

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

BURKE'S CHUM.—By Mrs. G. Forsyth Grant. W. P. Nimmo, Hay & Mitchell, Edinburgh. Cloth, 2s. 6d. This lady, we believe, is a daughter of the late Hon. John Beverley Robinson, of this city. The book is a healthy story of school life, and delineates boy character with much skill. The incidents are simple, and there is no trace of sensationalism, but any manly boy will like the tale. It is beautifully bound in red and gold with gilt edges, and makes a handsome gift.

THE PALADINS OF EDWIN THE GREAT.—By Sir Clements R. Markham, K.C.B. A. & C. Black, London. Cloth, 5s. It is impossible to speak too highly of this book. In the form of fiction the author has presented a remarkable picture of England in the Saxon period, founding the story upon the Chronicle of Bede, and filling in details with a careful historical method which places the narrative much above the modern efforts of the same class. There are some good illustrations, showing a desire to reproduce the costumes and life of the period. The notes added to the book and the map of Deira increase its historical worth. The binding is very attractive.

THE UNJUST STEWARD, OR THE MINISTER'S DEBT.—By Mrs. Oliphant. W. & R. Chambers, Ltd., Edinburgh. This is a charming story by a talented — a Scotch tale minus the inevitable dialect. The minister owes money which the creditor, in his will, had wiped out. But the creditor's heirs and the minister's conscience, think otherwise. It would have settled itself if Elsie, the daughter and a fine Scotch lass, would accept the heir in marriage. But, worthy as he is, she prefers her lover, a modest student. He becomes a distinguished man of science and cuts out the heir.

THE JUGGLER AND THE SOUL.—By Helen Mathers. Skelington & Son, London. A somewhat gruesome story told with power and illustrating the supposed discovery by Mr. Sabine, an amateur experimentalist, of bringing a dead person to life by infusing the blood of another into his veins. It will be read by those who like to sup upon horrors, although the details of the mystery are given with a certain reserve and without unnecessary fearfulness. But the effect on the imagination is the same.

THE BRITISH FLEET.—By Commander Charles N. Robinson, R.N. Geo. Bell & Sons, London. Cloth, many illustrations. Probably no book has recently been published on the subject which is of so popular

a character as this. It specially aims to give a general view of the origin, character, functions, organization and administration of the British navy. The author thoroughly understands his subject, has secured competent collaborators, and drawn upon the best source for his information. It is written brightly and pleasantly. The author places as a basis of his whole record the statement (which we in Canada recognize to be true) that the rise of the navy is no mere accidental element in the growth of the Empire, but is an indispensable factor in the security and power of British rule all over the world. Beyond this, the book has no "moral" to inculcate. It is chiefly a brilliant record, which many readers in Canada will peruse with interest, and will wish to have on their bookshelves. Every boy with the spirit of his ancestors in him should be induced to dip into it. The illustrations are very numerous, about 150, and reproduce battle scenes, old and new vessels, and form a capital set-off to the text.

THREE BOYS IN THE WILD NORTH LAND.—By Egerton R. Young. Wm. Briggs, Toronto. Cloth, illustrated. One may compare this book with others of a similar character published abroad, in the interest of the story, the illustrations and the binding, and fairly conclude that in no single respect is it a whit inferior. It is thoroughly Canadian in spirit and material, and a readable, proper book for boys. Mr. Laughlin's illustrations are vivid and artistic.

GUESSES AT THE RIDDLE OF EXISTENCE.—By Goldwin Smith. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. Cloth, \$1.25. Anything from Mr. Smith's pen finds many readers. Some of the essays in this volume are reprinted from the current reviews which are never seen by the general reader, and they embody the author's views concerning "life, death and that vast forever, which touch so nearly every thinking man or woman to-day. There has, of course, been already much controversy over these papers of Mr. Goldwin Smith, and the orthodox theologians have been writing against him. With the disagreements between critics and authors we have nothing to do. There are doubtless theological, as there are political, opinions of Mr. Smith, with which the majority may not agree. But he writes in a spirit of the greatest tolerance, and the views of a cultivated intellect and a matured judgment possess a value altogether apart from their possible antagonism to the religious tenets of particular churches. Mr. Goldwin Smith, one judges from this book, retains unimpaired the marvellous charm of style which

has given him a high place among the writers of this century. The essays are evidently composed with great care, and the book is certainly one of the most delightful that have issued from the press in recent years. We cannot suppose that any Canadian city or town contains less than a dozen or twenty persons of sufficient culture who will want to read, and read again, "Guesses at the Riddle of Existence."

PUBLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE.—These are issued fortnightly, in paper covers, the page-numbers running consecutively to allow of several being bound together, and the subscription for the annual series is \$6, the prices of single issues varying from 15 to 35c., according to length and importance. We have had occasion regularly to direct the attention of booksellers to them, as they include papers by writers of authority who deal with economic, social and political questions that are of daily interest in these times. Four of the most recent issues are "The First Apportionment of Federal Representatives in the United States," by Prof. E. J. James, of Chicago University (35c.), a highly interesting study in politics; "Crime and the Census," by Prof. Falkner, of Pennsylvania University (25c.), a statistical treatise on a subject on which information is scarce; "Values, Positive and Relative" (35c.), by W. G. Langworthy Taylor, of Nebraska University; "Current Transportation Topics," by Dr. E. R. Johnson, Pennsylvania University (15c.), dealing with some practical questions affecting railways and rates, of considerable interest to Canada as well as the States.

SNAP SHOTS FROM BOY LIFE.—By F. C. T. O'Hara. Wm. Briggs, Toronto. Cloth, illus. Our last issue contained a reference to this book, just then issued from the press. The author, who is Sir Richard Cartwright's private secretary and a Canadian, spent some years on the American press, and the volume contains the substance of a series of articles contributed originally to The Baltimore Herald, when the author was on the editorial staff of that journal. They found such favor with the readers of The Herald that Mr. O'Hara was strongly urged to issue them in book form. The illustrated initial letters and the cover design of the present volume are by Mr. Astley Palmer Cooper, one of the cleverest artists on the American press. The book is a bright, clever production. It is a series of direct talks to lads about reading, studying, smoking, alcohol, and many other features and habits of a boy's career. There is much sense and manliness displayed, and, above all, the discussions are interesting, set off by flashes