

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

later's Wooing" are also having an encouraging sale. Among these, also, a prominent position is held by Conan Doyle's excellent book, "The Great Boer War." The splendid writing in this book, the clear and vivid accounts it gives of the various engagements, and the five very clear and good maps it contains, make this book, on the whole, one of the best records of the war yet placed before the public, while its moderate price (\$1.50) further commends it to general acceptance.

Inspector Hughes' "Dickens as an Educator" also demands mention. It is a careful study of all that the great humorist and observer said in his books about children and education, and, as a matter of course, it contains numerous extracts from the novels and sketches. Lovers of Dickens will find this a very charming book, and the Inspector's earnest devotion to the cause of primary education has led him to treat the subject in a way that will interest all. Although an educational book, it is readable from cover to cover.

In the new catalogue just issued, Morang & Co. have listed a number of books interesting to the trade, including some works of an educational character well worthy of attention.

THE COPP, CLARK CO.'S LIST. A notable Canadian book by a noted Canadian is

"Canada Under British Rule 1760-1900," by Sir John G. Bourinot, clerk of the House of Commons. The book is a carefully condensed and readable narrative of the political and social progress of this country. It summarizes so well the history of each Province making up the present Dominion that the somewhat disconnected stories of these various communities are skilfully woven into one coherent record. One feature stands out clearly—the admirable way in which the constitutional development of the Provinces is brought out. There are several other characteristics of the volume which will attract and instruct the Canadian reader of to day, and which are not to be found in similar works. Among these are the chapter on Canada's relations with the United States; the summary of political events down to 1900; and the comparison, clause by clause, of the Canadian and Australian constitutions. These features alone make the book almost unique for present purposes. The bookselling trade should find a large inquiry for it from teachers, lawyers and other professional men, as well as from students. It is the most complete and useful of all Sir John Bourinot's works for public libraries and Mechanics' Institutes.

"The Heart of the Ancient Wood," recently issued by The Copp, Clark Co., marks a distinctly new era in literature. There has appeared nothing to compare with it. The striking character of Kirstie; her life in the Settlement; her sunny bit of a love story; the setting of that sun, and her after life in the ancient wood where the solemn little Miranda—lover of all wild things—nearly made up for all she lost in the Bohemian, Frank Craig. These are mere incidents in one of the most enchanting pastorals ever enacted.

But the scene of scenes is the love-making of Dave, the trapper, to Miranda. All the charm of the unusual surrounds it. Here are no stifling drawing-room amours, no backneyed phrases of love; but love grown up rugged and untrained in the wilderness; the place of wooing—a moss covered log rather than velvet divan; and moonlight, sifting through great trees swayed by the night wind—a light for them, instead of the green glare of electricity. No civilized stiffness in evening dress; but both the actors in grey homespun—she always with a bit of red at her throat, like her friend the rose-grossbeak.

From end to end of the continent this book is being critically read, and in proof of the way reviewers have come under the spell of Mr. Robert's charm, let some leading critics speak:

CANADIAN MAGAZINE.—"The Heart of the Ancient Wood," by our esteemed Canadian, Charles G. D. Roberts (Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.) has brought forth, so far as we have seen, only unique and beautiful reviews. Inspired by the charming pages, these critiques have been tinged with poetry, which indeed is the very essence of Mr. Roberts' book."

THE OUTLOOK.—"Mr. C. G. D. Roberts brings into fiction much of the sensitive imagination and feeling for landscape which are the prime qualities of his verse. His recent story might easily have taken on verse form. It is hardly to be judged as a piece of fiction; it is a romance of the forest, an idyl of woodland life, in which gentleness of a beautiful girl bridges a chasm between man and the animals and becomes a kind of spiritual link between them. The tale has great atmospheric charm."

PHILADELPHIA TIMES.—"No book of recent times, in its line, has so many and varied charms. . . . As a romance it is sweet, tender, natural, delightful, and absolutely without companionship or class. . . . Kroof is notably the most lovable bear that ever hibernated. . . . We find it difficult to use terms to express the charm of this delightful book."

OMAHA BEB.—"He opens a field of romance where there were no models to follow and where he moves as a master."

These are but a few. Take others. The Detroit Free Press speaks of "the consummate art of the author." The Boston Times says it is "a most lovely volume." The Bookman—noted for moderate praise—declares that it "has the charm of complete freshness." The New York Mail and Express speaks with equal warmth of Mr. Roberts' "faultless English" and of his having interpreted nature "with unerring and sleepless fidelity." Commonplace books do not call forth such enthusiasm from so many different quarters. The book is a masterpiece in its own way.

Mrs. Steel's "The Hosts of the Lord" has all the weird fascination of the writer who knows her India thoroughly. There is the attraction of bright and amusing English society about the novel, with the vivid background of Eastern life that so draws the reader. A series of pleasing love episodes insures the attention of the Summer fiction lover.

No recent book is receiving the attention of so many eminent critics and men of letters as Maurice Hewlett's "Richard Yea and Nay." Mr. Balfour, Mr. Frederic Harrison and others consider the book the text for remarks either on style or historical treatment, and praise both highly. There are others, of course, who think and speak primly, and who, therefore, do not consider so deeply romantic a tale—tinged with the coarse chivalry of a wild age—as fit reading for "the young person." This does not hurt the sale of the book which promises to continue in favor throughout the year.

W. J. GAGE & CO.'S LIST. John Uri Lloyd's "Stringtown on the Pike" is daily gaining popularity. The book is in its 40th thousand and is a leader in eight American cities included in the January Bookman's list of best selling books. This lends great interest to the curious manner in which the book came to be published. Professor Lloyd is a prominent chemist in Cincinnati, and had written the story purely as a solace and an amusement. He had no idea of committing it to print, but a New York publisher hearing of this remarkable story begged permission to see it, and, on reading it, immediately recognized it as a novel of great force, individuality and interest. Brought out as a serial it attracted much attention and the first edition of 10,000 copies were sold before publication. Edition after edition was called for and in eight weeks eight editions had been published.

The bookseller who has "The Mantle of Elijah" on his counter is never at a loss to