

THE BOOK PAGE

Two new missionary books of great value come to us from the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. One is: **Rising Churches in Non-Christian Lands**, by Arthur Judson Brown (Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada, New York, 236 pages, 60c.). Dr. Brown's book consists of lectures delivered at several colleges, and is intended for use in mission study classes. It depicts the typical peoples in non-Christian lands,—refusing to describe intelligent Asiatics by the opprobrious term "heathen;" describes the methods employed in the founding of churches in these newer fields of gospel enterprise; sets forth the temptations and difficulties of the Christian convert; discusses the character of the converts and the resultant character of the church; estimates the present strength and influence of the church in foreign mission lands; and takes up various questions relating to self-support and self-propagation, of social service and self-government and of the relation to missions and western churches. Dr. Brown's book is packed with interesting and up-to-date information, presented in the rarely clear and attractive style of which the author is so completely master. The other volume is of a very different character, but not of less importance. It is **John Williams, The Shipbuilder**, by Basil Mathews (Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, London, 298 pages, with a score and a half of illustrations, 60c.), the third of the Pathfinder Series, in which Livingstone the Pathfinder and Greatheart of Papua (James Chalmers) have already appeared. This book, like its predecessor, is a missionary book for boys and girls, and is admirably adapted to its purpose. The young folk, with their love of adventure, will simply devour the thrilling story so well told in Mr. Mathews' pages, and will, as they read, develop an interest in missions that will last their lifetime.

A Vagabond in the Caucasus: With Some Notes of His Experiences Among the Russians (311 pages, \$1.50) was the first book of Mr. Stephen Graham, whose more recent volumes have done so much to interpret Russia to Britishers. Of the earlier volume, now reprinted, its author says: "It is full of promises and hopes, for Russia, for myself. When I wrote these pages, I was under the spell of a first affection and admiration." And certainly there is a rare freshness and charm in the "vagabond's" account of his first experiences and impressions of life amongst the people, whom he has since come to know as other men know their own kith and kin. A new interest in the Russian people is cherished by all true Britishers since they have become our true and able allies in a world conflict, and any book which helps us to know them more intimately and sympathetically is sure of a warm welcome, and all the more so when it is by so delightful a writer as Mr. Graham. The publishers are, in London and New York, John Lane, and in Toronto, S. B. Gundy. Two other books from the same English and Canadian publishers are **Ventures in Thought**, by Francis Coultas (248 pages, \$1.25), a collection of some fifty or so brief essays on all sorts of subjects, and very readable essays they are for picking up at odd moments; and **Kitchener's Chaps**, by A. Neil Lyons (220 pages, 35c.),

a series of humorous sketches, full of good-natured fun at the expense of the raw recruits who have been transformed into smart and capable soldiers.

The House of the Misty Star (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, 270 pages, \$1.25 net) stood in a beautiful garden on a Japanese hilltop overlooking the port of a great city. In it for 30 years lived Miss Ursula Priscilla Jenkins, missionary and lover of humanity, and to the house through all the years came the flotsam and jetsam of the world for shelter, for food and for comfort, all of which the generous heart of Miss Ursula provided. Then came adventure and romance in the shape of a beautiful girl born of an American father and a Japanese mother from one of Japan's oldest and most conservative families. There came also a young American man, with a strange shadow over his past life, and an odd little missionary lady with a heart of gold. Frances Little, as the Lady of the Decoration and her other books testify, knows and loves Japan. She also knows the depths of the human heart, and has, besides, the gift of gentle humor.

A young man, fresh from Oxford University, comes to London to enter "The Literary Profession." His fortunes, which seemingly are misfortunes, are described in **Merry-Andrew**, by Keble Howard (John Lane Co., New York, S. B. Gundy, Toronto, 341 pages, \$1.35 net). Mr. Howard, who has written a number of books, the best known of which is, perhaps, *Lord London*, has been through the mill himself, and utilizes some of his own early literary adventures in the story. Merry-Andrew comes up to London and is defrauded by his landlady, victimized by literary sharpers, later on made miserable by a smooth country schoolmaster, but finally really breaks into the writing game and publishes his first book—a big success. Merry-Andrew is very much like a Dickens story with the difference that the time is to-day. It is full of queer and unusual, but very human, characters, and has plenty of fun in it.

The Report of the Committee on Alleged German Outrages, Appointed by His Majesty's Government and Presided over by the Right Hon. Viscount Bryce, O.M., etc., etc., has been published in a pamphlet of 48 pages (S. B. Gundy, Toronto, 5c.). This report should be read by every British citizen. Charges of almost unimaginable brutality towards the people, men, women and children of Belgium, on the part of their inhuman German foe have been proved to the hilt, and the determination of Britain and her allies to persevere in the present conflict until the authority that permitted, if it did not countenance, such horrors, is completely crushed, has been fully justified.

The hearts of Canadians everywhere have been stirred and thrilled by the heroism of our soldiers at the front. The story of their daring deeds will form one of the most intensely interesting chapters in the annals of the Dominion. The future historian will be grateful for the preservation of narratives from those who have actually taken part in the titanic conflict for justice and freedom. A large number of such narratives have been gathered together by Mr. A. B. Tucker and published by Cassel & Co., Toronto under the title of the **Battle Glory of Canada**: Being the Story of the Canadians at the Front, Including the Battle of Ypres (168 pages, 30c.)