

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS.

## SOME SUGGESTIONS.

BY THE EDITOR.

It is too early to give an account of this season's Christmas books, but there is plenty of choice among old favourites. If you want books for very little people you cannot do better than send to Frederick Warne & Company, 12 East 33rd Street, New York, and E. P. Dutton & Company, Boston, for their catalogues of children's books. You can hardly go wrong in ordering from these catalogues, but consider especially the series of Caldecott *Picture Books* (50 cents each), the Kate Greenaway *Mother Goose* (60 cents), and the Beatrix Potter books. Everyone knows *Peter Rabbit* and his fellows, *Jemima Puddleduck*, and the *Flopsy Bunnies* are equally charming. They are 50 cents each. Even more delightful are the stories of *Little Black Mingo* and *Little Black Sambo*, and others published by Nisbet, London, at one shilling and one and sixpence. *A Book of Fairy Tale Bears*, by Clifton Johnson, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. is much beloved.

Children a little older like Mrs. Burnett's *Racketty Packetty House*, *The Cozy Lion* and *The Spring Cleaning*. These are published by The Century Company, New York, at 60 cents, and a cheaper edition, Warne's, I think, is to be had at the Church Book Store, St. John. Dutton publishes a pretty edition of Thackeray's *The Rose and the Ring*, with the author's own illustrations, at 40 cents. At the Church Book Store I saw *Stories for the Seven Year Olds*, with other volumes for the eight and nine year olds, published by Jack, and said to be great favourites. These are 35 and 45 cents.

*Pierrot, a dog of Belgium*, a true story of a dog at the war, is to be had at the same place, (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, \$1.00).

E. G. Nelson & Company, St. John, have a beautiful copy of *The Children's Blue Bird*, published by Briggs (\$2.50); a fascinating fairy story, *The Witches, Kitchen*, by Gerald Young, (Harrap, \$1.50) and a charming *Peter Pan A. B. C. Book* for the babies (Frowde, 90 cents).

Books in any way bearing on the great war should be looked at cautiously. Too many have been rushed together — made to sell, and not to read. But a permanently interesting book for boys is *The British Army Book*, which gives the

story of the organization and equipment of the army, and in the latest edition brings in deeds and lessons of the present war. Uniform with this is *The British Navy Book*, written by an officer in the Royal Marines (Blackie & Son, each \$1.00). *With French at the Front*, by Captain Brereton, is published by the same firm, at the same price. *The V. C., Its Heroes and their Valour* (\$1.50), and *The Boy Scouts Roll of Honor* (\$1.00), are published by Cassell & Company. These, with *The Roll Call of Honor*, a new book of golden deeds, selected by "Q" and published by Nelson, at 6 shillings, and Henry Newbolt's *Book of the Blue Sea*, tales of boys who sailed with Nelson (Longmans'), are suitable for older boys.

These suggestions are for books of entertainment and not of instruction, but it is well to read stories that widen one's horizon, and I can recommend *Cuore*, a story of an Italian schoolboy, by de Amicis, published by Crowell; *Feats on the Fiords*, a tale of Norway, by Harriett Martineau, to be had in the *Everyman* series, and *Boys of other Countries*, by Bayard Taylor.

To come back to animal stories, *The Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Graham, is a charming story which does not pretend to be science, but where the animals are real people (Scribner, \$2.00 and \$1.35). *Greyfriars Bobby* is a pretty story of a real dog and his adventures in Edinburgh (Harpers, \$1.20). Kipling's *Just so Stories* for the younger children, and *The Jungle Books* for older ones must not be passed over; and the older ones who like history may care for *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *Rewards and Fairies*.

Where the interest in soldiers is strong, Mrs. Ewing's lovely stories, *Jackanapes*, and *The Story of a Short Life* will be welcome (S. P. C. K. in cheap edition.)

Mrs. Ewing is one of the writers who ought to be known to all children and lovers of children. After her short stories, my own favourite is *Jan of the Windmill*, suitable for thoughtful girls and boys in their early teens. Mrs. Molesworth and E. Nesbit are other writers whose books one would like to see in our children's hands. Mrs. Molesworth's stories are now to be had in a fifty cent edition, published by MacMillan. *The Cuckoo Clock*, *Two Little Waifs* and *The Tapestry Room* are favourites among others of hers. E. Nesbit's *The Phoenix and the Carpet*, which came out in the *Strand Magazine*, is very delightful, and *The*