

by water than there is at present. The Rideau Canal was built later as a military work of urgent necessity, to give water communication between Montreal and Kingston by a safer route than the St. Lawrence in the event of another war with the United States. For want of such a route, when the enemy got control of the lake in 1812, Kingston was practically isolated.

Tales of the naval encounters on the lakes are especially confusing. To illustrate the difficulty of getting facts from the conflicting stories, we may take the story of the chase of the "Simcoe," an incident of the attack upon Kingston. Roberts, in his "History of Canada," without citing his authority, states that she was totally unarmed, the only weapon on board being a solitary musket. According to his account, she was bound for Kingston; where, as she approached the harbour, she sailed into the enemy's fleet, never dreaming that a hostile sail would be found so near her destination. Refusing to surrender, she kept on her way, taking the broadside of every ship as she passed. Sails and bulwarks were riddled with shot; and at last, just outside the port, she sank with a shot-hole below her water line; her crew, still defiant, being rescued by boats from the shore. A pretty story when told at greater length and with more or less convincing detail; but Roosevelt, in his "Naval War of 1812," mentions the "Simcoe" as an armed vessel carrying eight guns, and merely says that she was chased, but unsuccessfully; which would seem to imply that she escaped unharmed. One of the five armed vessels of the British squadron was called the "Simcoe." It is not incredible that there was also a trading vessel of that name. Assuming such to be the case, we are left to wonder whether they were both engaged in the affair or whether we have here two marvellously different stories of the same occurrence.

A new and revised edition has been published of Hay's History of Canada. The new book is a great improvement on the former, is in larger type, a change that will make it a much more desirable text for pupils. A few changes have been made by which the longer paragraphs are broken up into shorter ones, and the events are brought down to the beginning of the present year. While the text-book has been enlarged and improved, the publishers announce that the price has not been increased.

Courses of Study.—III.

ELEANOR ROBINSON.

I have had several requests for specimen copies of N. H. R. U. magazines and leaflets. It was a case of "First come, first served," and the response to an application received yesterday exhausts my supply of leaflets. I have still two or three odd magazines that I shall be glad to give away, and a polite note addressed to the General Secretary, Miss A. M. Read, 12 York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W. C., England, will bring directions how to join the Union and receive the book lists for this year.

The subjects for the session October, 1912, to May, 1913, are as follows:

GENERAL COURSE. Fee, 2s 6d.

1. The Open Air: Every Day Botany.
2. The Bible as Literature: Jeremiah.
3. Charities and their Administration.
4. The Child at Home.
5. Dante (for beginners).
6. Some Short Biographies.
7. Founders of the Empire: Australia.
8. Words and Their History.
9. General Literature.

SPECIAL COURSES. Fee, 4s.

1. History of Ireland.
 2. Early Italian Art.
 3. Social Life in Modern Italy.
 4. Wordsworth and Coleridge.
 5. India.
 6. Great Musicians.
 7. Modern French Literature.
- Also two Supplementary Courses, gratis.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECTION. Fee, 1s. 6d.

1. English History.
2. Nature Study.
3. General Literature (Fiction, Poetry, Biography and Travel).

The Introductory Course includes Nos. 1, 3, 6 and 7 of the General Course. The fee is one shilling.

It is entirely open to members to read as many or as few subjects as they may desire, in whatever section they join.

The membership fees entitle you to the Book Lists and magazines (post free) of the respective sections. Members are received at any time in the reading session.

If I did not know, from different experiences, that English money is sometimes a real stumbling block