

In the Realm of Books

What's What in the Newest Literature

The Dwelling Place of Light

By WINSTON CHURCHILL.
MacMillan & Co. of Canada.
Price \$1.50.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL is always interesting and often amusing, but in his latest volume, "The Dwelling Place of Light," he has fallen into the clutches of that demon of pessimism that has obsessed so many of our modern authors and has succeeded in giving us a story of squalor unredeemed by any ray of brightness. That the book is powerfully written we admit. It becomes thereby the more dangerous. But we cannot admit its truthfulness as a picture of the life of the average working-girl. Mr. Churchill may reply to this that Janet Bumpus was *not* an average working-girl. To this we most thankfully assent. Wherefore, then, go to so much trouble to record the interminable windings of her infatuation. We all know, unfortunately, that such women as Janet exist, but we object to having her paraded before our gaze as a paragon of nobility and honor. We fear that Mr. Churchill will find few to agree with his calm assumption that there are no longer any fixed standards of right and wrong; that everyone must do what to himself seems best in such matters, and it doesn't matter very much anyway. We hope that he will soon leave this malarial atmosphere for the clearer air of his earlier work. The present volume is one of those which, to use an expressive Scots phrase, "leave a gey ill taste in your mou."

The Piper and the Reed

By ROBERT NORWOOD.
McClelland Goodchild & Stewart.

MR. NORWOOD'S latest volume of verse, "The Piper and the Reed," appears to us to show a distinct retrogression from the quality of his earlier work. We confess that we are heretical enough to hold, against the vast majority of critics, that the author's first volume, "His Lady of the Sonnets," contained finer stuff than the much belauded "Witch of Endor." But even the "Witch of Endor" was on a higher level than much of the work contained in the present book. Mr. Norwood has allowed himself in several instances to be seduced from the paths of rhyme and rhythm into the tangled thickets of "vers libre" and we cannot say that the excursions have proved successful. But this is a matter of opinion, and even when keeping to the trodden paths, he falls too often into the flagrant carelessness shown in such a poem as "Matins,"—where he represents the "dim phantoms of the host of hate," as, at the same moment, pursuing man "down the gulfs of fate," and smiting him "with harpy wings up steep of weird imaginings." Now this is a physical impossibility. There is good work in "The Piper and the Reed" as witness the poem from which the volume takes its name, but Mr. Norwood has been spoiled by too much adulation and his poetry is suffering from the curse of over fluency.

The High Heart

By BASIL KING.

The Musson Book Co. Price \$1.50.

THE announcement that Mr. Basil King's novel, "The High Heart," which had proven so popular a serial, would be published in book form, was greeted enthusiastically by all devotees of fiction. The book is distinctly Canadian. It deals with the adventures in the business and social world in the United States of a young Canadian girl; brings out the two standards of prestige—breeding and wealth. There is nothing, in "The High Heart" of the problem theme. It is well written, intensely interesting and wholly likeable.

Glimpses of Destiny from the Book

By DR. M. CHISHOLM.

THIS little pamphlet, which is privately printed, contains a series of articles dealing with the New Theology and with the revelations of prophecy in regard to the present time, together with an appendix composed of three lectures on semi-medical subjects. These three lectures deal

respectively with "Infection and Immunization," "The Recoil of Professionalism," and "Advice to Young Graduates." Dr. Chisholm is a physician of many years standing and it is unnecessary to say anything further with regard to this appendix than that he has brought to this task all the powers of ripe judgment and intellect with which he is abundantly gifted. The body of the pamphlet is taken up by material originally given to the public in the form of letters to the

present time and he who inculcates it is, indeed a public benefactor. Douglas Fairbanks' book merits a wide reading, and undoubtedly will get it.

A Canadian Twilight

By BERNARD FREEMAN TROTTER.
McClelland Goodchild & Stewart.

LIKE Rupert Brooke, this gallant and talented young poet has made the great sacrifice. He was killed in action in France in May, 1917, leaving behind him a slender sheaf of verses, which in their command of rhythm and use of nervous and delicate English give token of poetical ability which a few more years would have brought to a ripe fruitage. Although only twenty-six years old when he died, the present volume bears testimony to the fact that in him we have lost a promising Canadian poet. We regret that we have not space to quote his poem, "The Poplars," in its entirety, but the two verses below will bear ample witness to his love of nature and capability of expressing her moods:

"The elm is aspiration, and death is in the yew,
And beauty dwells in every tree
from Lapland to Peru,
But there's a magic in the poplars
when the wind goes through.

And so I sing the poplars, and when I come to die,
I will not look for jasper walls, but cast about my eye
For a row of wind-blown poplars against an English sky."

The quaint fantasy of "The Clan of the Waters" will appeal to all those who love the sea. It tells how "Manannan, god of the wind and sea" once gave a gift to a man. And his gift was

"A wave with a sea-green base,
A rollicking, wandering, roisterous wave,
With a crest o' foam and a laughing face."

and of how the descendants of that man are ever lovers of the wave and "the sea in their blood cries out to the sea." Lovers of poetry will find in this little volume verse that has the authentic singing note of the born poet.

Kitchener and Other Poems

By R. J. C. STEAD.

Musson Book Co. Price \$1.00.

MR. ROBERT J. C. STEAD of Calgary is one of a band of Canadian poets, of a large portion of whose work it may be said that while the hands are the hands of Esau, the manner is indubitably that of Rudyard Kipling. True, he is not the only, or even the greatest, sinner in this respect. His fellow author, Robert Service, in his earlier work came so strongly under the influence of the great English poet as to be hailed by many as the Canadian Kipling. But why sin at all? While it is probable that Mr. Stead will never rise to great poetic heights, his work when he tears himself away from the Kipling tradition gains both in strength and beauty, as in the poem from which the present volume takes its name. This is probably the only Canadian poem that was ever incorporated complete into a telegraphic news service. Later, it was copied by the leading newspapers of England, was eulogized by the London "Spectator," was reprinted by English admirers for distribution in the army hospitals of the old land and subsequently found its way round the world in the press of east and west. Mr. Stead's poems are replete with Canadian patriotism and are faithful reproductions of the atmosphere of the great West. This volume contains all the elements of popularity and, mechanically, will bear comparison with the best of the season's dollar editions.

The Long Lane's Turning

By HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES.

Dodd Mead & Co. Price \$1.50.

HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES' latest story, "The Long Lane's Turning," is a vivid drama of the new south, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

The Songs We Need

Myriad singers pour their treasures
Into wearied ears—
Sweet, uncertain, minor measures,
Trembling doubts and fears.

Why repeat these strains of sadness,
Which but feed our fears?
Are there no clear notes of gladness
Straying down the years?

Sing of sorrow? All men know it.
Share with them their tears;
Then—ah! then, forget not, poet,
Sing the Hope that cheers.

Bernard Freeman Trotter
in "A Canadian Twilight."

press. These have been republished by request of their many admirers. They have been enlarged and added to until they have reached the dimensions of the present little volume, which sets forth the views of its author upon the subject of prophecy and its relations to the present war and the repatriation of the Holy Land by the people of Israel in a lucid and interesting manner. The many readers who are interested in the Divine fulfilment of the promises made to ancient Israel will find this pamphlet a most attractive study.

Laugh and Live

By DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS.

Britton Publishing Co. Price \$1.00.

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, star alike in the legitimate drama and in the world of the "movies," is possessed of the indomitable optimism that gives purpose, "push" and color to life. He holds the record for the standing broad grin. He has made cheerfulness a habit and joyousness an art: there isn't a minute of the day that fails to find him glad that he is alive; and, as a consequence, there is no more widely popular personality upon the American stage. In "Laugh and Live" he preaches the gospel of cheerfulness—preaches it with force and efficiency and a convincing belief in its "good tidings" that will go far to make the reader a convert to the doctrine.

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