

THE BOOK PAGE

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The recent issuing of Dr. J. C. Robertson's Teacher Training Book, **The School**, completes the first year of the New Standard Teacher Training Course (Presbyterian Publications, Toronto, 4 vols., 20c. per vol. post-paid) and places in the hands of our Sunday School teachers and older scholars an unprecedentedly excellent series of Training Books. The ruling principle in the series is "The child in the midst." In **The Pupil**, Professor Weigle exhibits the child in his varying stages of development from year to year. In **The Teacher**, by the same writer, the teacher is led to an understanding of his relation to the pupil and of the best means of reaching his mind and heart and will through divine truth. Rev. Dr. W. C. Barclay, in **The Teacher's Study of the Life of Christ**, again with the child in view, displays the material in the life of our Lord appropriate to the various ages and shows how this material is to be utilized in teaching. Dr. Robertson's book, **The School**, tells how the School is to be organized and carried on so as to meet the precise needs of the various periods of development in the young life. All the books of the series are characterized by simplicity and directness, as well as by fulness and accuracy of knowledge and the pedagogically correct point of view. The series is a very real contribution to the religious education of the young.

My Four Years in Germany (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 448 pages, with many illustrations and facsimile reproduction of letters, German War passes, the famous personal telegram from the Kaiser to President Wilson of the tenth of August, 1914, etc. Price \$2.00) is likely to have an immense Canadian sale. Who, if not we, should be interested in what has been going on in Germany—behind the scenes—at the outbreak and during the progress of the War? The author, James W. Gerard, who, till the entering of the United States into the War, was the United States Ambassador to the German Imperial Court, speaks without reserve, plainly, often bluntly. The unevenness of the literary quality of the book is forgotten in the face of the vast mass of information and personal experience drawn upon for fact and incident and opinion. One feels, after reading the book, that he has been upon the spot, and that he has therefore a better understanding of how things came to be as they are with, and in, Germany. It is often a repulsive picture, but Gerard portrays it fearlessly for what it is. It is not often an ambassador takes the public so fully into his confidence; and the public will be correspondingly grateful.

The Dwelling Place of Light (The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 462 pages, frontispiece, \$1.50) is Winston Churchill's tenth story. It reveals the characteristics of most of its predecessors—a thoroughly intimate knowledge of the American people, especially of the prevailing political and big business types, a vigorous style, and no hesitancy in calling ugly things by plain names. It is therefore readable, although in

some parts a trifle revolting. It is a story of New England, and the interest and struggle of the tale turn upon the conflict between the consciencelessness of a very modern, driving business man of rather coarse type and the vital remnant of the "Puritan conscience" of a young New England girl who is confronted by the materialistic conditions which modern manufacture brings. It is a story of the headstrong manager, a fierce strike, a heartless love, which ends in tragedy, but with a single streak of light at the end, in the fact that smothered conscience reasserts itself and human pity and tenderness seek to heal an unhealable wound.

At the time of this writing (**THE TEACHERS MONTHLY** is printed some weeks in advance, in order to reach its distant subscribers in time for use of Lesson material) Ralph Connor's new story, **The Major** (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, illustrated, \$1.50) has not yet appeared (it will be on the market by the time this is in print). From the publisher we learn, however, that it is likely to be one of the leading books of the season, and is "without doubt the finest novel of this popular writer." Ralph Connor already knows his Canada. He has seen service at the front as "a Sky Pilot of No Man's Land;" and hence is well fitted for the task he undertakes in **The Major**, namely, to trace the influences which, in school, college and frontier life shaped a Canadian man into the red hot lover of liberty and the gallant soldier in his country's battles, which he became. **The Major** is evidently to be as great a success as Ralph Connor's previous stories.

Mrs. Nellie L. McClung is always sure of a Canadian audience. Sowing Seeds in Danny made her known as a very human writer. Her subsequent books and her great platform work for Prohibition and the War have increased her reputation. In her newest book, **Next of Kin** (Thomas Allen, Toronto, price \$1.25 net), she gives many stories of these War times—of the heroism of the soldier boys, of the patience and courage of the women at home, of the slacker, and all the rest. Even in dealing with war subjects, Mrs. McClung's invariable humor has not forsaken her.

From the same publisher there comes another extremely interesting Canadian book, **Crumps**, A Plain Tale of a Canadian Who Went, by Louis Keene, Canadian Expeditionary Force (Illustrated, \$1.25). The writer, a college boy and artist, who went across with the Canadian First Contingent, transformed by three years of war into a veteran Captain of the Machine Gun Section, tells his story with pen and pencil of experiences on board transport, in the mud and rain of Salisbury Plain and in the fighting in France and Belgium. The story is in the form of letters written under the tragic shadow of desolated Ypres amid the perils and horrors of that memorable time. They are sure of a wide reading because of their fresh and first-hand impressions.

Social Activities for Men and Boys, by Albert M. Chesley (Associated Press, New York, 292 pages, \$1.00). At this time of year when so much life is confined indoors, teachers and leaders in the church are fined indoors, teachers and leaders in the church are often nonplussed as to what arrangements may be made for social evenings. Real help may be secured from