

LITERARY NOTES

MORAL AND SOCIAL DUTIES.

W. T. HAMBROOK is the name of a new Canadian author, with a religious turn of mind. "How Are You Living?" is the title of a practical, sensible and readable volume discussing the social and religious relations of the average young man, the "son." The chapter on "The Son's Duty to the State or Country" indicates that the author is not narrow in his conception of the place of man in the cosmos. Nor is the discussion confined entirely to the son, for there are suggestions and terse pieces of advice for father, mother and daughter, as well as wife and husband. If the fact has a fault, it is discursiveness; yet there is so much that is excellent in style and treatment, so much that indicates close thought and broad reading, that one hesitates to write other than praise for this "first" volume.

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MR. YOUNG'S NEW VOLUME.

MR. EGERTON R. YOUNG has made the most of his experiences in the North, as far as turning them into literature is concerned. Over and over, he turns this little experience and that, until the reader wonders if one man could really have lived through so many little incidents and remembered them all. There are no large incidents; they are all wonderfully small. His latest volume is entitled "The Battle of the Bears," and from this one would judge that here is a volume to rival the works of Seton, Roberts, Fraser and Long. Any one who gets that idea will be greatly disappointed. "The Battle of the Bears" is only the title of one of twenty-three chapters, each dealing with a minor experience in the missionary's life. There should have been a modifying phrase—"and other incidents," and because of its absence both the publisher and the author are deceiving the public.

Any one who is interested in missionary life in Northern Canada where potatoes and animals are practically the only "fruit of the earth" and where civilisation is only now working its way forward, will find the volume fairly entertaining. The author's long life in the West entitles him to speak with authority as to the manner of life characteristic of the Red Man.

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CHEERFUL TALES.

SEVERAL Christmas volumes receive rather belated notice but they are books good to read at any time or season. Among these is "The Little City of Hope," by that writer of many novels, F. Marion Crawford, who has succeeded in telling an old-fashioned story in modern, epigrammatic style. The book is daintily and appropriately illustrated and is published in Canada by the Macmillan Company.

"The Ozma of Oz" is a wonderful book for small persons by L. Frank Baum, whose Land of Oz is a realm of never-failing delights. This latest story is as fresh and attractive as the original tale of the Wizard. Toronto: Copp, Clark Company.

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THE LYRIC OF PRAIRIE LAND.

THE anniversary of Whittier's birthday, celebrated last month, has recalled that tender song by the Quaker poet, "The Red River Voyageur," which, according to a writer in the "Manitoba Free Press," is responsible for "the regard in which Whittier is held by the people of Manitoba, particularly, and by the people of the whole West and even of the Dominion, in a general way."

Certainly it is highly appropriate that on the centennial anniversary of Whittier's birth, the school-children of Manitoba should recall the poem which so picturesquely describes the music of the bells of St. Boniface.

"The voyageur smiles as he listens
To the sound that grows apace;
Well he knows the vesper ringing
Of the bells of St. Boniface.

"The bells of the Roman mission
That call from their turrets twain
To the boatman on the river,
To the hunter on the plain."

It was curious that Whittier should have seen so clearly in mental vision the "gusty leagues of plain" and "belts of dusky pineland," but his verses on the lonely scene and the echoing bell-music will form an historic link between the gentle New England poet and the West so rapidly growing beyond recognition.

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THOSE YUKON SONGS.

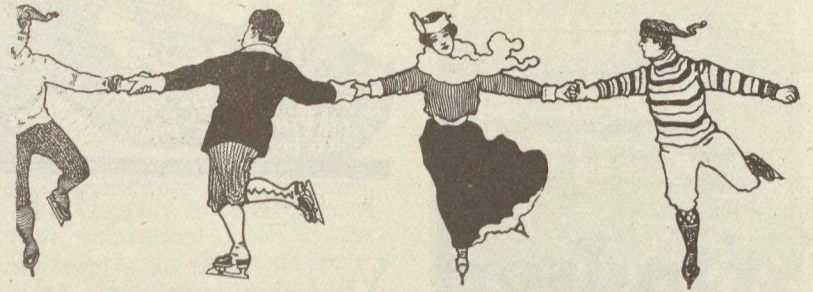
IT is rather remarkable that one of the best selling books this autumn is a volume of Canadian verse. But this is the fact. William Briggs made a fortunate find, not only for himself as publisher, but for the public, when he discovered the Poet of the Yukon in the young bank-teller, Robert W. Service, of White Horse. Already the book has run to the eighth edition—the last two of 2,000 copies each. The publisher is to be congratulated on the style and appearance of the illustrated Holiday Edition of "Songs of a Sourdough." In every respect it is worthy of comparison with the issues of the best publishing houses of the older countries. It has been a popular giftbook this Christmas.

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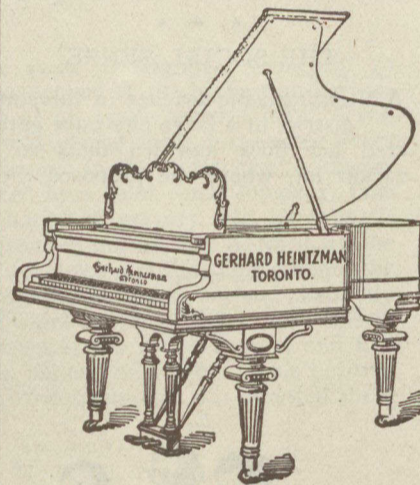
ANY literary club with a programme is invited to write Mr. W. F. Hatheway, St. John, N.B., corresponding secretary of the Fortnightly Literary Club, who is anxious to exchange programmes. The Fortnightly is one of the most enterprising institutions of its kind and has had a successful ten-years' existence.

A side-light on Salvation Army life in Canada may be found in "Just One Blue Bonnet," an illustrated volume recently issued by Wm. Briggs, Toronto. The contents are mainly extracts from the diary of the late Ada Florence Kinton, and there is an introduction by Miss Agnes Maule Machar.

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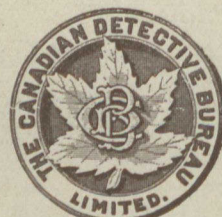
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