

interesting portion was by itself. Begin, therefore with the line of interests native to the boy, and then bring to his attention other matters which have an immediate connection with these. Fortunately, almost any kind of connection is sufficient to bring interest with it. How easy the geography of the West Indies and the Philippines must have been to American children lately! But before the war you could ask them "if they ate pepper with their eggs, and where they supposed the pepper came from?"

The chief point in the discussion is the fact "that voluntary attention cannot be continuously sustained: that it comes in beats." Wherefore, obviously, interest must be aroused and again called forth and sustained. The "presumption" is—since the attention inevitably wanders away from an unchanging subject—that "the subject must be made to show new aspects of itself; to prompt new questions; in a word, to change." Professor James mentions a simple experiment in sensorial attention by which this may be tested. "Try to attend steadfastly to a dot on the paper or on the wall. You presently find that one of two things have happened: Either your field of vision has become blurred so that you now see nothing distinct at all; or else you have involuntarily ceased to look at the dot in question, and are looking at something else. But if you ask yourself successive questions about the dot—how big it is, how far, of what shape, what shade of color, etc.; in other words, if you turn it over, if you think of it in various ways, and along with various kinds of associates, you can keep your mind on it for a comparatively long time." The application is easy.

S. E. LANG.

CURRENT FICTION.

We are glad to notice that leading Canadian firms are undertaking the publication of standard fiction. For some time The Copp Clark Company have been issuing a series of excellent novels, including Gilbert Parker's works, and now another well known publishing house, The W. J. Gage Company has entered the same field and have already issued in their fiction series "The Mormon Prophet," "Ragged Lady," "As a Man Sows," "Two Men O' Mendip" and "Hugh Gwyeth."

"The Span o' Life," by William McLennan and J. N. McIlwraith, is the latest addition to the too small store of Canadian romance. This story will appeal to all lovers of Canadian literature. The authors are Canadians and they have chosen for a theme the early days of their own country. "The Span of Life" has been running in Harper's Monthly and seldom has a more delightful tale appeared in this always good magazine. It is safe to predict for it a run of popularity similar to that enjoyed by the "Seats of the Mighty." The Copp Clark Co., cloth \$1.50, paper 75c.

Another historical novel which will no doubt have a wide circulation in Western Canada where newspaper discussions on "Mormonism" have been the order of the day, is "The Mormon Prophet," by Lily Dougal. The book is a vivid picture of the most striking incidents in the great Mormon Prophet's life and carries the reader back to the early decades of the present century. As the author is a talented Canadian girl—a niece of Mr. John Dougal, of the Montreal Witness—this book will, we are sure, be read with much interest by Canadian people. The W. J. Gage Co., Toronto. Cloth \$1.25, paper 75c.

W. D. Howells has given us a fascinating story of European travel and New England life in his "Ragged Lady." The author's knowledge of life and accurate delineation of character are shown very forcibly in the working out of this tale. The W. J. Gage Co. Cloth \$1.25, paper 75c.

"As a Man Sows," by Wm. Westall, is intensely interesting fiction with plenty of "dash and go," and a good deal of the "Sherlock Holmes" element to commend it to lovers of this form of the novel. It is brightly written and well conceived. The W. J. Gage Co., Toronto. Cloth \$1.25, paper 75c.