

LITERARY WOMEN—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11.

Miss Haight still resides in Montreal, but has not written anything for many years.

A beautifully-illustrated little booklet of Canadian rhymes, from the pen of Mrs. Elizabeth Rollitt Burns, has been on the market for only a few weeks. Some of the verses have been recited in Toronto schools at their closing entertainments. Mrs. Burns writes puzzle-work and poems for Youth's Companion and Saint Nicholas, also articles for The Churchman, Housekeeper and children's magazines.



MISS ANNA T. SADLIER.

A booklet on "Cycling for Old and Young" was brought out not long ago by Miss O'Keefe, an Australian lady now residing in Montreal.

There are several young ladies in the city who have contributed to the better class of magazines articles of considerable merit. Among these

are Miss Saxe and her sister, Miss Mary Saxe, Miss Helen Fairbairn, and Miss Gertrude Cundill, all of whom have given evidence of literary ability. In these days, when of making many books there is no end, and of making periodicals ditto, it requires more than average excellence to find a place in a good magazine as those who have accumulated a small sheaf of rejection slips can testify. A certain well-known journal received, during a single year, more than 2,000 manuscripts, of which not more than one per cent. was retained. Other magazines could tell a similar story, which goes to show that those who are accepted as contributors to their pages have a claim to be considered literary workers.

WOMEN GROOMS IN ENGLAND.

ENGLISH women who ride have lately adopted an innovation in having female grooms—paid grooms. Discussing the change, Mrs. Leach, a well-known New York equestrienne, said:

"I should certainly draw the line at women grooms, nor do I see how one would go about doing such a thing in this country. Any woman who understands horsemanship sufficiently well to accompany a lady when she goes out for her daily canter, usually has a certain amount of education and culture, and she is not going to be placed in the same rank and file as an ordinary groom; a woman who does not possess a certain amount of breeding would not be an agreeable person to accompany one on a ride. There is another very good reason why women grooms will not become popular, because a man is much more useful in case of accident. If a woman needs assistance, a man can, if necessary, dismount instantly and go to her assistance. Then men are popularly supposed, and it is probably a fact, to have greater presence of mind, and not to lose possession of all their wits if a horse cuts up any uncom-

fortable capers. Women do think quickly, to be sure, but often in the presence of danger they are utterly helpless."

Mr. E. C. Von Gillman, a riding teacher at the Central Park Riding Academy, is quoted as saying: "In New York there are women riding teachers who accompany their pupils as instructors, but not in the sense of grooms. Men do not take a groom along as a friend, but as a servant. Women will continue to use them in the same capacity. Should riding academies here attempt to furnish female grooms there are many women who might not care to ride side by side with them and meet them on terms of social equality. Women are not so anxious to talk that they cannot go for a canter without a lady groom with whom they can carry on a conversation."

It seems that instead of following at the regulated distance, like the male attendant, the women grooms ride alongside, thus being more of a companion than a servant, which is supposed to add to the enjoyment of the constitutional. Fashionable English women are said to

view the innovation with favor. They declare that it was lonely to ride with a groom lagging at a respectful distance. "Her usefulness is a secondary consideration" it has been said, and this alone, to some minds, would place a ban upon the female paid groom.



MRS. LEACH.

IN the Christmas number of The Captain, there is a Boer's account of Majuba which throws some new light on the British disaster, and settles once and for all the question whether or not Colley committed suicide when he saw the

terrible result of the tactical blunder he had committed. When the surrender took place, General Smit ordered his men to cease fire, telling them that the battle was over, and that no more blows were to be struck; and then, the narrative proceeds:

"As Smit was advancing to the English commander to receive his sword, I saw a young Boer raise his rifle and take deliberate aim at a distance of about eight yards. Before the act of submission was completed, Sir George Colley fell dead. He had been wounded, I believe, in three places, before the fatal shot was fired, and had lost a deal of blood. Whether his death was a merciful deliverance for him is a matter of opinion, but the fact remains that he was murdered. His assassin was a youth of seventeen. He escaped the immediate punishment of his crime, but he got his

deserts. Little more than two years after he was killed by a K. . . up country."

The narrator of the story gives the British every credit for bravery and good shooting, but says the imbecility of the whole manoeuvre dumbfounded the Boers. "It was not a battle, but pigeon shooting."

The only orthodox man is he who believes what he professes.

MRS. JOS. ATKINSON.
"Tadpole Norton"