

New York, Thomas Allen, Toronto, 247 pages, \$1.50 net.)

At the chateau where she spent the summer of 1918, with her four children, Helen Davenport Gibbons always had a warm welcome for the American soldiers who came to her gate. It is about these soldiers that she tells in her book, **A Little Gray Home in France** (The Century Company, New York, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 258 pages, \$1.50 net). How she got the stories, Mrs. Gibbons explains in the Foreword. "In the study of my Little Gray Home in France is an old Brittany wardrobe. The boys toast their toes at the fireplace beside it. When they stop for a breathing space, they tell me what they think and what they see. On a shelf are paper and pencil, and when I go there to get out chocolate or a new pair of woolen socks, I scratch down hastily what my boys have said." She writes with a graphic and sympathetic pen of the thoughts and feelings of many different types of men.

"Shan't" is the nickname of a small girl with whom the readers of **Oranges and Lemons**, by Mary C. E. Wemyss (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York, Thomas Allen, Toronto, 296 pages, \$1.50 net), are sure to be delighted, for she is much more captivating and less perverse than her name, which is short for "Shan't-if-I-don't-want-to," would suggest. She has a grown-up sister, Diana, a very charming and interesting young lady, who is just "out." It is little wonder that the presence of these two is found equally desirable in the London house of their bachelor uncle, on their mother's side, and in the pretty country home of their unmarried aunt, on their father's side. The endeavors of each to keep the charming nieces, and the experiences of the mischievous Diana with her numerous suitors, among whom are a poet and a curate, are very amusing. One grows very well acquainted with the various characters, as the story makes its leisurely way to an amicable solution of the problem.

Little did Mr. Arthur Mackwayte, a London vaudeville actor, dream, when an unexpected telephone call summoned him to replace, in the largest theatre of the metropolis, an artist who had unfortunately broken his ankle, that he was plunging into the very middle of a maze of plots and counterplots such as might well dizzy the steadiest brain. The murder of this harmless victim during the very night of the engagement from which he and his daughter had hoped much, formed a link in one of the strangest series of happenings in one of the most elaborate espionage schemes ever contrived by the German Intel-

ligence Department. The story of this plot is told in **Okewood of the Secret Service**, by Valentine Williams (Robert McBride and Company, New York, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 374 pages, \$1.50 net), and the tale is crowded with the most exciting adventure, while the plot is well worked out as to hold the tense interest of the reader to the close.

The Adventures of Bob White (117 pages) and **The Adventures of Ol' Mistah Buzzard** (119 pages), by Thornton W. Burgess (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 50c. each), are two recent issues in the author's Bed Time Story Books. Each of the twenty books in this series is devoted to the adventures of some bird or animal, such as "Reddy Fox," "Jerry Muskrat," or, as in these last two, to "Bob White" and "Ol' Mistah Buzzard." These two birds are endowed with speech, wear clothes and made to live and act in their world in a way that attracts children. Enemies and friends, joys and troubles of the birds are intimately portrayed. Each book contains six illustrations. While particularly adapted to the use of parents for an evening story to the little ones, any teacher of little ones will find them of service.

Courage, by Jeanette Marks (The Woman's Press, New York, 140 pages, \$1.25). "Let's go in smiling," the words of an officer in France to his men as they were about to charge the enemy, have been chosen by the author as the keynote of this book. This is the spirit Miss Marks would have us carry into office and shop, home and hospital. **Courage** "gives mastery over self," "holds our heads above water," "gives power to face the day's work," "backs up conscience in choosing between right and wrong," "carries us over the rough road," "is the essence of the art of living." In twelve chapters the author suggests how such an art may be cultivated. Each chapter is in the form of a bright essay, with an introductory selected poem which lends the chapter its title.

Readers of Mr. W. P. Livingstone's wonderful biography of Mary Slessor of Calabar, will open, with highest expectations, a new book by the same author, **Christina Forsyth of Fingoland: The Story of the Loneliest Woman in Africa** (Holder and Stoughton, London and Toronto, 236 pages), and such expectations will be more than realized. The sphere in which Mrs. Forsyth labored for thirty years was very different from that of Miss Slessor. The pioneer in Calabar "was a worker on a large stage and touched thousands of lives. Eager for territorial expansion she thought in terms of towns and districts. Mrs. Forsyth was an intensive worker, thinking in