

that he wrote are now contained in the Brown song book. Later he commenced to write on a larger scale, supplying novels and boys' stories for Harper & Bros., D. Appleton & Co., Lee & Shepard, and other leading publishers.

He proved himself an admirable boys' story writer. The "B. O. W. C." and "Young Dodge Club" series are very entertaining tales of school life at Grand Pre Academy, (in reality Horton Academy), where he spent his school days. The stories are founded on facts connected with his own and his associates' adventures there. They tell of treasure digging expeditions to Grand Pre, fights with the Gaspereangians, camping out on "the hill," sailing expeditions about Minas Basin and the Bay of Fundy, mineral hunting on the face of Blomidon, castaway adventures on Isle Haute, the perils of being "lost in the fog" off Quaco, and various adventures at Spencer's Island, Five Islands, Scott's Bay and other places about these shores. Much of this sort of thing gathers around the life of the Acadia student even yet. The custom still prevails of taking annual excursions by sail or steam about the neighboring basin and bay shores.

His novels were very representative American productions. They were extravaganzas of the most pronounced type and could not help but be popular. Several of them appeared in Harper's Magazine before being published in book form. They are highly dramatic, and for the purpose of criticism they may be divided into two divisions, melo-drama and comedy. Of the melo-dramatic, "Cord and Crease" is representative. In this he is too sensational and his work is too rapid and careless, though there are instances of fine writing. With relief, however, the reader turns from them to his comedy fiction.

Here he is without question superb. He is possessed of a daring of invention, an inimitable power in the portrayal of grotesque character, a marvellous fecundity in the creation of the most startling and fantastic denouements, and an

utter abandon which relieves him of any charge of unnaturalness. This is not life, it may be said; such characters never existed, such events never occurred; but then DeMille is not portraying life, he is telling a story and as a story teller, as a man who can relate the most astonishing thing in the most natural manner he has few equals.

The great fault with DeMille lay in the fact that he was too rapid in his execution. He dashed off everything at lightning speed and never thought of revision. His work was the rare product of a very fruitful natural genius, he did not resort at all to refining processes. One of his novels shows, however, what he could do. It was published after his death and anonymously, but it is certain that it was DeMille's. It is entitled "A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder." Unlike his other work it is a novel with a purpose, it has a sociological bearing. It describes a people, called the Kosekin, the inhabitants of the region about the South Pole, who live in conditions exactly opposed to our own. He satirizes the race for wealth and fame, the eager desire for life by portraying a people whose greatest ends are poverty, darkness and death, and whose chief object of ambition is the sacrificial bier. The book abounds in lurid, powerful description of this enchanted land, with its six months of night and six months of day, and with its strange people and hideous customs.

In addition to his novels Prof. DeMille prepared an excellent Rhetoric which was published by Harper & Bros a year or two before his death. He was also a writer of prose, and he left behind him some very fine fragments. Prof McMechan, his biographer, considers that one of these, entitled "Behind the Veil," has qualities which should make it an enduring piece of literature, very different from his rather mediocre and ephemeral novels.

Prof. DeMille was a very differently constituted man from Author DeMille. In the class-room he was thorough and