

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

WM. BRIGGS' LIST.

The fiction list of 1900 contained several phenomenal sellers issued by William Briggs and the same publisher seems to have secured for 1901 some books that promise to equal their predecessors in popularity.

Among these are announced a new story by Henry Harland, the author of "The Cardinal's Snuffbox"; Miss Fowler's forthcoming novel, "Fuel of Fire"; and another of Joseph Hocking's popular novels entitled, "Lest We Forget." In the field of fiction the same publisher likewise announces Mrs. Barr's new story, "Trinity Bells," described as one of the most charming pictures of early life in America that has yet been written. Like the "Bow of Orange Ribbon" it is a romance of Old New York. The story carries into Algiers and bold adventures with Tripolitan pirates. A new story by J. W. Johnston ("Annan Dale") the author of "Dwellers in Gotham," will also be published during the present year.

Of "The Cardinal's Rose," by Stephens, the latest novel from the press of Wm. Briggs, Rev. Lyman Abbott says: "I have read 'The Cardinal's Rose' with great interest. I do not pretend to be a literary critic, especially of fiction, but it seems to me to have all the romance of 'The Prisoner of Zenda,' with the added interest of a good detective story." Everyone who has read the book will agree with this opinion.

Lovers of Canadian poetry will be pleased to learn that a collective volume of the poems of Charles G. D. Roberts is to appear this Spring. There is always a good demand for Roberts' poetry. Concerning another Canadian poet, John Stuart Thomson, The Edinburgh Scotsman publishes a most laudatory criticism, remarking among other things: "This is a singer whose aim is first and foremost after the beautiful. He does not apparently seek to fire us or inspire us, but to charm us, and his work must succeed in this with all but the stupidest burghers in a town."

Dr. MacKay is to be congratulated that a second edition of his "Zorra Boys at Home and Abroad" has already been demanded, and is adding to it two further sketches.

Ward, Lock & Co., have negotiated for an edition of Mr. Barlow Cumberland's

"History of the Union Jack" for the English market.

William Briggs has placed on the market a volume entitled, the "Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ," by the four Evangelists, being the text of the Gospels, rearranged in chronological order, with an introductory study by Dean Farrar; also a new volume of sermons by Rev. Dr. Banks, entitled "Hidden Wells of Comfort," and Dr. John Watson's (Ian Maclaren) "The Doctrines of Grace."

MORANG & CO.'S LIST.

The Canadian edition of "An Englishwoman's Love Letters," brought out by Mr. Morang in cooperation with Mr. Murray, of London, Eng., is having a large sale, and being protected by British copyright has successfully kept out the pirated American editions. The universal discussion that has taken place regarding the origin of the work still proceeds with vigor, the latest rumour being that it is written by three eminent litterateurs, who have entered into a little plot to mystify the public. Women readers, however, claim that there are

passages in the book which could not possibly have been written but by a feminine pen, but on the whole they are disposed to think that a masculine one has been employed to round off the chapters into the somewhat careful literary completeness of form they possess. Meanwhile the "Letters" are crammed full of the passionate utterances of a girl deeply in love, and while some critics write that they are chaste, poetic and beautiful, others claim that they contain passages no decent housemaid would think of writing to her young man. All this tends to keep the public buying the book. It is one of the works that advertise themselves, the philosophy being that its subject matter is a universal passion and that it is treated in a piquant and real way. No one in the trade can make a mistake by putting a few copies on his counter, while the publishers supply a somewhat original window bill which will attract customers.

The Monthly Review, which Morang & Co. are issuing in Canada, in conjunction with Mr. John Murray, of London, Eng., is being well taken up, the list of subscribers being already considerable. The table of contents for the February number includes, among its editorials: "The Happy Warrior," "The Housing of the Poor," "On the Line," the latter an attempt to appraise the value of a number of recent literary productions. Among contributed articles we have "Army Reform," by Col. Maude; "The War Training of the Navy," by Lieut. Carlyon Bellairs, R.N.; "The Outlook for British Trade," by Sir H. E. Roscoe; "Oliver Cromwell," by Thos. Hodgkin, D.C.L.; second illustrated paper on "Giotto," by Roger E. Fry; "Naturalism and Music Aesthetic," by Mathew Sherlow Mus. Bach. Edin.; "A Chinese Fairy Tale," by Laurence Housmen; "An Emperor's Sporting Chronicle," being a record by Maximillian's hunting pursuits as detailed in a book made in 1499



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and 1500; a poem "On Lansdowne Hill," by the writer of "An Englishwoman's Love Letters," which, but four verses, will be read with much interest considering by whom it is written. A very good number concludes with the usual instalment of Anthony Hope's story "Tristram of Blent."

Miss Braddon's fine story, "The Infidel," is proving its quality as a book that is not merely of ephemeral interest. A large number of copies have been sold. Incidentally, it may be said that the authoress is one who has been successful in strictly preserving her incognito. No portrait of her has ever appeared in any public print. In this, she differs considerably from the usual run of modern authors with whom it seems to be sine qua non to get their pictured representations before the public on the earliest possible occasions.

Gilbert Parker's "Lane That Had No Turning" and Crockett's "Stickit Min-