

THE BOOK PAGE

"That is a good book that is opened with expectation and closed with profit."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY plays no small part in the education of our children and young people. In many localities it is the only library of a public sort, and the books are eagerly devoured. It may effectually neutralize much of the work done in the classes; or it may as effectually help. Almost everything depends on the proper selection of the books. This should be done deliberately. It is usually not well to purchase them in bulk. A better plan is to have a standing committee and to buy a few at a time and often. The particular tastes and needs of the scholars are, by this method, more closely met and the shelves kept fresh. The minds and hearts of the teachers are also kept fresh when they read the books carefully before purchasing. The teacher does not, of course, read them with the child's devouring appetite: but to teach well one must keep in touch with how children think, and this is one good way of doing so.

A CRITICAL STUDY OF IN MEMORIAM. By Rev. John M. King, M.A., D.D., Principal of Manitoba College, Winnipeg; pages xvi., 253; gilt top, cloth, \$1.25. Toronto: George N. Morang. A fine piece of bookmaking, easily holding its own, in its dainty green and gold, among the choice books of the season, a book on which publisher and author are alike to be congratulated. Principal King has long been a Tennysonian student, and has mastered the extensive In Memoriam literature, to which, indeed, his volume is no mean addition. To reach to the heart of that great poem, the greatest poem of the greatest poet of the Victorian Era, there is requisite the fourfold qualification of a philosophic mind, poetic instinct, deep-religious feeling, and the ripeness and tenderness which are wrought by sorrow. This Principal King evinces, and, whilst his treatment is critical, and fits the class-room closely, it is much more than merely critical. It is vivifying. He quotes authorities and explains allusions, and sheds light upon obscure passages; but under his touch the passion of the poem and the poet appear, the inconsolable grief, the growing, and finally triumphant, faith, the sweet peace, alight with the glow that comes from beyond the shadows of earth. Dr. King's book is altogether a satisfying one, and will be warmly welcomed by all who still love and study the great masterpieces of English poetry.

The author of JERUSALEM THE HOLY (Edwin S. Wallace) had exceptional opportunity to get his facts at first-hand. As United States Consul for Palestine, he resided for five years in the Holy City itself and evidently made good use of his time. The result is a valuable book of 359 pages, with ten full-page photogravure plates and four maps. The aim has been to present the

substance of the classic works on Jerusalem in popular form and with such additions and color as personal local investigation yields. "The City of the Canaanites," "The City of David and Solomon," "Jerusalem, as Christ saw it," "The city as it is to-day," "The Walls and Gates," "The New, or Gordon's Calvary," "Climate and Health," "Christians in Jerusalem," "The Moslems," "The Future of Jerusalem";—these are some of the titles and sufficiently indicate the scope of the book. The discussion of the agricultural and colonization problems is interesting. What the land needs, the author holds, is people and industry. With well directed labour it can be brought back to its old-time productiveness as the German colonists have proven. On the vexed question as to how this is to be brought about he says, "The land is waiting, the people ready to come as soon as protection to life and property is assured. I am ready to go further and say that the coming inhabitants will be Jews." The book is published by the Fleming H. Revell Co., and sells at \$1.50.

These are titles to make a boy's mouth water. We take them just as they happen to come. THE ISLAND OF GOLD, A SAILOR'S YARN; THE ENCHANTED ISLAND; CHUMS AT LAST, and by such well-known writers for boys as Gordon Stables, Skeleton Kuppord, and Forsyth Grant. Good portly volumes, too, of two hundred and fifty or three hundred pages, and covers and frontispieces after a boy's heart. Perhaps those who are no longer boys would be all the better for now and again forgetting that somewhat unwelcome fact and following the fortunes of the heroes of such tales as these. There is a fine out-of-door atmosphere about the books which is good for man and boy alike, and the fact that they come from the presses of T. Nelson & Sons is sufficient guarantee of their wholesomeness. THE WHITE NORTH, from the same publishers, is freely illustrated and follows Nordenkiöld, De Long and Nansen towards the pole. The substance of the splendid volumes which describe the travels and perils of these and other Arctic explorers is given in entertaining fashion. OUR VOW and ESTHER'S CHARGE are sweet stories of childhood with a good share of mishap as well as of good fortune. Children are but grown people in miniature, and the story that is all honey soon palls upon them. There must be the touch of tragedy if they are to be held.

THE ISLAND OF GOLD, \$1.25; CHUMS AT LAST, \$1.25; THE ENCHANTED ISLAND, \$1.25; THE WHITE NORTH, 70 cts.; OUR VOW, 90 cts.; ESTHER'S CHARGE, 90 cts.; T. Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh, and New York; Copp, Clark & Co., 9 Front street west, Toronto.

LIGHTS ALONG THE SHORE is the suggestive title of the stenographic report of the Thirty-third Provincial Sabbath School Convention for Ontario. Price 15 cents. Miss Jessie A. Munro, Manning Arcade, Toronto.