

THE LIBRARY TABLE

"Openway." By Archie McKishnie. Hodder & Stoughton. \$1.25.

"Openway!" A book for the boys, a book for the girls, a book to take town folks to the woods, a book to sharpen the eyes of country folk, a book for every youthful-hearted man and woman, for every lover of bird and beast!

A book unique in Canadian literature; the product of keen and patient observation of the furred and feathered folk, of the shy denizens of wood, marsh and lake; a book written in a style so clear and strong, and withal so colorful, it transports one to the very woods and waters till one's nostrils twitch with the pungent fragrance of the pines, the sweet perfume of the red willow and swamp birch.

Here Creamy, the weasel, stalks his prey; here Grubber, the woodcock, tips forward and takes to wing; here Spotba, the Womper, battles with the sea-hawk; here Padwa, the lynx, and Spraycoat, the silver fox, match their cunning and their strength; here Dotgar, the pike, comes to his kingly end; here—but you must read it for yourself, you must meet Bob, the trapper, to whom most of the forest folk are "them thievin' vermin," and Bennie, to whom "their little lives are jest chock-full of things wu'th learnin', jest chock-full."

As Canadians we should be proud of Mr. McKishnie, and grateful to him for a real Canadian classic; nor should we forget Dudley Ward, who has illustrated the book in a fashion truly delightful.

"Openway" is a book to warm the heart and delight the mind, a book one would like to see in the hands of every Canadian boy and girl this Christmas, a book, too, no teacher nor nature-lover can afford to miss.

Read it! You will be made richer in understanding, more tender of heart thereby; lend it to a friend that he may share your joy; give a copy to some boy or girl dear to you, you will open avenues of sympathy and interest that will lead to fine and beautiful things in their lives.

"Encore." By Jessie Alexander. McClelland & Stewart. \$1.50.

This book where reminiscences are so charmingly blended with some of the favorite platform speeches of the well-known elocutionist, Mrs. Alexander, is very welcome to her many friends in Canada. There is a chapter of very helpful hints to amateur elocutionists, and a goodly number of recitations, humorous and otherwise, all delightful.

"Sex and Commonsense." By A. Maude Royden. Third edition. Hurst & Blackett, London.

A book to be recommended to all thoughtful men and women. It is impregnated with a high idealism, and deals in a frank and sensible way with numerous problems that are perennial, but more acute than ever since the war, with its aftermath of abnormality.

"Spinster of This Parish." By W. B. Maxwell. McClelland & Stewart. \$2.00.

This is an excellently well-written novel, with an original plot, capably sustained. The style is delightful, and some of the descriptive passages are unusually fine.

Yet it is in some ways disappointing; it falls just short of being a great book. The hero and heroine are prevented from marrying by a truly iniquitous law which will not free the man from a wife who was insane when he married her, and who, three weeks after the wedding, is taken to an asylum, where she must stay for the rest of her life.

Here is a pitiful problem. How will the lovers solve it? It is because in their solution they live to themselves alone, that they, and the book, fall short of greatness.

"The Dust Flower." By Basil King. Hodder & Stoughton. \$2.00.

Can anything new be written around the eternal triangle? Yes, for here it is, "The Dust Flower," by Basil King. A rich

man and two maids, one rich and one poor, both love him, which will he choose? We won't tell, you must read this very interesting novel to find out. Not the least interesting character in the book is Steptoe, the butler, with his homely philosophy. "'Umble 'ill is pretty stiff to climb," says he, "but them as gets to the top of it is tough." "Trouble is to character what a peg'll be to a creepin' vine—something to which the vine'll 'ook on and pull itself up by." His views on women are interesting and decidedly original.

"God's wyes is always dark, and when it comes to women they're darker nor they are elsewheres." "It spiles women to put 'em to 'ousework," are some of his conclusions, but Steptoe must be read to be appreciated.

—L. A.

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BEN TOON herein announces the removal of "The Little Bookshop" from 316 Richards to 724 Hastings Street. It was with great regret that the doors of the old shop, a place of many pleasant associations, were closed, but the necessity of carrying a larger and more representative stock made the securing of larger premises imperative.

You will find all your old friends, and, we hope, the congenial atmosphere of "The Little Bookshop" at:—

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