

Book Notices.

"Life of Isabella Thoburn." By Bishop J. M. Thoburn. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

Having once taken the book up, it is hard to lay it down. Miss Thoburn's is a life over which one marvels as one reads. In these pages we have her early years, her Christian home, her first successes as a teacher, her launching forth into an unknown land and a then unknown work among young women. For it will be remembered she was the first appointee of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

To her it was given to establish the first girls' school in India, starting with but six pupils. To her it was given to see this school expand into a woman's college of widely-known name. She was pre-eminently a teacher, but with her fine literary taste she might easily have distinguished herself as a writer as well. We have seldom, if ever, found more fascinating descriptions of India than those from her pen in these pages. Three terms of service she was given in her beloved India, there finally to die. During her furloughs in America she also did noble service in connection with the opening up of the deaconess work in Chicago and Cincinnati. Hers is the story of a life always crowded, a hand never hurried, a brow ever calm.

"The Hebrew." By John A. Stewart. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Toronto: William Briggs.

This is a story of life in a London slum. "The Hebrew," Jacob Herstein, was once a poor young Jew of the streets, but he had gathered to himself with the shrewdness characteristic of his race, till in our pages he had become a "slum-lord," managing his estates through a heartless agent, and keeping their ownership a secret. He moved in the best society. In his final triumph he was even elected governor of the Standard Metropolitan Bank. But all the while the tale of his oppression of his wretched tenants is one of the most cold-blooded heartlessness. The

story is mostly concerned with the sorrows and degradations of these down-trodden lives. But it has at times a sprightliness in spite of its pathos. The writer, however, does not present English character in its most favourable light. We see the slowness of the English continually contrasted with the bright wits of the few wealthy Americans he portrays. But we are indebted to him for such characters as little "Peterj'n," the beautiful Rachel, daughter of the slum-lord, and the two devoted ministers who were toiling to uplift the denizens of Beulah Place.

"A Dream of Realms Beyond Us." By Adair Welcker. San Francisco: Cubery & Company.

This is an imaginative, dramatic poem in four acts. The announcement on the cover, "A book that in all parts of the world is giving to each man more courage to become his brother's helper than have any or all books of the past time," is certainly laying claim to too much honour for this little pamphlet. There are undoubtedly many books that have been productive of more good to more people. But the writer has, nevertheless, the high ideals of one who seeks the eternal before the perishable. He makes a vigorous protest against materialism.

"The Mettle of the Pasture." By James Lane Allen. Toronto: George N. Morang & Co. Price, \$1.50.

The author of "The Choir Invisible" and "The Kentucky Cardinal" needs no introduction to the reading world. One is quite safe in prophesying a successful career for "The Mettle of the Pasture." It is one of the clever books of the day—a tragedy dressed in the bright, scintillating robes of wit. The author has given us his richest language, his most picturesque descriptions, his irresistible humour, his burning pathos. He has interpreted with a good deal of faithfulness the high ideals of the heroine, the honourable remorse of the hero, the worldly Mrs. Conyers still plotting and schem-