

THE BOOK PAGE

If you turn to the illustration opposite page 32 of Charles G. D. Roberts' latest nature book, **The House in the Water**, (L. C. Page and Company, Boston, 301 pages, \$1.50), you will be apt to ask, What is it? The broad-cheeked, tiny-eared animal, half in the water, may seem at first totally unknown. It is a full-face portrait of the beaver, with whose pictured profile we are so familiar, and is only one of the 30 whole page drawings by Charles Livingston Bull, which illustrate the book. Both artist and author have made first hand and minute studies of this very interesting and hard-working animal. The Boy, nature lover, and clever woodsman, comes on a beaver dam, and, as reward for much patient and wise and quiet waiting, sees the beavers at work, felling trees, building their dam, and very cleverly mending a bad break in it so that the broken place became the strongest part of the wall. There is human interest in the story, too: the conversion of Jake the veteran trapper to enthusiasm in nature study; the encounter with the poachers; the naming and protection of the pond, are all good points. The second half of the book is made up of stories of moose, of bears and blueberries, of a dog and other animals, all described in Roberts' delightful way.

Jerusalem: The Topography, Economics and History, from the Earliest Times to A.D. 70, by Professor George Adam Smith, D.D., L.L.D., in 2 vols., 498 and 631 pages, \$6.00 Hodder and Stoughton, London, U.C. Tract Society, Toronto. The title of this book gives little idea of its enormous wealth and range

of interest. Like the author's, *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*, this volume is remarkable for its brilliance in the treatment of geography and topography, its illuminating and comprehensive view of history, and its insight into the essential meaning and message of Israel. The first part of the work, which deals with the intricate problems of Jerusalem's topography, is followed by a fresh and exhaustive discussion of the to most readers more attractive economic problems—of how, for example, situated as she was, Jerusalem continued to provide not only for a large non-productive population such as the priests and the court, but for the great crowds of pilgrims that flocked to her three times a year;—the problems also that gather round her trade and commerce, crafts and industries, taxation and government. The second volume, which will probably be of most use to the preacher, is occupied with the political and religious history of Jerusalem. It is perhaps not too much to say that no living man could have come to his task with a richer equipment than Professor Smith. He has been several times in the East. He is an expert in every department of Old Testament criticism, as the second volume, to say nothing of his previous work, abundantly shows. He has a fine historical imagination. He is in the profoundest sympathy with the prophetic spirit, and is recognized as one of the greatest exponents of Hebrew prophecy. But, besides all this, he has the heart of a poet and a singularly rich and beautiful style. In these volumes all these experiences, gifts and qualities come into full play. Their prodigious learning is borne lightly, and constantly

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