

THE BOOK PAGE

Books for notice should be sent to the Editors of the Teachers Monthly, Presbyterian Publications, Church and Gerrard Streets, Toronto.

Sir Gilbert Parker's new novel, **The Judgment House** (The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, 470 pages, \$1.50) introduces us to its chief characters in a Covent Garden concert. Jasmine Grenfel, the young and beautiful granddaughter of old Draygon Grenfel, who had inherited from him a fortune and his self-willed and imperious disposition, Ian Stafford, of the Foreign Office, Rudyard Byng, a South African millionaire at thirty-three, Al'mah, prima donna, and the handsome adventurer Adrian Fellowes,—these are the principal figures in a really powerful tale. "Jasmine 'll marry that nabob," predicted her father, that night, speaking of Byng. And marry him she did, out of sheer admiration for his masculine force. How the pair were driven asunder by the wife's faithlessness and folly, to be reunited, at long last, on the South African veldt, during the Boer war,—that is the thread of a story in which the actors play their parts with all the tenseness and variety of real life. **Polly of Lady Gay Cottage** (same publishers, 256 pages, \$1.00) is a charming child's story, beautifully illustrated in colors, by Emma C. Dowd, telling how much a group of little people did for the happiness of their elders. The provision made for a sick children's hospital to be known as the House of Joy is a delightful finale.

The Lady Married: A Sequel to the Lady of the Decoration, — this sub-title is sufficient to assure readers of Frances Little's earlier book of the treat which awaits them in her new volume. And those who missed the Lady of the Decoration are to be envied the delight of a first acquaintance with this charming writer. How the "Lady's" scientist husband is sent to China to hunt down the germ of bubonic plague and how she follows him, first to Japan and then up into Manchuria, coming in for the excitement of the Chinese revolution, with all that happened on the way, including the love story of Sada San, a half American, half Japanese girl and "Billy" is told in the author's inimitable style. (The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 240 pages, \$1.00.)

Three novels from McClelland and Goodchild, Toronto, deserve a high place in any list of good fiction. First, there is A. S. M. Hutchinson's, **The Happy Warrior** (448 pages, \$1.35 net). Percival, the hero of the tale, exemplifies the conception of the "happy warrior" in Wordsworth's poem. A noble, generous soul, he aims at the highest, whether in playing or working or loving. The fight with Foxy Pinsent is a bit of description that ranks with the best in literature. But Percival had bigger battles than that to fight, and in these, too, he won out. For its virility and pathos and humor expressed in strong, pure English, Mr. Hutchinson's story can hardly be too much praised. **Widcombe Fair**, by Eden Phillpotts (497 pages, same price), is a fine addition to the author's series of Dartmoor stories. In reading this book one is constantly reminded of Dickens, so large and varied

is the gathering of characters which it presents. Yet these are depicted with such intimate knowledge and sureness of touch, that they stand out in vivid reality. Each of them has a part to play in the working out of the tale: none is a mere super on the stage. The book is a big one. With its closely printed pages, it must be twice the length of ordinary novels. But it is big in more than in a literal sense. It grips the reader, and leaves him with a distinct addition to his knowledge of human life, an unforgettable picture of the Dartmoor valleys and tors, with the loves and hates, the toils and pleasures of their people. Concerning **Joyful Heatherby** (449 pages, same price), it is not too much to say that the author, Payne Erskine, has presented in the heroine, whose name appears in the title, one of the most charming characters which have been portrayed in fiction for many a day. The scenes are laid chiefly in Boston and in a small New England coast town. If it is true that "all the world loves a lover," this book will find a wide circle of readers. For the love story of Joyful and the artist who is the other chief character, is singularly strong and appealing.

Beginning with "Robert Elsmere" published almost a generation ago, Mrs. Humpfrey Ward's name appears as the author or seventeen stories, all more or less well known. **The Mating of Lydia** (Musson Book Company, Toronto, 512 pages, \$1.25) is the latest of the list. It is a tale of the English Lake country, and of the rival love, for Lydia Penfold, a young and charming artist, of the young landowner, Lord Tatham, and the young briefless barrister, Claude Faversham. A study in conscience gives grip to the story—it is here that Mrs. Ward is at her best; and all ends as it ought to end, and happily. This is not one of the greatest of the writer's books, but it is full of life and movement, and will prove a fine addition to the holiday book-shelf.

In, **Because of Jane**, by J. E. Buckrose (McClelland & Goodchild, Toronto, 312 pages, \$1.25), two people find unexpected and complete happiness. Jane is a sprite of a child "of tears and laughter," imaginative and affectionate. Her family, except one aunt, are painfully literal minded and conventional. It is this aunt who finds love and a lover "because of Jane." J. E. Buckrose excels in such studies as this of village and small town life, and his work is distinguished by delicate humor and sympathetic understanding. **Addison Broadhurst, Master Merchant**, by Edward Mott Woolley (same publishers, 278 pages, \$1.25), is a story of modern business. It is told in the form of the actual experience of a young boy starting in as a clerk, and working up to the proprietorship of a huge New York departmental store. Success did not come at once, however, and the author analyses with keen perception the reasons for failure, as well as those that finally won success. The book gives an insight into the modern science of business that is both unusual and extremely interesting. There is a pretty love story too—for how could mere business success be worth while without deeper happiness? A book ambitious men, both young and old, will thoroughly enjoy.