

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

WM. BRIGGS' LIST OF FICTION.

In notable current fiction the publishing house of Wm. Briggs is pre eminent just now with such novels as "The Master Christian," "Eleanor," "The Isle of Unrest," "Quisante," etc., and the popular approval bestowed upon these is all, from the trade standpoint, one is required to recognize. Two of these novels, those by Mrs. Ward and Mr. Hope, are of the highest merit. Their success is a tribute to the public taste. The sales of all four books are likely to continue till Spring.

In addition to these, "A Bicycle of Cathay," by Frank R. Stockton, and "The Adventures of Ambrose Gwynett," by F. W. Hayes, a sequel to this writer's "A Kent Squire," are two novels placed on the market early in this month. The previous work of the author in each case justifies the expectation of a popular reception for these stories.

The appearance of "Lords of the North," by Agnes C. Laut, will be greeted with interest as it is Miss Laut's first novel. Miss Laut is a young Canadian writer who has already made a name for herself as a journalist. She began writing for The Manitoba Free Press, and afterwards wrote for The New York Evening Post, Sun and other high-class papers. While in Winnipeg and the West she gathered the material for this novel.

In some quarters Mr. Fraser has been criticized as copying Kipling and Seton-Thompson in his "Mooswa," though these two excellent writers are spared a reference to good old Aesop. The criticism is not well placed. No person with an average supply of sanity would contend that, because Kipling and Thompson write animal stories, therefore all other writers must "keep off the grass." A little browsing still remains. Even a critic should have discernment enough to see that Mr. Fraser's book has in it features that keep it quite distinct from those of the writers whom he is accused of imitating. The Boston Journal, in an admirable, discriminative review, makes the following comparison in the work of these three master writers:

Mr. Kipling imagines what animals must think and say, if thought and speech they have. Mr. Seton-Thompson glorifies their acts in interpreting them, and Mr. W. A. Fraser, in his "Mooswa and Others of the Boundaries," fancies them as human beings in speech and knowledge of the world, but further endowed with forest cunning. A child cannot conceive the full cleverness of Mr. Kipling's work; he will be influenced by Mr.

Thompson's, and even sentimentalize over it: he will quite understand Mr. Fraser's, but, as he grows older, he will perceive its incongruities, as he will detect the fallacies in fairy tales. While he is a child, he will probably enjoy it better than the work of either of the other authors.

The sale from the beginning has been phenomenal. Less than a week after publication the first American edition was exhausted, and in Canada the book has met with immediate success.

COPP, CLARK CO.'S LIST. The Copp, Clark Co. will mark this, the first Christmas in their splendid new establishment on Front street, with a notably strong list of books specially suited to holiday selling.

The most recent issue was "In the Palace of the King," Marion Crawford's new novel. It is a love story of Old Madrid in the 16th century—the time of its greatest glory. Mechanically, the book is a beautiful piece of work, the binding, the illustrations, paper and type, and the cover is stamped with the royal arms of Spain. The book is of the kind usually sold for \$1.50, but "In the Palace of the King" retails at \$1.25.

TWO FINE CHRISTMAS BOOKS.—A new edition of James Lane Allen's "A Kentucky Cardinal" has been issued by Copp, Clark Co., which will be much appreciated for the holiday trade. The cover is elaborately designed in red and gold, and Hugh Thompson has contributed 100 excellent pen-and-ink illustrations. The book retails for \$2. "Wanted—A Match-Maker," by Paul Leicester Ford, is another of Copp, Clark Co.'s Christmas books which is sure to be popular. The edition is a very handsome one. Besides the beautiful photograph-illustrations by H. C. Christy, each page is illuminated in green and black, and the cover design is a model of its kind. The pages are deckle-edged, with gold top. The retail price is \$2.

TOMMY AND GRISEL.—The book, "Tommy and Grisel" is "a wonder," even as Tommy himself. It is so "masterful," so full of the great soul of Barrie behind the two wonderfully drawn characters, for no man could perform such a vivisection without having experimented on his own soul first. This masterpiece is being reviewed everywhere. In England the leading literary publications are squandering columns upon it, praising it as one of the greatest pieces of character study ever written. The advance sales alone were 62,000, and,

from the publishers' standpoint, a still brighter future is prophesied for it.

"The Real Chinese Question" is one of the timeliest of books, and, while dealing with grave questions, it is as fascinating as a novel, and written in a beautiful style. Mr. Holcombe writes of it in his own introduction which is in keeping with the fair-mindedness throughout: "The volume apologizes for and defends no one, least of all the Chinese. It states facts, some of which are painful and humiliating, but which ought to be stated, and which are neither exaggerated nor overdrawn. It appeals not for China, but for fair play." Mr. Holcombe knows China as very few "outsiders" do.

A MILITARY BOOK. One of the chief interests for Canadians in "Ian Hamilton's March," by Winston Spencer Churchill, is that the first Canadian contingent formed part of General Hamilton's army. The book contains extracts from the diary of a former prisoner of war at Pretoria. We give here a note: "Christmas Day, 1899. I can scarcely realize that it is Christmas, the day I have hitherto spent at home with family and friends. I can see the rooms decorated with holly, and 'Merry Christmas' cut in white paper and pasted on red Turkish twill hanging over the doorway. A Merry Christmas! What irony! * * * with the New Year black, uncertain and unknown. Of course, we drank the health of the Queen at dinner—in lime juice 'Twas all we had, but we meant it none the less."

IAN MACLAREN AGAIN. The author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," Rev. John Watson, "Ian MacLaren," has written a new devotional work entitled "Children of the Resurrection." It completes a trilogy of books of meditation appropriate to Holy Week. The first was the "Upper Room," now in its thirtieth thousand, and perhaps the most widely read of Dr. Watson's religious books. The second was "The Companions of the Sorrowful Way," while the present volume forms the third of the series.

Other books in the Copp, Clark's list are "Heronford," by S. R. Keighley; "The Grand Mademoiselle," by James Eugene Farmer; "The Idiot at Home," by John Kendrick Bangs, a new book of humor, and a new edition in cloth at 50c. of "Stories of the Maple Land," by Katherine A. Young. A Canadian copyright edition of James Lane Allen's "Kentucky Cardinal and Aftermath" for holiday sale, finely illustrated, is also promised. Booksellers will not forget the three new Henty books which are such large Christmas sellers.

O. HUGH WYNN, the literary editor of The Toronto News said in a recent issue: