

THE BOOK PAGE

Pith, point, freshness, vividness—these are the cardinal points of the compass, by which the author of **The Teachings of Jesus in Parables**, George Henry Hubbard (The Pilgrim Press, Boston, 507 pages, \$1.50 net), steers his course. It is an interesting course: no danger of drowsing by the way. Taking the story as "the universal language of humanity", and the true rule for the interpretation of the parable to be a firm grasp of the one truth which that particular story was intended to teach, Mr. Hubbard arranges the parables in a Major Group, the parables of the kingdom; Minor Groups, such as parables of lost things, of prayer, on the use of wealth; and Miscellaneous Parables, such as the empty house, excuses, God's fool. There is a great wealth, on the one hand, of homely epigrammatic wisdom, and on the other, of pertinent illustration. Ministers and teachers will find the book a gold mine. As to the gifted author's point of view, if any criticism should be made, it is that salvation is almost uniformly regarded from the manward rather than the Godward side—what man can do, rather than what God does. But this does not detract from the high value of the book, which ranks even with Trench, and Arnot, and Bruce and Dods.

"Life is a school." With this sentence Mr. S. D. Gordon begins the "Bit Ahead" of his latest book, **Quiet Talks on Personal Problems** (William Briggs, Toronto, 224 pages, 75c. net). This conception of life is common enough. So are the problems

which the book discusses. These are Sin, Doubt, Ambition, Self-mastery, Pain, Guidance, The Church, Questioned Things. But Mr. Gordon's discussion of these problems is not common: it is after a method and in a style altogether his own, which arrest the attention and hold the interest of the reader. The "personal" note is struck on every page. We have here the talk of one who is working at the problems himself, and seeks, in brotherly fashion, to help others in the search for their solution.

A colony of artists in the quiet Scotch village of Creelpoint-on-Dee gives the setting in **Little Esson**, by S. R. Crockett (William Briggs, Toronto, 320 pages, illustrated, price \$1.25), for a very pretty love story which centres around Mina Hilliard, the sister of one of the young painters. The dying wish of Terry Fairweather, Mina's husband, that it should not be known until a stated time, that he had made over the bulk of his fortune to her before his death, results in many complications. But all at last works out to a happy ending. Characters familiar to readers of Scotch stories are found in John Broadbent, the parish minister; in sharp-tongued Lummy Itherwood, the manse servant; and in the village gossip, Mistress "Polly" Purdie, whose name was "short" not for Mary, but for policeman, for her husband had been the "nicht watchman". However, these somewhat familiar types are well handled, and the story is crisp and entertaining throughout.

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