

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

of the people introduced, and the experiences of Susannah, the heroine of the book. How she forsook her home, and, blind to the great love of Ephriam Croom, in a half-dazed way married Angel Halsey, and joined the Mormons, without being really a Mormon, and how, when her husband and child were killed, she escaped from the toils of Joe Smith, the prophet, and came back and married the faithful Ephriam, is a story that holds the reader's interest with a strong grip. There is some reason to think that the author's tone is almost too apologetic for Joe Smith and his revelations, but everyone must read the book, and form his own opinion on that point. All will admit that the book sheds a vivid light on the origin and growth of the Mormon delusion.

"The Lunatic at Large." A novel by J. Storer Clouston, (Canadian Copyright Edition). If the object of works of fiction was to impart information in science, history, or theology, one could not say much in favor of this book. But, inasmuch as it is now generally recognized that the main value of novels is to give mental relaxation, and divert thought from the exhausting work and perplexing problems of life, then, "The Lunatic at Large" may claim a special adaptation to this useful purpose. The incidents related of the lunatic are amusing and comical. The shrewdness he displays is not so much at variance with lunacy as one might at first be disposed to think. The book cannot be read without sympathy for the unfortunate young man, admiration for the ingenious cleverness of his tactics, and laughable amusement at the witty sayings and comical adventures of the hero. People who do not want any amusement, or who think it a sin to laugh, had better avoid reading this book. But, as these constitute a small class, there will be plenty of readers left who will enjoy the book.

"The Mandarin," by Carlton Dawe, with illustrations by A. Ludovici. This book is more nearly brimfull of exciting action than any recent novel we have seen. Several modern writers of fiction have increased the interest of their books by using their knowledge of foreign countries to give an unhackneyed setting to their stories.

Mr. Dawe makes use of his knowledge of China for this purpose in "The Mandarin," as he had previously used his knowledge of Japan in "A Bride of Japan," turning aside from the current and method of dissecting character, he gives a story full of action and thrilling adventure.

The action of the story goes right in from one critical emergency to another, without much moralizing. There are vivid glimpses of life among the Chinese, which give a good

idea of the social and civic condition of that peculiar people. Readers will not pause to decide whether Mr. Dawe's picture of missionary work in China is from life or not. They will be too much absorbed with the adventures and escapes of Paul and Ting Foo to think of anything else.

In spite of his unsubdued barbarity, one cannot but admire the bravery, fidelity and unflinching resourcefulness of Ting Foo. He proves equal to every emergency that occurs.

"The Mandarin" is pre-eminently a story, not a philosophy of life. It is more brimfull of exciting action than any novel recently published. Something of interest is continually happening, or just going to happen. The hero calls himself a Christian, but his is a very muscular Christianity.

"A Ragged Lady," by William Dean Howells, (second edition) with portrait. Mr. Howells is too well known as a master in his art to need special commendation for any new work he gives to the public. His style is so lucid, graceful and natural that he easily invests with interest whatever subject he chooses to write about. In "Ragged Lady" will be found all those qualities of thought and style that have given this author his just renown. The scene of the story is laid in New England and Italy, but the personages are mostly Americans. The chief interest of the book gathers around the "sweet and winning girl," Clementina Claxton. In following her fortunes much of interest arises from the people and places of the story, as much as from the love affair, which, like a thread of gold, runs through the book. As in all Mr. Howells' novels, the main interest depends not so much on any striking events that happen, as upon the realistic portrayal of minute things which reveal character and make the persons who figure in the story seem the counterpart of people we ourselves have met in the ordinary intercourse of life, "Ragged Lady" has been warmly praised by the American press.

"POSTLE FARM."

That beautiful story of Devonshire country life is being heartily received by all. The many pathetic touches draw from the reader unlimited sympathy for the poor little Devonshire lass who is blindly, yet so earnestly, striving for something better than her present circumstances. The Academy says: "The child, crazy Cathie, is an exquisite creation, a genius who shows her genius." She speaks out her desire for knowledge when she first meets the man who affects her destiny later. The first meeting is characteristic. "Oh, I want for know all about everythin': Thickey, an' thickey, an' thickey" nodding her head in various directions. "An' what be that up

there above us," sweeping her hand to indicate the blue canopy that overspread them. "It's a-seemed to speak a time or two. Sometimes 'tis angered, sometimes 'tis soft—sometimes 'tis nought but ol' rummage what saith nothing. What be it? That's what I want for know. An' where do the sun go when he rinneth hinder the hills? An' what's the wind? Where do 'e come from? Where do 'e go? What be they all? What's everythin'? Where be us goin' to when us dies? Does us stay in the red earth with the rain and the rummage up over us? Be that the end o' us? Oh, ain't there anyone along all this hill-side as can tell me the meanin' o' life, an' these here strivin's and pinin's wi'in me?" And the whole book is filled with beautiful dialogue and delightful sketches. Readers of "Postle Farm" will not fail to recognize the thrilling interest it contains.

CHOICE AND BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY GIFT BOOKS.

The W. J. Gage Co., Limited, also announce that they have secured the Canadian copyright of several most attractive and elegant books, suitable for holiday gift books, which will be announced later on. Among these are: "In the year of Waterloo," by O. V. Caine, author of "Face to Face With Napoleon." Some critics rank Mr. Caine with Henty as a writer of books for boys. "As You Like It," a pleasant comedy, by William Shakespeare. This charming comedy is newly embellished by sundry decorations by W. H. Lowe, and is gotten up in the highest style of the printer's and binder's art. Nothing more tasteful and beautiful has been offered to the Canadian public.

FLEMING H. REVELL CO.'S BOOKS.

In juvenile books, the Revell Company have made several important additions to their list. "Fairy Tales from Far Japan" is a translation of the most popular specimens of Japanese fairy lore, showing the sort of pabulum on which Japanese children are reared. There are 47 engravings from Japanese originals, 4to, cloth, 75c. "Three Times Three" is a skilfully-told story by "Pansy," Faye Huntington and others. Nine full-page illustrations, small 4to, decorated cloth, 50c. "Walled In," by Wm. O. Stoddard, is a true story of prison life on Randall's Island, N.Y. Small 4to, decorated cloth, 50c. "The Bible Stories Series," which is new this Fall, consists of six volumes of favorite Bible stories for young folk: "The Good Shepherd," "The Story of David," "The Prodigal Son and Other Stories," "The Children of the Bible," "Early Bible Heroes" and "Stories of Palestine"; 12mo, decorated cloth, 35c. each. In "Stories of Missions," they have