

Books of the Month.

CANADIAN editions are being issued by The Copp, Clark Co. of three modern romances by three of the best-known writers of the time. These three books are: "The Velvet Glove," by Seton Merriman, a Spanish story of recent years embodying some attack on the Jesuits, and incidentally the escape of a young girl (who was about to become a nun) from the convent to her husband's castle. "The Firebrand," by Crockett, is also a story of Spain about 50 years ago, and its purpose is to relate the adventures of a young Scotchman, who goes about very much like a mediæval knight and has all sorts of adventures, serious and humorous. The third of these romances is "Count Hannibal," by Stanley J. Weyman, a tale of the massacre of the Protestants in France in 1572. The Copp, Clark Co. have also issued an edition in paper of "God Wills It," by W. S. Davis. This famous romance of the Crusades has not been surpassed in recent years as a thrilling, captivating picture of those early times. The same firm have already published Frank Stockton's new novel, "Kate Bonnet." The reception of this book by the critics is favorable, although some of them do not seem to have fully grasped its cleverly-humorous character. One critic complains that the author makes an artistic mistake by killing off the genial pirate when the tale is really a burlesque and not serious. But the fact is that the hero of this book is founded upon the career of a real Captain Bonnet, who was executed for his exploits.

Alice Caldwell Hegan has scored a decided success in her first story, "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." The reviewers all have strongly appreciative words for it, and the public—who after all are the critics whose judgment the author and publisher value the most—have taken the book to their hearts. The Canadian edition is having a rapid sale, and will sell more rapidly as the book becomes better known.

Messrs. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York, have recently published "The Silent Pioneer," by Lucy Cleaver McElroy, a story of Kentucky after the revolutionary period. The central figure in the story is Daniel Boone, whose homely but witty sayings give a brightness to the book

throughout. The adventures with the Indians, the trials and struggles of the pioneers and their families in making new homes for themselves in the great wilderness are faithfully portrayed, reminding the reader in places of Cooper's "Leather-Stocking Tales." The book is handsomely illustrated by W. E. Mears, who is well known for his ability in depicting scenes in this period of American history. Cloth-bound, \$1.50.

"Audrey" is favorably spoken of in every quarter. In the April Bookman, the "Eastern Letter" says: "Audrey," by



"Audrey,"
the heroine of Miss Johnston's new novel

Mary Johnston, was the sensation of the book trade. * * * Far outsold all other titles, both recent and of established reputation." The "Western Letter," dated Chicago, says: "It is almost unnecessary to say that the feature of the month in new books was Miss Johnston's 'Audrey,' the advance sale of which compared very favorably with that of any book published during recent years. * * * 'Ulysses,' Stephen Phillip's new drama, attracted more than ordinary interest among books of a somewhat heavier character, and the same can be said of Kidd's 'Principles of Western Civilization.'" The Canadian editions of these books are from Morang & Co.

Bernard McEvoy's entertaining volume of travel, "From the Great Lakes to the Wide West," which was unexpectedly delayed in the issue, has now been placed on the market. It is a strikingly handsome volume—one of the best specimens of the book-making art yet produced in Canada. The illustrations give very pretty glimpses of scenery en-route, but after all the best feature of the book is the sprightly, entertaining style of the author. It is a volume that should have a large sale in Great Britain, and in the United States as well. It is a fine appreciation of Canada from the pen of an experienced journalist.

A reviewer in The Western Christian Advocate writes thus of "The Riddle of Life," the new story by J. Wesley Johnston, a writer who has already commanded some attention as the author of "Dwellers in Gotham" and "Philip Yoakley." "There are no improbabilities in 'The Riddle of Life.' Nothing happens in the story but what might happen to anyone in the world of finance, commercial enterprise, and society, and the land of love. The reader feels 'at home' in most of the situations, and this familiarity, instead of being irksome, in its commonplaceness is most enjoyable. One is sorry when he reaches the end. He has been travelling and talking and thinking and planning with people he knows, and feels loath to part with them. That is the only regret. It is a story of ordinary people, but it is not an ordinary story. It is a narrative of not unusual events, told with unusual simplicity of style. It is surprisingly free from anything 'hackneyed' or 'frothy,' and the 'seeker after blood' will be disappointed in it. But he who can appreciate a flash of good humor, and who would regale himself with a few hours of delightful literary recreation, and at the same time get a little nearer to human life and obtain a better understanding of human nature, let him sit down and read and revel in 'The Riddle of Life,' by J. Wesley Johnston."

One of the most useful and carefully done text books for our schools is "Guide to Nature-Study," by Miss M. R. Crawford, who has been assisted by several other well-known teachers, including Messrs. Scott, of the Toronto Normal School, Dearness, of the London Normal School, and W. H. Elliott, also of Toronto. The book is intended to be for the help of teachers, and is evidently the result, not alone of a thorough study of natural science, but is likewise the product of able teaching experience. The whole range of knowledge comprised in botany, zoology, the study of