

THE BOOK PAGE

Among **Famous Books** (Hodder & Stoughton, London, U.C. Tract Society, Toronto, 324 pages, \$1.50) is the attractive title of a new volume of lectures by Dr. John Kelman. To study the masterpieces of the world's literature in the company of such a guide is a fascinating prospect. For Dr. Kelman knows how to get at a book's very heart with a rare directness and precision. His selections are made from a wide field, embracing, indeed, the whole range of literature, ancient, medieval and modern. From the old stories of the Greek gods we are carried down to the essays of Mr. G. K. Chesterton and Francis Thompson's, *Hound of Heaven*. The characteristic feature of these lectures is the single theme, for which each furnishes a different setting,—the conflict between sense and soul, or, to use the author's phrase, "between paganism and idealism. . . whose story . . . provides the matter of all vital literature." With penetrating insight, Dr. Kelman finds his central theme expounded and illustrated in books as far apart as the *Diary of "Samuel Pepys, that inveterate tumbler in the masque of life,"* and in the "solemn and tremendous" *Sartor Resartus* of Thomas Carlyle. The pages of this volume actually tingle with suggestion and stimulus, and it will be a dull mind indeed which they do not set aworking in new and fruitful directions.

In the opening words of his volume, **The Preacher His Life and Work**: Yale Lectures (Hodder & Stoughton, London, Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, 245 pages, \$1.25 net), Dr. J. H. Jowett, says: "I have been in the Christian ministry for over twenty years. I love my calling. I have been over some of the roads, and I want to tell you some of the things which I have found." This he proceeds to do in seven lectures, characteristically Jowett-like for their directness, point, discernment and touch with present day conditions; remarkable, in perhaps still greater degree, for that spiritual atmosphere which marks all Dr. Jowett's work. An additional element of power is the use made of scripture. Although not formally so, these lectures are really an *exposition* of what the Word has to say about preaching, and the preacher. There have been several memorable volumes of Yale lectures on preaching; but none keener, wholesomer, timelier or altogether more delightful and instructive than this.

"Reaching and holding boys for the greater glory of God," is Mr. William McCormick's aim, and the aim of the organization which he describes and for which he contends in **The Boy and His Clubs** (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, 96 pages, 50c. net). "Contentment" is the proper word; for the writer has sharp criticism for the "secular" Settlement and sharper still, in some instances hardly fair, for the Y.M.C.A. and the Sunday School and other such agencies. All the same, his book is a "live" one. He has been working at this problem, and has had some success. His hard hits are well intended. The boy he has in mind is not the school boy, much less the High School boy, but the roughish, half educated boy that is in employment, and who, when his eight or ten hours of work are

over, is absolutely his own master. How shall he be kept a decent boy and be trained to be a good citizen and a good Christian? Mr. McCormick's specific is the Mass Club, with a gymnasium and lots of fun as the centre; everything else to be developed out of this. The boy problem will not down. There is no more urgent and difficult one; and those who are wrestling with it will be glad to hear what this writer and experimenter has to say.

"God exists. It's true. God really does exist. And that alters everything." These sentences from **The Day That Changed the World**, by The Man-Who was Warned (Mussan Book Co., Toronto, Hodder & Stoughton, London, 289 pages, \$1.25), furnish a key to the purpose of the book. After setting forth various schemes, revolutionary and philanthropic for the betterment of modern social conditions, it depicts the marvelous transformation which would result if those who believe in God, should live for a day as if their belief were true. Readers of Harold Begbie's *Twice Born Men and Souls in Action* will detect a familiar ring in this volume.

The heroine of **Bobbie, General Manager** (Henry Frowde, Toronto, 354 pages, \$1.25) wins our hearts when she appears, in the first chapter after the one in which she is introduced to us, as the eldest daughter in a motherless family, facing a young housekeeper's perplexities and difficulties connected with an unexpected visit of an elder brother and his bride and winning her way through them by sheer force of pluck and good sense. And the charm lasts right through the story of the various incidents of family history, in which "Bobbie" manifests the same qualities with great advantage to all concerned, to the closing chapters in which, having become Mrs. Lucy Maynard, the wife of a clever doctor, she proves herself the good angel of a younger sister, saving her from a course of folly and wisely helping her on the right way. This is a capital book for girls.

Cassell and Co. send also two volumes, lesser in size, **Evangelicalism, Has It a Future?** By R. C. Gillie (118 pages, 45c.) and **Life's Tangled Thread** by W. Boyd Carpenter, D.D., Canon of Westminster (63 pages, 35c. net), but each of much interest and value. After defining evangelicalism, he proceeds to discuss the explanation of its present failures, the secret of its power, its vindications in life and literature, its unaccepted tasks in adjusting itself to the new needs of the time, and its present perils. True evangelicalism—the giving to Christ crucified the central place in theology and in preaching—is the salt of religious life and the hope of the church. Mr. Gillie is its able expounder and defender. Dr. Carpenter's little book on life's problems is the work of a true pastor of souls. He deals very incisively and tenderly with life's difficulties, the tangles of our own making, the true meaning of life, and finishes with the "silver thread of faith: the peace with God in Christ, the quietness which accepts life as education,— will put into our hands the silver thread, which grasped with confidence, will lead us to the land of righteousness, the home of our Father in heaven.