

LITERARY NOTES

TO ENCOURAGE LITERATURE.

REFERENCE was made in this column last week to the scanty encouragement which Canadian writers have received from those in political authority. During the last fortnight, however, the Legislature of Quebec has shown an example in this matter, so far at least as discussion is concerned. Mr. Mousseau moved "that this House expresses the wish that the Government will institute a system of official encouragement of letters, sciences and arts through the organisation of public competitions and the giving of prizes to the laureates." Mr. Mousseau dwelt upon the necessity of a literary and artistic growth to keep pace with the material growth of prosperity in the province and urged on the administration the wisdom of setting aside a certain sum for the encouragement of this among the pupils in schools and colleges.

The Premier of Quebec stated that if the majority of the House favoured the allotment of a grant for this purpose, he would not oppose it as the object was a worthy one. It is significant that this encouraging discussion comes from French members—of a race with artistic tendencies and ambitions. Ambassador Bryce, addressing the Canadian Club of Montreal, recently remarked:

"You have two elements in Canada which ought to give you great advantage, namely, the poetry, literature and romance of French writers and the sturdy, robust nature of the British peoples."

IN OLD QUEBEC.

A FURTHER interesting addition to the literature of the Ancient Capital of Canada is promised. Mr. Byron Nicholson, known to readers as the author of "Resourceful Canada," "Across the Continent," "The French Canadians," etc., will publish during the present month a volume entitled "In Old Quebec, and Other Canadian Sketches." The book will refer to various parts of Canada, and will be well illustrated. The Commercial Publishing Company of Quebec City is issuing the book.

THE BROKEN ROAD.

THERE is a group of Members of the British House of Commons who are also known to the world as romance-writers. To this group, Mr. A. E. W. Mason of "Four Feathers" fame belongs. "The Truants" and "Running Water" were hardly up to the level of Mr. Mason's former stories; but his latest work, "The Broken Road," is likely to add materially to his reputation as a novelist.

"The Broken Road" is a story of frontier life in India and Englishmen of several sorts come and go on the great highway which is ever coming nearer to the Hindu Kush. There is the alert official, sensitive to changes of Oriental feeling, and the stolid "Major Dewes," who sees nothing beyond the obvious situation. The India of which Mr. Mason writes is vivid, scorching and full of the significance of threatening innovation. A most pitiful tragedy is that of Shere Ali, the native princeling who is sent "home" to Eton and Oxford for education and who returns to India to find himself a man without a race and even without a fireside, for the high-bred English woman shrinks from him and an alliance with one of his own blood is repellent. Mr. Kipling's story about Wali Dad who sat on the city wall and called himself a "demni-

tion product" comes back to us but Shere Ali takes himself more seriously than did the Anglo-Mohammedan cynic.

The fascination of pioneer strife and conquest is strong with the Linforths, men who die in strange places that the ways of the Empire may be made straight. The prophecy of old Andrew Linforth was fulfilled:

"Many men will die in the building of it, many men will die fighting over it, Englishmen and Chiltis, and Gurkhas and Sikhs. It will cost millions of money and from policy or economy successive Governments will try to stop it; but the power of the Road will be greater than the power of any government. It will wind through valleys so deep that the day's sunshine is gone within the hour. It will be carried in galleries along the faces of mountains, and for eight months of the year sections of it will be buried deep in snow. Yet it will be finished."

This new novel of heroic struggle and pathetic defeat, with many an illuminating glimpse of Himalayan lands, is far above the ordinary run of modern fiction and should be read by all who care for a stirring story told by a born "teller of tales." Toronto: William Tyrrell and Company.

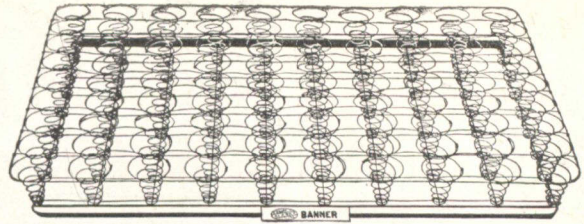
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THE GIRL'S REALM.

IT is decidedly difficult to find a good magazine for girls. There are several excellent publications for the small person and more than one domestic magazine intended to appeal to feminine tastes and requirements. But it is a more trying task to produce a periodical in which girls will be interested. Such a one, however, is to be found in "The Girl's Realm," which is published in Toronto, Canada, by Cassell and Company. British periodicals have lately come into the country under fairer financial conditions than were obtained before and it is to be hoped that such a bright and desirable magazine as "The Girl's Realm" will soon become familiar in our public libraries and on our home tables. The stories are very suitable, avoiding both the sensational and the goody-goody. Mrs. Turner, who writes the best stories for young people now published, concludes in the April issue, "That Girl," a story of Sydney, Australia. The special articles are entertaining and suggestive. Altogether "The Girl's Realm" is to be widely-read and recommended.

THE KONGO COMPLICATIONS

THE question of the Kongo has reached a fairly acute stage. Lord Cromer, who is an excellent authority on African affairs, has proposed "internationalising" the Kongo but Brussels journalists are not slow to suspect the "Maker of Modern Egypt" of sinister designs upon King Leopold's rubber country. The Liberal politicians of Belgium, hoping to effect a transfer of Kongo territory by annexation to the Belgian nation, are bitterly opposed to any such measure as that suggested by Lord Cromer. The Kongo State occupies a position decidedly attractive to those who are planning a Cape-to-Cairo route. The Belgian Liberals evidently fear that the Kongo may become, so far as English influence is concerned, a second Egypt and afford a highway for a railroad under British directorate. They doubt the benevolent intentions of those who are shocked by the "atrocities in the Kongo" and would even prefer German interference to British.



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A Mother's Testimony

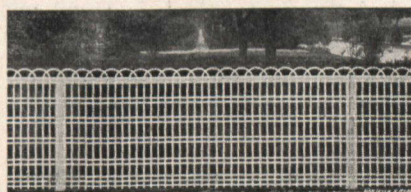


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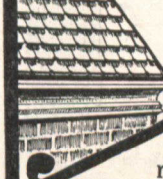


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