

THE AUTHOR'S COLUMN

HERE AND THERE.

THE perfunctory way in which many editors deal with books sent them for review is rather well taken off by the author of a recent book in writing to his publisher. "The notices of the book," he writes, "have been complimentary, and I have no fault to find; but most of them, like the last one you sent me, reveal a strong desire on the part of the editors to expend as little energy as possible in the review. Newspaper energy, I have no doubt, costs, and it is economy to conserve it on occasions where the financial returns are limited."

Scotch Proverb: "A little white bird in the hand is worth two in the bonnie briar bush."—London Judy.

The literature of humor would be decidedly enriched were a record kept by any of our book houses of orders received by them during the course of a year or so. Recent instances in one of our city houses are a written order for Melvyn's "Virgil Ontario" (meaning "Birds of Ontario"), an order for "What a Young Woman of Forty-Five Ought to Know" (The interpretation of the word "Young" shows how slowly some of the fair sex relinquish their youth). A party wanting a book of a religious nature for an old lady thinks that "Heavenly Twins" should be a good selection. A public school teacher returns "Canadian Singers and Their Songs" (the booklet of portraits and autograph poems of Canadian poets) complaining that the music is not given with the songs. "Patriotic Songs," a volume of some 350 pages, was likewise returned by another customer for the same reason. An inquiry was received at the same house as to whether Watson's "Canadian Crystals" was a work dealing with precious stones. A letter was received asking for a work on prospecting. The writer confessed that he was searching for a silver mine that had at one time been worked by the Indians and had been covered over by them, and intimated that if the mine was found the donors of the desired book would be amply recompensed. This list could be greatly extended, but the instances will serve to show that the "wise and learned" bookseller has his merry moments.

WITH CANADIAN AUTHORS.

MISS MARY AGNES FITZGIBBON returned recently from an extended visit in England, and is spending the Winter with her mother at Lakefield. Very frequently in the Old Country, as well as here, Miss FitzGibbon has been amused and sometimes inconvenienced, by having her identity confused with that of her namesake, Mrs. Mary Agnes FitzGibbon ("Lally Bernard") a case analogous to that of the two Winston Churchills.

Mr. Bernard McEvoy is spending the Winter with his son in Vancouver, where he is kept in constant admiration of the scenery afforded by the mountains that pierce the sky line to the eastward of that Western city.

Miss Anna Frances McCollum will return from Boston before the close of February, and will leave Peterboro' in March, to take up her residence in Detroit.

Mrs. Jean Blewett is visiting with friends in Chatham.

A canard is going the rounds that Miss Laut has been undergoing treatment in the Pasteur Institute, in New York, for an expected attack of hydrophobia. It is a fact that Miss Laut lost both a pet dog and a pet kitten by hydrophobia, but she was bitten by neither of these, and has not been near the Pasteur Institute. Her friends will be relieved to know that she is at her home in Wausau, N.Y., and in good health.

LONDON LITERARY NOTES.

IF it is announced that Mr. W. T. Stend is to introduce fiction into The Review of Reviews. It will be eccentric fiction, however, as Mr. Stend intends to inaugurate an endless romance, each chapter of which is to treat of some current event.

The sale of Kruger's Memoirs in London has fallen flat. General de Wet's book, "The Three Years' War," is by far the more popular book of the two. One large bookseller proclaims it to be the best selling book of the season.

Another Temple series is to be begun by Messrs. J. M. Dent & Co. This time it is to be the Temple Autobi-



J. N. BARRIE.

Whose "Little White Bird" has had a large sale in Canada.

ographies. The first three volumes include the autobiographies of Colling, Franklin and Hans Anderson.

The publishing world is regarding with interest the experiment of bringing out a series of "Half-Forgotten Books."

Lucas Malet's new novel is to be entitled "The Paradise of Damnie Iglesias."

Anthony Hope has completed a novel entitled "Double Harness," which will appear serially during 1903.

The new novel on which Mr. A. E. W. Mason is engaged is to be a modern love story of English society life.

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome is wintering in Switzerland.

Mr. T. W. H. Crossland, whose "Unspeakable Scot" gave him such an unenviable reputation, is once more going to beard the public. This time, "Lovely Woman" is his theme.