

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

name of "Lally Bernard," made an extended visit to the various Doukhobor settlements in the Northwest this summer, and describes in graphic and interesting style her observations of this quaint folk, who, driven from Russia by persecution, have sought an asylum in Canada. Mrs. Fitz-Gibbon is strong in her conviction that the Doukhobor settlers are a valuable acquisition to the population of the Northwest. The pamphlet sells at 15c.

In the list of the Gage books W. J. GAGE there are several which are most opportune. Stockton's "The Vizier of the Two-Horned Alexander" turns out to be a story of remarkable interest; quaint, of course, in its conception, that of a man who accidentally drank an elixir of life in the time of Abraham, and who has remained a strong middle-aged man ever since. The air of verisimilitude which Stockton imparts even to his most preposterous inventions was never clearer than in this story of the New Yorker, married to a pretty Quakeress, who confides to her and a friend some of his experiences. The humor, quite decorous, is evident in his narrative of his many marriages—so many that the pretty Quakeress grows quite snappish. He has met and talked with persons of note from Samson (who wooed successfully the girl whom the Vizier had intended to marry) to Napoleon. The numerous illustrations by Reginald Birch are quite attractive, and the book has a unique and pretty cover. For men and women, old or young, the book is just suited for a gift.

Mrs. B. M. Croker's new novel, just out, is probably one of the most delightful and vivacious books of the year. "Terence," the hero, is the last of his impoverished family. He returns to his native village in Ireland, unrecognized and unknown, and becomes a coach-driver. Maureen D'Arcy, a wilful young beauty, and an heiress, who despises rank, conventionality and young men, visits the pretty Irish fishing resort, but conceals her wealth, and thus meets Terence on equal terms. The story does not lack for incident or the humorous vein, with occasional touches of Irish dialect, which make all Mrs. Croker's novels so fresh and interesting. The volume is issued in cloth at \$1, and in paper at 50c.

In "The Crown of Life," Mr. Gissing has, in our opinion, written his strongest book. Its glimpses of Russian life are decidedly impressive. The dialogues are in the author's best vein. Piers Otway, the hero, is a man of force and character, while Irene Derwent, who he ultimately wins after a long probation of doubt, fear, and

despair, is something more than the conventional beauty of society. The tale can safely be commended as clever above the ordinary, and, as a love story without a trace of sickly sentimentality. As a specimen of critical opinion on passing events put into the mouth of Piers, take this:

After all, a wise autocrat might well prohibit newspapers altogether, don't you think? They have done good, I suppose, but they are just as likely to do harm. When the next great war comes, newspapers will be the chief cause of it. And for mere profit, that's the worst.

"The Lunatic at Large" (cloth, \$1; paper, 50c.) has had a great run, especially in Montreal, and may be set down as one of the distinct successes of the season. For daring fun, brilliant repartee, and rapid incident it has no equal among recent novels. The fun is just as easily appreciated by one sex as the other, although it is more of a man's book perhaps. The idea of a young English gentleman, suffering from loss of memory as to his own identity, but sane on other points, possessed of a mischievous humor which courts all sorts of difficulties, works out into a series of mirth-provoking scenes. The "Lunatic's" pranks with the German baron are amusing beyond anything.

For readers of mature judgment and experience the brilliant novel "Houses of Glass," by Dr. Algie, of Alton, makes a suitable gift. As a study of human character drawn from the social life around us, it is especially noteworthy for its careful analysis of female motives and conduct. To men of education and reflection it will commend itself as no slight study of the modern social conditions in the new world.

In The Gage Co.'s list of holiday books for boys and girls mention has already been made of Manville Fenn's "Fix Bayonets," one of this author's dashing adventure tales, such as he contributes to *The Boy's Own*. It is well illustrated. So is O. V. Caine's "In the Year of Waterloo," which has eight full illustrations and introduces all the principal military heroes and statesmen who figured in the culminating period of Napoleon's career. The three girls' tales, two by Mrs. L. T. Meade and one by Mrs. Emma Marshall, all most interesting pictures of English life, are likewise remarkable for wealth of illustration and nice bindings. All retail at \$1, with a good profit to the dealer, and the publisher is to be commended for giving us new books for the young of such merit at so low a price.

The Musson Book Co., Toronto, have just issued several books which will interest the trade as being well adapted for Christmas and holiday sales. One of these new books, which appears in a nice cloth edition at \$1.25 and in paper at 75c., is

entitled "Tales of Space and Time," by H. G. Wells. Mr. Wells is known as the auth. of that famous book "The War of the Worlds," and he has a special talent for working out original ideas in an absorbingly interesting way. The two principal tales in this volume are "A Story of the Stone Age," in which he cleverly revives the primitive life in the early ages of the world, and "A Story of the Days to Come," which is a supposed picture of the future conditions of this world and the social and other aspects to come. The ideas are worked out in a very original way, and Mr. Wells holds the reader's attention from first to last.

Another book, also issued in cloth and paper at the same prices, is a translation of a novel by that brilliant French writer, Guy DeMaupassant. It is entitled "Strong as Death," and is, as we might expect, a love story from first to last, with all the fervor and passion which this writer of the romantic school is accustomed to breathe into his writings. The English reader could not subsist long on writing so romantic as this, but it forms a useful relief from more commonplace books, and will appeal to many readers who take the sublime sentiment seriously.

"Stories of the Wagner Opera" and "Stories of Famous Operas" are also issued by Musson this month. They are by H. A. Guerber, author of "Myths of Greece and Rome." Both of these volumes, uniform in size and binding and similar in conception, remind one at first sight of the "Tales From Shakespeare," by Charles and Mary Lamb. More careful reading, however, discloses the fact that Miss Guerber has not only told the stories themselves in a very delightful way, but has also ingeniously combined with each of them a short account of the manner in which each opera was received on its first night, and some idea of the chance which directed the great musician-composer's attention towards the legends and stories which have been thus immortalized, and which otherwise might have remained as many others, in the depths of obscurity.

"Stories of the Wagner Opera" is concerned entirely with the more important of the great dramatist-musician's operas, notably Rienzi, Tannhauser, Lohengrin and Parsifal. "Stories of Famous Operas," outlines the plots of the most popular operas of the principal French, German and Italian composers. The sketches which these books contain are designed, as the author aptly remarks, to enable the reader either to recall beautiful scenes once beheld upon the stage and to hear again in memory the beautiful melodies with which they are connected, or to give non-operagoers a faint