

THE BOOK PAGE

The "Little Sweetheart" who years ago made such wonderful trips upon the handles of her father's bicycle, reappears at nineteen in **Sweethearts at Home**: by S. R. Crockett (Musson Book Company, Toronto, 311 pages, illustrations in colors, \$1.25). Sweetheart's diary, which with certain additions from Hugh John, Sir Toady Lion, Maid Margaret, and Miss Elizabeth Fortinbras, makes up the book, begins when Sweetheart was ten and tells its story from year to year until she is almost a grown-up. It is a very clever piece of psychological work in the guise of the artless writing of a growing child and woman, which Mr. Crockett has given us, very bright and breezy as Mr. Crockett's stories are apt to be, and revealing most charmingly the way in which children, at different ages, regard one another and their elders, and the big, queer world in which they find themselves. There is not a dull page in the Sweetheart diary nor in the other contributions to the volume. The whole is as if Crockett's girl and boy heroes—with whom the story-reading world have become quite familiar—were writing down themselves what they thought and felt whilst they were acting out the parts which the storyteller has given them in his books.

In New York after the war times, when Horace Greeley was a great figure in newspaperdom and politics, and when Whitelaw Reid, the now dignified and famous American ambassador at the Court of St. James, were young newspaper men, and from this on in Boston as one of the editors of the Youth's Com-

panion and the editor of the North American Review, down to present times in London, Wm. H. Rideing seems to have known every one worth knowing. In **Many Celebrities and a Few Others** (Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 335 pages, 18 full page plates, \$2.00 net) he brings us into personal and familiar relationship with almost every celebrity for the past half century—newspaper men, magazine writers, authors, actors, politicians, great editors, soldiers—there is scarce one whom he has not hobnobbed. Born an Englishman, his literary work mostly done in the United States, Mr. Rideing has a keen appreciation of both his American and his English friends, narrates entertainingly, and has many new stories. For a week of winter evenings the "Many Celebrities and a Few Others" will form fine company.

The big Blue Book which records the proceedings of our General Assembly is the despair, especially of the layman, consisting, as it does, first, of the Minutes of the proceedings, and secondly of a great mass of Reports and statistics, which are most of them like hickory nuts—with much good meat, but requiring considerable picking to get it out. The Elders' Union of the Church of Scotland, has found a better way in **The Layman's Book of the General Assembly**, the issue of which for 1912 has been sent us by the kindness of a Scottish friend. The book is a neat paper bound volume of 178 pages (J. Gardner Hitt, Edinburgh) with preface by Balfour of Burleigh. There is a descriptive, bright and most readable summary of each day's proceedings, contributed by the editor, Rev. Harry Smith, followed by the day's work in greater detail.

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