to know very well in *Janet of Kootenay* (McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 279 pages, \$1.50 net), by a new Canadian writer, Evah McKowan. The story, however, is concerned only with her experiences on the fruit farm, beginning with the minute she purchases eighty acres of wild land. It is told in a series of letters written by Janet herself to Nan, her greatest friend, who has remained a homesteader on the prairie. No one who does not own a little log house set amid cedar trees with swift growing garden and orchard round about can read of Janet's successful venture without a twinge of envy. As for romance, it is suggested by this sentence in the very first letter. "My neighbor on the left, as I look south, is a Captain Fenton, a returned soldier away now recruiting. On the right is Peter Gordon that MacGregor mentioned. Both are bachelors." The writer has a sense of humor, and the book throughout is quite delightful. It will have a wide circle of readers.

Readers of the "Anne" books who sighed with regret when the impulsive, lovable Anne Shirley herself grew up, will be delighted to know that in *Rainbow Valley*, L. M. Montgomery's latest book (McClelland & Stewart, 341 pages, price \$1.60), something of the adorable red-haired heroine of the former books comes out in each one of the six young Blyths, Anne's sons and daughters. But the story does not deal entirely with Anne Blyth, or "Mrs. Dr. Dear," as the faithful old Susan insists upon calling the mistress of Ingleside. Into the old manse at Glen St. Mary has come a new minister and his motherless family of four, and it is of these enterprising but very much neglected children, as well as of the doctor's boys and girls and their doings, that the story deals. Into the midst of the somewhat untidy and neglected manse family comes Mary Vance, the orphan who has run away from the hard mistress who has so oppressed and abused her, and one does not wonder that the heart of Mrs. Blyth, the orphaned Anne Shirley of other days, goes out to this little waif whose lot is so like, and yet in many ways so very unlike, her own. Before the delightful story ends a stepmother has

been established at the manse and with the coming of Rosemary West as the new mistress one feels sure that happier and better days are in store not only for the Rev. John Meredith himself, but for the four children who have been trying so hard to "bring themselves up."

When the orphaned Joan Wisdom, the heroine of *Joan at Half-Way*, by Grace McLeod Rogers (McClelland & Stewart, 414 pages, price \$1.50) came from the "School" she stepped right into the midst of a family feud in the Scotch-Canadian settlement by the sea. Joan was too much of a Wisdom herself, both in looks and in manner, to allow the rigid, unjust disciplinarian, the crippled master of Half-way, to stand in the way of her learning all there was to know about the family and its history. Unconsciously she adopted her uncle's creed, "Do what you set out to do," and did a great many things of which he not only disapproved but had emphatically forbidden, but Wisdom-like she lost no time in notifying him of what she had done, and the things for which he longed most to punish her were the very things for which he most admired her.

The story of how this Joan, the third of her name to live at old Halfway, lifted the hereditary curse of the thirst that had been placed on the family by the old Gypsy, is cleverly woven in; and it is Joan who at last finds the old will which gives to her and to the little friendless Lisbeth, the home and the lands in which the proud Garret Wisdom had so long gloried in as his own.

Suffering, Punishment and Atonement, by Ernest Johnson, M.A. (The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, 213 pages, \$1.65) is what the author calls an "essay in constructive interpretation of experience." These three facts of human life—suffering, punishment and atonement—are approached, not from the standpoint of theology, but from that of common, human experience. Born of the War, the book deals with the problem of suffering in the physical, mental and moral life; the necessity and universality of discipline; the necessity for and the essence of atonement; and deals finally with the sufferings and death of Christ and his attitude in the matter of forgiveness and punishment. Such a book at this very time when men's thoughts are trying