

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction Gledstone

THE SPAN OF LIFE. A TALE OF LOUISBURG AND QUEBEC.—By Wm. McLennan and Miss J. N. McLlwraith. Cloth, \$1 50. paper, 75c. The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto. In this Canadian historical romance the authors have shown unity of style, skill in description and vigor of thought. It is a long story of great dramatic interest and power, the culminating event being the taking of Quebec in 1759. The fortunes of the principal characters in the story centre round this event, and the authors have worked up their denouement with much artistic felicity and strength. Hugh Maxwell, a proscribed Jacobite, enlists in the French army and goes to Louisburg, in order to separate himself from Margaret Nairn, the ward of his aunt. After falling in love with Margaret, his wife, whom he had believed dead, reappears, and honor obliges him to leave Margaret. His wife declines to live with him, and he begins his career anew in New France. Years elapse, and Margaret comes to seek him, being ignorant that her own female attendant, Lucy Routh, is Maxwell's wife. After the taking of Louisburg by the English, Maxwell escapes to Quebec and serves under Montcalm in the army of defence. The Battle of the Plains of Abraham and the other great scenes of that historical episode are stirringly related, all the personages in the story being brought together and made to play leading parts. Types of the French, English and Canadians are depicted, and the book is full of adventurous life. The literary duumvirate have worked well together, and throughout the season we may expect a large sale for this charming historical novel. The illustrations are very attractive.

HOMME FRENCH-CANADIAN STORIES AND SKETCHES.—By Henry Cecil Walsh. With 12 illustrations by Mr. Brymner. Paper, 75c. Wm. Bugge, Toronto. Mr. Walsh has made a study of the French-Canadians, and evidently knows their characteristics and manner of living well. The literary faculty in him is also well developed, and his stories are carefully done. They deal with many different phases of life in Quebec—grave and gay, domestic and clerical, episodes and tragedies. The stories are not in dialect.

BESIDE THE BONNY BRIAR BUSH.—By Ian Maclaren. Cloth, gilt, 304 pp., 6s. Hodder & Stoughton, 27 Paternoster Row,

London, Eng. This fine edition of a famous book is one to delight the heart of an appreciative reader. The type, paper and illustrations have been selected with a view to make up an edition that will meet the most exacting taste for gift purposes. The illustrations are from etchings by Mr. Hole, R.S.A., and are perfect representations of the quaint Scotch folk sketched by the author in the text. The edition is in every respect admirable.

SPANISH DICTIONARY.—Compiled by Dr. Gomez. Russian leather, full gilt, pocket size, 382 pp., \$1. Laird & Lee, 265 Wabash avenue, Chicago. There is a demand at present for a Spanish dictionary, and this edition meets it. It contains 40,000 words and 60,000 meanings. The pronunciations in the two languages are systematically explained, and exemplified in the Lord's Prayer and other reading matter as exercises. The accent of English words is marked throughout. Besides other matter generally found in dictionaries, as irregular verbs, abbreviations and proper nouns, there is, also, a complete geography of Spanish-speaking countries, with especially engraved colored maps, biographical notes, 25 pages of everyday conversation and correspondence, both commercial and social; money, weights and measures, etc., all in both languages.

MODERN PLAYS.—"Alladine and Palomides," "Interior," and "The Death of Tintagiles," three little dramas for manonettes, by Maurice Masterlinck. Cloth, 3s. 6d. net. Duckworth & Co., 3 Henrietta street, London, W.C. Another volume in the "Modern Plays" series which this publishing firm has begun to issue, a series that should meet with wide acceptance. The editor says: "Three little dramas for manonettes, the legend runs on the title page, nor is this a mere fanciful description of their nature . . . the author does but give expression to his feeling that the naivete of treatment, the simplicity of character, render them somewhat ill-adapted for performance on the regular stage." They might be defined as little tragedies, with a mystical element in all, and containing passages of the purest poetry.

THROUGH PERIL, TOIL AND PAIN.—By Lucy Taylor. Cloth, illus., 381 pp., 4s. Thos. Nelson & Sons, Parkside, Edinburgh, Scotland. This is a tale of England in the

days of the little Protestant King Edward VI. when the strife between religious factions filled the land. Cuthbert Tregelles, a lad of spirit, the son of a rich London merchant, clings, like his mother, to the old religion, although his father and sisters conform to the new faith as prescribed by royal authority. His sister Kathleen is betrothed to a Protestant knight from Wales. But he changes with the change of rule when Queen Mary ascends the throne, and the engagement is broken off. She becomes attached to her cousin Christopher instead, but the persecutions of the period break up the family. The parents die and the daughters are in prison, when the death of the Queen removes all danger. The tale is a careful and vivid reproduction of those troublesome times, and is well adapted for Sunday-school libraries.

THE SCIENCE OF LIFE.—By J. Arthur Thomson, M.A.; cloth, 246 pp., 2s. 6d. Victorian Era Series, Blackie & Son, London; The Copp Clark Co., Limited, Toronto. A summary of the discoveries and advancements in the science of biology during the Queen's reign is what this little book purports to be. No feature of scientific discovery during the past 60 years is more interesting than that of the origin and development of new life in plants and animals. Certain definite facts have replaced the vagueness of knowledge which previously prevailed. Prof. Thomson is exact in his scientific data and expressions, but is not too technical. The average reader will understand the line of argument, and will find in the book an enormous amount of compressed information, in fact, a whole library condensed into one volume.

AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY.—By Theo. S. Woolsey, M.A. Cloth, 294 pp., \$1.25. The Century Co., New York. This book is useful at the present time. It contains a series of essays and addresses by the Professor of International Law in Yale, on such subjects as the war between Spain and the United States, the Nicaragua Canal, the Behring Sea Award, the Atlantic Fishery Question, the Monroe Doctrine, etc. On these and other questions, in many of which Canada has a real and direct interest, Prof. Woolsey presents not merely the higher legal and diplomatic view, but what is probably also the view of the educated classes in the United States. It will be found that the author often takes a strong stand regarding what may be called the claims, privileges and policy of the United States. There is a disposition in Canada to suppose that a "forward" policy emanates rather from a set of demagogic politicians than serious-minded, thinking men.