

LONDON NOTES FROM "THE BOOKBUYER."—Of a totally different class from those that flood the circulating libraries, is "Barbara Philpot," by the Honourable Lewis Wingfield. This has been kept back since November last, and now it is out we find it has been well worth waiting for. Readers need not be dismayed when they hear it is an historical novel. Mr. Wingfield has the rare talent of carrying his readers into the period of which he writes, and imbuing his audience with the actual spirit of the time. The action of the story takes place during the first ten years of the reign of George the Second. Many incidents in the careers of two notable actresses of the time—George Anne Bellamy and Sophia Baddeley—have been embodied in the adventures of the heroine, Barbara Philpot. Many well-known characters who flourished between 1727 and 1737, from Sir Robert Walpole to Glory Kilburne, the Clink scavenger, have been drawn with a graphic touch. The story is a strong one, admirably developed, especially powerful in the third volume; and all the accessories giving the true local colour of the time have been introduced with admirable effect. The work ought to be a great success, for Mr. Wingfield is one of the very few, since Thackeray wrote "Esmond," who can make his historical novel not only palatable, but popular in the present day.

This novel is dedicated, by the way, to Sir Henry Thompson, "surgeon, painter, author, amphitryon, and good fellow." It may be well, therefore, to mention in this connection that Sir Henry is about to publish a story entitled "All But: a Chronicle of Luxenford Life." It will be illustrated by himself. Those who remember his capital tale of "Charley Kingston's Aunt," which he published under the nom de plume of Pen Oliver, may look forward to being thoroughly amused. The hospital and many of the characters in the last named book are well known to many who are acquainted with the University College Hospital in Gower Street, where Sir Henry spent some years of the beginning of his career.

The first volume of "The Literature of Egypt and the Soudan" shows the importance of the work which has been well accomplished by Prince Ibrahim-Hilmy. It treats the subject from the earliest times down to the year 1882, inclusive. It is a bibliography, comprising printed books, periodical writings, and papers of learned societies, maps, ancient papyri, manuscripts, and drawings. The matter has been exhaustively treated, and will be complete in a couple of volumes, the second being published at an early date. The Burmese question is occupying so much attention just now that anything bearing upon the subject can scarcely fail to be acceptable. Among such publications may be especially noted "A History of Burmah," by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Phayre. This includes Burmah Proper, Pegu, Taungu, Tenasserin, and Arakan, and extends from the earliest times to the end of the first war with British-India. Another volume bearing upon this is "A Description of the Burmese Empire," by Father Sangergomo, translated by William Tandy. This is compiled chiefly from native documents. The original author went to Burma in 1783, and remained there for fifteen years.

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