

THE BOOK PAGE

The scene of a new story by Sir Gilbert Parker, **You Never Know Your Luck** (Bell & Cockburn, Toronto, 328 pages, \$1.25), is the imaginary town of Askatoon in Western Canada, and the tale, while not to be ranked with the author's best work, is interesting on account of its local color and atmosphere. The outstanding characters are Shiel Crozier, the son of an Irish baronet, who has lost all his money through gambling on horse races and has come to the Canadian West, under the assumed name of James Gathorne Kerry, to retrieve his fortunes; Kitty Tynan, a typical and attractive daughter of the prairie; and the wife of Crozier left behind in the old land, thought to be angered past the point of forgiveness because of his broken promise never to bet again. Kitty, ignorant of the fact that Crozier is married, falls in love with him; but when she discovers that Crozier has a wife already, she sets herself to bring them together. Meanwhile Crozier is badly wounded by a disreputable gang after giving testimony in a murder trial which resulted in the conviction of one of their number. Mrs. Crozier's arrival on the scene just when her husband is convalescing creates a situation which forms the dramatic climax of the story. To while away a summer holiday afternoon one might do a great deal worse than provide himself with a copy of this book.

The Amazing Argentine, by John Foster Fraser (Cassell & Co., Toronto, 280 pages, illustrated, \$1.50 net), is the catchy title of John Foster Fraser's newest book. Mr. Fraser, in whatever country he travels, sees with the eyes of a trained journalist and writes in a racy, breezy style that is always readable, even though in detail one may want to investigate further. Argentine, he counts amazing for the rapid progress it has made in agriculture, for the luxury of its cities, for the variety of opportunity it offers to make money, and for the enthusiastic patriotism of its people. The Argentine has leaped to first rank as a wheat producing land; and is rapidly capturing a lion's share of the chilled and frozen meat trade. 70,000,000 acres are in cultivation—about one sixth of the land available; and there are 30,000,000 cattle in the country, 80,000,000 sheep, and in addition over 8,000,000 horses. An enormous amount of British capital has been poured in to develop the country, especially in railway building. Mr. Fraser pictures the life in city and country, with its opportunities for commercial success, and sketches the type of man likely to succeed. Success, he declares, is the god of the Argentine, and that in that huge and rich country religion is a matter of almost universal indifference. The book gives a view of our South American neighbors that will stimulate thought in many directions.

Every doctor knows that his patients need more than medicine or surgery to set them on their feet. Dr. Richard C. Cabot, in his book which has reached a fifth edition, **What Men Live By** (McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, 341 pages, \$1.50 net), points out that the fundamental need of those who come to the physician, is more "real life." And the sub-title of the book, Work, Play, Love, Worship, indicates the author's view as to the main essentials

which must enter into a life of true health and joy. The series of studies on these four topics will prove of intense value to those who are in earnest about getting the most of life for themselves and others.

The Corner-Stone of Education, by Edward Lyttelton, D.D., Headmaster of Eton (G. P. Putnam's Sons, London and New York, 242 pages, \$1.50 net), is a book of very unusual interest for parents, teachers and all others interested in the training of boys. The author's experience as the head of probably the most famous of England's public schools gives special weight to his utterances. The "corner-stone of education," in the view of this outstanding educationalist, is parental training in the home. In one of the most striking chapters of the book, headed, Where is the Source of Virtue? it is declared that "the effect of home-training is so far certain that it is foolish to put any trust in any other influence such as school life or the personal influence of some teacher or friend after school life is over." From amongst innumerable other sentences worth quoting this is selected: "If the above estimate of the dominating influence of the early training is not wholly wrong, if, that is, it may be truly conceived of as the normally deciding factor in character-building, then plainly the most hopeful line for social reformers is to restore and reinvigorate the general idea of the English home." In fact the book is filled with the sanest and most sympathetic instruction and counsel for those who have been entrusted with the sacred task of training children for a good and happy life.

A Hebrew Anthology: By George Alexander Kohut (S. Bachrach, Cincinnati, 2 Vols., about 1,400 pages), is unique as being entirely by Gentile writers. It is "a collection of poems (Vol. I.) and dramas (Vol. II.) inspired by the Old Testament and post-Biblical tradition, gathered from the writings of English poets from the Elizabethan period and earlier to the present day." The compiler has been eminently catholic in his selections, writers from such great names as kings and queens of England, John Milton, Martin Luther, George Eliot, and Edwin Arnold, to such every day workers as Charles Haddon Spurgeon, and modern and hard-headed men as William Byron Forbush, being represented. Vol. I., which is the more interesting of the two volumes, contains, amongst others, Poems on the Bible, Poems on the Apocrypha and Post-Biblical Tradition, Tales and Traditions from the Talmud and Other Sources, and Poems in Defence of the Jews. The whole collection is one in which Christian as well as Jew will be intensely interested. The fact that every forward movement in modern times—such as the Ap Fatorus and movements bound up with the names of Wyclif and Tyndale, John Milton and the Pilgrim Fathers, has been intimately associated with a Renaissance of the Hebrew Scriptures, shows the amazing vitality of Hebrew thought, which, in fact, is interwoven in the warp and woof of our Christianity. It is worth much to a Bible student to have such an anthology as Dr. Kohut's at his elbow; the lovers of sacred story will find therein many of their old favorites, and many new pieces of excellent merit.