

## THE BOOK PAGE

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**A Student in Arms**, by Donald Hankey (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 290 pages, \$1.50), is a very wonderful book, a book that will long outlast the War; one critic goes so far as to say, the only book that has yet appeared that will outlive the War. It is an interpretation of the British soldier to the British people. The writer, himself in the ranks, and from that best of all standpoints rightly to understand the soldier, gives a vivid portrait of the men as they really are—crude, rude, sport loving, reckless, unselfish, heroic, making even "the supreme sacrifice" with a smile upon their faces,—their pals, their officers (when these are the "right sort"), their battalion, and their country, always to be thought of before themselves. War is a great revealer to men of their own souls. In the chapters, for instance, *The Religion of the Inarticulate*, *Of Some who Were Lost and Afterwards Were Found*, *An Englishman Philosophizes*, *An Englishman Prays*, the author deals with the profound upheavals and readjustments to life and to God which the description and the drudgery and the tragedies of soldiering bring about. Donald Hankey was—for after heroic service, he fell on the Western Front on October 26, 1916—a University man and a brilliant magazine writer. He entered the ranks because his sympathies were with the common man, and he has given such a picture of the common man—and incidentally of the good, and less good officers and officials—as will do much to bring officers and men to understand one another better, both while the War lasts and after it is ended. Every one who wishes really to know the spirit of Britain's army and of the men who make it up cannot well pass by this book.

**Campaign Diary of a French Officer**, by Second Lieutenant Rene Nicolas (Houghton Mifflin Company, New York and Boston, Thomas Allen, Toronto, 164 pages, \$1.25 net). A sentence from the preface to this little volume, by a friend of the author, reads: "If the original were before you, you would not find it, like these printed pages, clean and whole. On it are marks of war-blood-stains and smears of mud, and, from cover to cover, a hole made by a tiny piece of steel." This sentence indicates the character of the book. It contains the record, written on the spot, of what was seen and experienced by an educated young Frenchman during his part in the great War. It is a valuable help towards the fuller comprehension by those at home of the titanic conflict in France and Flanders.

The title of Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone Mackay's newest story, **Up the Hill and Over** (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 363 pages, \$1.35), is taken from the little verse given on the front page of the book:

"The road runs back and the road runs on,  
But the air has a scent of clover,  
And another day brings another dawn,  
When we're up the hill and over."

The hero of the story is a very clever doctor, who, as a mere boy, has made a secret marriage with a very

young girl, who is immediately after the wedding carried away and kept away by a masterful and ambitious mother. When at last the doctor is able to send for his wife, after years of struggle to make a home for her, the mother tells him that the girl is dead. A serious nervous breakdown follows the shock this news brings to the doctor. It is in the quiet little Canadian village where the doctor goes for the rest and change necessary to his recovery, that the story of *Up the Hill and Over* is worked out. Here, after being deeply touched once more by the former tragedy of his life, the doctor finds at last true love and happiness. In addition to the interest of the working out of the story, there is much charm in the various characters, as Mrs. Mackay draws them, in the hero, Esther the lovely young school teacher, little Ann the orphan, Miss Annabel the faithful sister of the minister, the pathetic Aunt Amy, and more than a touch of humor in the picture of the voluble Mrs. Sykes and the irrepressible Bubble.

A fascinating romance of Chinese life is **The Wanderer on a Thousand Hills**, by Edith M. Wherry (S. B. Gundy, Toronto, 305 pages, \$1.40). Kung, the schoolmaster in the village of Benevolence and Virtue, Lu, the village bully, who had forced his way to the position of "king of the village," his shrewish wife and their son, Jung Kuang, with Tung Mei, the daughter of the schoolmaster, are types drawn to the life. The sufferings of a Chinese wife, especially if she has no sons, at the hands of her mother-in-law, is vividly pictured in the experience of Tung Mei, whom Jung Kuang, despite the violent opposition of his parents, insists on marrying. The tragic ends of Tung Mei's husband, his parents and her baby girl, and the finding, by the distracted widow, in a terrific storm, of Carl Osborne, a missionary's child who had wandered away from his home, form thrilling episodes in the story. Carl Osborne is brought up by his new Chinese mother until he becomes one of the most brilliant scholars in the empire and then is found by his real parents only to leave them again and become the victim of a religious obsession traveling up and down the land and known as "the wanderer on a thousand hills," is the conclusion of a tale well worth the reading, both for its intrinsic interest and for the light which it throws on life in the mighty empire where its scenes are laid. This book should be in every up-to-date public, Sunday School and missionary society library.

A couple of amusing volumes come to us from McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto. The first, **Our Next Door Neighbors**, by Belle Kanaris Maniates (280 pages, with 55 illustrations by Tony Sarg, \$1.35 net), the author of *Amarilly of Clothes-line Alley* and *Mildew Manse*, tells what happened when a man and his wife had five children thrust upon them. The book is full of startling and funny situations, and the children depicted in it are real, human children. The second, **Oh Mary Be Careful**, by George Weston (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London, 177 pages, with 7 illustrations by R. M. Crosby, \$1.00 net), describes the fortunes of a young heiress, to whom an aunt, who had herself been forsaken by her lover at the very altar, left \$50,000 which, according to the will, was to be forfeited if she married. How the young