

Book Notices.

"Dr. Grenfell's Parish." The Deep-Sea Fishermen. By Norman Duncan. Author of "Dr. Luke of the Labrador." New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. 155. Price, \$1.00 net.

More fascinating than a tale of romance or fiction is the story of Dr. Grenfell's adventurous and heroic life. A few years ago this well-born, Oxford-bred young Englishman was walking the London hospitals. He strayed one night into one of Mr. Moody's meetings and determined to dedicate his life to the service of humanity. After mission work in London slums he joined the mission to the deep-sea fishermen in the North Sea, and then gave himself to the deeper needs of the fishing fleets on the Labrador coast.

Mr. Duncan gives a vivid account of his "parish," where his doctor's duties take him on a round of three thousand miles of a most rugged and inhospitable country. Here he is at once doctor, parson, master-mariner, and magistrate, a prophet and champion of the people. It is one of the stormiest coasts in the world. In one gale forty vessels were driven on a lee shore, in another eighty were wrecked over night, two thousand fishermen cast away. Twenty-five thousand people go north from Newfoundland every year in a thousand fishing vessels, and four thousand more live the year round on this bleak and rugged coast. The Government employs a physician to make a fortnightly round on the mail steamer in the summer time, but what is one among so many men exposed to sickness, accident and danger every hour. One father had to cut off his little daughter's frozen feet with an axe to save her life. Another sick man dosed himself with a liquid obtained by boiling cast-off pulley blocks!

To this needy community came this modern Viking, and in his little steam yacht "Strathcona," visits every harbor on the coast, ministering to the sick or conveying them to one of the hospitals which he has established on the coast. No peril of fog or sleet or storm can daunt him. In winter it is even worse. He travels for hundreds of miles with dog-teams and komatiks, or wooden sleds,

ministering to the sick and performing surgical operations, passing the night out of doors in his sleeping bag, snuggled close to his dogs for the sake of warmth. Mr. Duncan's book gives, in his own vivid manner, the stirring incidents of this heroic life and of the dangers encountered and triumphs achieved by this heroic man.

"The Life and Work of the Rev. E. J. Peck Among the Eskimios." By Rev. Arthur Lewis, M.A. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xvi-350.

This book has special interest to Canadians, because it describes missionary work, as heroic as any other attempted, in a little-known part of our own Dominion—the east coast of Hudson's Bay. Few of us have any adequate conception of the extent of this great Mediterranean of Canada, soon to be connected by rail with Toronto and the great west. Our author presents a map showing Great Britain and Ireland as transferred to Hudson's Bay and scarce occupying one-fourth of its area. The brave missionary whose life and labors are here recorded responded to the appeal of Bishop Horden for volunteers thirty years ago. He records the grateful indebtedness of the mission to the syllabic character invented by James Evans, by which the Bible and hymn books were translated into the Eskimo language. After ten years' labor in this rugged field the missionary returned to England for a furlough, but was soon back at his work with a splendid reinforcement in the person of a devoted wife. In the first year of their wedded happiness, in mid-winter the missionary set out on a journey of six hundred miles, two hundred and fifty of which he made on foot, the remaining three hundred and fifty with dog-sleds. The isolation of those heroic souls is almost inconceivable. But one ship a year brings letters from England. One missionary did not hear of the death of his child in England for a year after it took place. The missionaries have their unfailing reward. In the snow igloos of the Eskimo gospel triumphs are won, which gladden their hearts and compensate for all their toil. The book has all the fascination of a romance.