



THE PHILOSOPHER OF DRIFTWOOD.

HOW few there are who live a broad, evenly-balanced life. Some go through the world with the idea of their own material and mental advancement always predominant. Others are always worrying about the condition of those more unfortunate than themselves, their sympathies for struggling humanity leading them into reckless extravagance of conduct and speech. There are few who recognize that "opportunity to expand and deepen one's own powers by selective association with the best cultured people is as important in the moral advancement of the world as ministering to the needs of the poor and the ignorant."

This is the first subject to which Mrs. Jenness Miller addresses herself in "The Philosopher of Driftwood." * She describes two men, Kingsley Manton, the pleasure seeker and man of the world, and Silas Bragdon, a one-time dweller in the heart of the world, but now living among gentle fisherfolk on the New England coast. She shows how each life fails, and exhibits considerable talent in the delineation of character and the analysis of motives. She accepts her world—the United States—as it is, and offers little if any criticism. In fact, she is somewhat of an apologist for the present Western civilization, making a plea for divorce in the case of all loveless unions, and for the present unequal distribution of wealth.

As a social novel Mrs. Miller's book leaves little to be desired. It is bright, interesting and powerful. As a piece of literature, however, it is decidedly weak. The sentence construction and the punctuation are abominable, and such as no important publishing house would allow to go forth. Mrs. Miller should have her next book edited before publication by some person who has studied rhetoric.



THE STORY OF THE UNION JACK.

Barlow Cumberland, Past President of the National Club, Toronto, and Supreme President of the "Sons of England," has given us a most attractive book entitled "The Story of the Union Jack,"† in which he very properly intimates that this flag means even more to Canadians than it does to the residents of the British Isles, because under it Canadians have fought in the defence of their homes. He points out that the love of emblems has been a universal characteristic among all races of men, and that this instinct is still exceedingly strong.

* The Philosopher of Driftwood, a social novel, by Mrs. Jenness Miller. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.

† Toronto: William Briggs. Cloth, \$1.00.