

LITERARY NOTES

HANDSOME CARDS AND CALENDARS.

WE have been favoured by Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons with a copy of the two cards selected by King Edward and Queen Alexandra for Christmas distribution. The King's card represents a merry Christmas scene reproduced in exquisite colours from a special design by John H. Bacon. The Queen's is a dainty conception of the Virgin and Child by Harriet M. Bennett, reproduced in photogravure. Each card is encased in an elaborate ribbon portfolio. For twenty years, Messrs. Tuck have been honoured with royal patronage for their cards. The quality of their work is unsurpassed and their range is the largest of any British firm. This year they have a "Canadian Sports" calendar, but it hardly does them justice, since the scenes were painted by English artists instead of Canadian. Their "Canada, Day by Day" is more meritorious. "The Maple Leaf" calendar is also worthy of commendation.

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THE WHEEL OF WEALTH.

"I HAVE no hesitation in saying that the greatest writer born in Canada is John Beattie Crozier," said a Western critic some years ago. Yet there are few Canadians who have read Dr. Crozier's books. The reason is not far to seek. Such volumes as "Civilisation and Progress" and "History of Intellectual Development" do not appeal to the modern reader. Such tawdry stuff as Ralph Connor's "The Doctor" will be greeted with all manner of gush and rapidly climb unto the ninth edition. But a philosophical disquisition is too much for the Twentieth Century public, inasmuch as such a treatise is so unreasonable as to expect the reader to exercise his reflective powers. Yet of Dr. Crozier's latest book, "The Wheel of Wealth," Mr. Mallock in the "Fortnightly Review" says: "Dr. Crozier, in going over the same ground, as much excels him (Karl Marx) in knowledge, grasp and acuteness, as the Histories of Gibbon and Mommsen excel the compilation of Goldsmith. There are three (positive doctrines) whose importance is fundamental and paramount; and it is his insistence on these, and his masterly elucidation of two of them, which give to his present volume its great and distinctive value." This book is published by Longmans, Green and Company of London, New York and Bombay.

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THE UNSCIENTIFIC DOCTOR.

IF you are interested in how to get well and stay well, and have read all the current almanacs, get a copy of "Health Science," published in Brantford by M. J. Keane, M.D. He does not believe in doctors generally, neither allopathy, homeopathy, osteopathy or any other pathy. He does not approve of Christian Science or any other ism or fad. He believes only in common sense and science. Everybody will recognise at once, except the doctors themselves, that the medical profession might as well be abolished at once. Nevertheless, the author has a keen point on his pencil and he puts some every-day truths in forcible, if somewhat technical, language. His chapter on food, air and sunlight is worthy of a golden frame.

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MORE NATURE POETRY.

WILLIAM J. FISCHER has published his second volume of verse. This young doctor takes his muse rather seriously, and has little in his work which will invite merriment. He loves nature and endeavours to interpret her. Just now, the public are in the mood when they feel that the nature-poets have just about exhausted the words which can be used in describing these various phases of our good old mother. Hence, Mr. Fischer will probably find little appreciation for his rather excellent volume. The world is waiting for masculine poetry, and has had about enough of the feminine. The Roberts-Carman-Scott cult has not sunk very deep into our national life. Drummond and Kipling are still the most popular Canadian poets, and alas! Dr. Drummond will not send us a new Christmas greeting this year—we must be content with the old ones.

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THE ROMANCE OF A POPULAR NOVEL.

"SOME four years ago," says a writer in the "Sphere," speaking of "Joseph Vance" and "Alice-for-Short," "when Mr. De Morgan was finding the struggle for existence in this commercial age a pretty severe one, he started the first chapter of 'Joseph Vance.' There was, however, some slight revival of the industry with which he was associated, and he put the manuscript on one side. A little more than a year ago he sat down and wrote the book in earnest. It was despatched to a publisher, but was returned with the excuse that it was too long. One wonders whether the 'reader' to that publisher actually read the book at all. That seems easiest to believe. Though the writing was clear enough, a manuscript of 200,000 words would not prove exhilarating at the first taste. That the manuscript went back to its owner at Chelsea must now be giving considerable mental tribulation to one or two gentlemen in the publishing world. The author bethought himself that a better effect might be gained by having the manuscript typewritten. He sent it to a firm presided over by a very intelligent woman. Passing through her office a day or two later this woman found one of the girl typists in tears. A little inquiry led to the discovery that this critic of the future was weeping over an accident in 'Joseph Vance.' The lady related this unique experience in the recent history of typewriting to a friend, an art publisher who is well known to me. He begged that he might be allowed to see the manuscript and read it with zest, for my friend is both a good judge of literature and also of the books that will sell. He carried it to Mr. Heinemann, whose 'reader' made a most eulogistic report, with the result that the book was published, and it has been followed by another novel at least equally good, 'Alice-for-Short.'"

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"CHARACTERISTIC Conversations of Curly Kate," by E. M. Gardner, is an amusing report of the witticisms of a "wash-lady" who is given to combining epigram with suds. "Curly Kate's" remarks are highly diverting and are bound in an appropriate, shamrock-strewn green cover. Toronto: William Briggs.

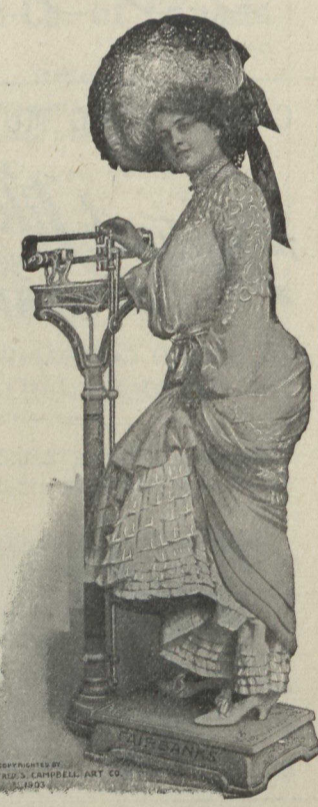


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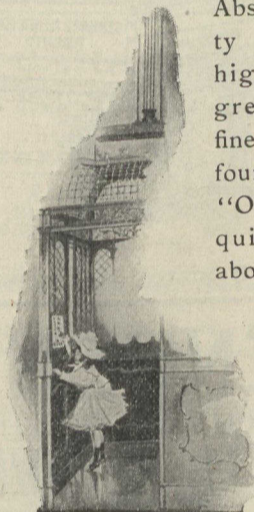
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