

MAGAZINES.

Scribner's Magazine has been most successful in the past in securing artistic covers that have been characteristic not only of the season of publication but of the genius of the magazine. They have never been more successful than in the October issue. There is still little to be found in the more popular magazines beyond articles and stories of war ; besides such provision we find in *Scribner's* an excellent instalment of *The Workers*, which, unfortunately, is nearing its conclusion, and an equally pleasing portion of *Red Rock*, a serial of unusual merit.

The Bookman, in its monthly issues, succeeds in commenting upon an extraordinary number of books and events. The September number is no exception to this rule. Prof. Peck himself brings the average up to an astonishing point, and he is assisted by such well-known writers as Beatrice

Harraden, who contributes an article on Mrs. Lynn Linton, Gelett Burgess, Brander Matthews and George Merriam Hyde, besides many other regular contributors. *John Splendid*, a novel by Neil Munro, which is attracting a considerable amount of attention, is at present running in *The Bookman*.

The Ladies' Home Journal publish in their October issue an exceedingly entertaining account of Mark Twain, with a number of illustrations, including portraits of the author's cats. There is also a most interesting article on the life of Richard Wagner, by Houston Stewart Chamberlain, the author of the *Biography of Richard Wagner*. There is an astonishing amount of advice to young women in this issue, and incidentally a good deal to young men. It is hoped both classes will profit by it.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

THE announcement that a change has taken place in the great nebula in the constellation of Andromeda comes from a very reliable source, the Pulkowa observatory, where one of the three or four largest telescopes in the world is erected. If it turns out to be quite true, the importance of the discovery cannot be overestimated. Ever since La Place's time astronomers have asked themselves, is there any nebula in the heavens now that shows any stage of the process outlined by the nebular hypothesis? The objects of this class known to us are mostly very irregular in shape, and among those which are compact and round there is still no appearance of a central condensation. If, then, a single one of the nebulae shows this phenomenon it will be very

substantial evidence that the theory is correct. In some of the photographs of the Andromeda nebula there is the appearance of separation rings, but the centre has always been shown as a great mass of gaseous matter. We will hope that the announcement is correct, and that we have now evidence of the "cooling and condensing" demanded by La Place's famous hypothesis. Andromeda is now in good position for observation in the eastern evening sky, but, of course, small telescopes show the nebula only as a patch of hazy light.

Venus reaches her greatest brilliancy on Oct. 26th, and is then in the crescent phase, about one-quarter of the disc illuminated. The nearness to the earth much more than compensates for the part of the disc obscured as the