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Literary Notes

AUTUMN.

The thin gold of the sun lies slanting on the hill;
In the sorrowful grays and muffled violets of the old orchard
A group of girls are quietly gathering apples.
Through the mingled gloom and green they scarcely speak at all,
And their broken voices rise and fall unutterably sad.
There are no birds, and the goldenrod is gone.
And a child calls out, far away, across the autumn twilight;
And the sad gray of the dusk grows slowly deeper,
And the old world seems old!
—Arthur Stringer, in Everybody's Magazine.

* *

Mr. Harvey J. O'Higgins has won the \$1,000 prize offered by the management of "Collier's Weekly" for the best story received between June 1st and September 1st of this year. Mr. O'Higgins is a talented young Canadian who has written two or three books, of which "Don-a-Dreams" deserves to be held in remembrance. Mr. O'Higgins is not among the novelists who industriously advertise. He refuses all requests for anecdotes and photographs, although his present success may persuade him to send the latter to solicitous journals. The weird tale regarding the early struggles of Mr. Stringer and Mr. O'Higgins is laughingly denied by the author of "Don," although the "Saturday Evening Post," the "Literary Digest" and other authorities published it with appropriate heading. The success of Mr. O'Higgins is all the more significant when the announcement is made that Mr. Rudyard Kipling was one of the competitors.

* *

A woman reviewer, writing in the "North American Review" about "Alice-for-Short," indulges in a covert sneer at the morality of the novels by William De Morgan, and apparently regards their decency as something to be described as "Early Victorian." In these days, when Elinor Glyn and other suppliers of smart fiction, many of whom are women, are producing stories which a frank critic calls filthy abominations, such novels as "Joseph Vance" and "Alice-for-Short" come as a breath of fragrance from an old-world garden. Probably the reviewer on the "North American" would prefer Mrs. Glyn's perpetrations.

* *

"The Crucible," by Mark Lee Luther, is a novel which has been blazined serially in the "Cosmopolitan Magazine." It is a highly sensational story which opens with a scene in a women's reformatory and closes with murder, suicide, and other trifling casualties. The heroine is the most persecuted and hard-luck Young Person you could find, outside of melodrama. She has a run of misfortune which is really enough to drive her to a nerves-specialist. Her comparatively slight offence is an outburst of temper and then comes the reformatory with its deadly oppression. If the author intends this book as an attempt to use the muck rake in penal institutions, the volume is fairly comprehensible. As a work of fiction, it is crude in style and "New York Journal" in colouring. Toronto: The Macmillan Company.

* *

Mr. Kipling's English publishers, the Macmillan Company, report that up to date "The Jungle Book," with a total sale of 73,000, stands at the head of all his books in point of popularity. Probably the same relative position would be accorded to it in America among the books published since the passage of the International Copyright Act. Prior to that time the inflated sales produced by cheap pirated editions would disturb all relative values. Mr. Kipling's readers will be surprised and many of them pleased, perhaps, by learning that "Kim," which has not done so well in this country, stands second in the English list, with a total sale of 68,000.

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