

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

The next best thing to the reading of a good book is, perhaps, the perusal of an intelligent review of it to me it is always a source of lively satisfaction. Gladstone.

SHAKESPEARE: PURITAN AND RECUSANT.—By Rev. T. Carter; cloth, 208 pp., 2s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. Mr. Carter has added a most entertaining volume to the writings dealing with the family history of the Shakespeares. He attacks the two theories held by many Shakespearian students: first, that John Shakespeare, the poet's father, became poor and was dropped from the Stratford Town Council on account of his poverty; secondly, that he was a Roman Catholic. Mr. Carter quotes from the Stratford records and draws upon the history of England during that period to prove that John Shakespeare was a strong Puritan and that William Shakespeare's knowledge of Scripture was derived from the Geneva Bible and none other. We have read the book from the first to the last page and consider it a most delightful and well-reasoned argument. Conjecture may form a larger element than the critics will approve. But are not all the students of Shakespeariana groping in the dark? Mr. Carter maintains his theory with warmth but with very great clearness and has shown much ingenious industry in handling the facts. The volume will please the student of literature and the average reader alike.

THE CHRISTIAN.—By Hall Caine. Cloth, \$1.50; paper, 75c. George N. Morang, Toronto. Certainly no other novel of the day is more notable than this. Both in England and on this continent the literary critics are busily discussing it, and whether they agree with Mr. Caine's views of modern social and religious life or not, the book is being advertised as scarcely any other work has been since Mrs. Ward's "Robert Elsmere." The story in brief is this: A young and beautiful girl is thrown into London life, first as a professional nurse and then as an actress. All the temptations incident to both careers are fully brought out. The central figure, however, is John Storm, a young clergyman, with the fervor of a first century Christian. He is the nephew of the Prime Minister, but his social prominence avails him little in a fight against the conventionality and worldliness of the modern church. His love for the heroine is a torment to him, as he watches her surrounded by all the temptations of a stage career. His radical and reforming zeal is contrasted with the hard and fast conditions of modern institutions in an evident attempt to expose

what the author believes to be the evils of our time. As a mere story, "The Christian" is absorbing; its power is also undoubted. Whether Mr. Caine's attack is true to fact or not is scarcely a matter to discuss here. The probability is that the book will be very widely read.

THE CHILDREN'S STUDY: FRANCE.—By Mary C. Rowsell. Cloth, 2s. 6d. T. Fisher Unwin, 11 Paternoster Buildings, London. This is one of a series of national histories for young people. It is brightly and vividly written, and gives one a good idea of the greatness of the French nation. Controversial issues are avoided, and the aim is apparently to entertain the child and leave a strong impression of the whole history upon the mind. For Canadian children, who ought to know French history better than they do, this little book is admirably adapted.

PRINCE OF THE PIN ELVES.—By Clara Lee Sleight. Art linen covers, 50c.; 160 pp. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. This is a charming fairy story. The boy who wondered where all the pins go to finds out that a nation of little elves living under the ground get them. He makes friends with one of them, and his adventures in the land of the elves and gnomes are quite exciting. As a Christmas book for the young it is delightful.

OLE MAMMY'S TORMENT.—By Annie Fellows Johnston. Art linen, 118 pp., 50c. L. C. Page & Co. This is a humorously told and interesting story of colored people for the youngsters.

THE FARRIER'S DOG AND HIS PILLOW.—By Will Allen Dromgoole. Art linen, 75 pp., 50c. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. This, like the two preceding books, is to be highly commended as wholesome and diverting reading matter for children.

THE STORY OF THE UNION JACK.—By Barlow Cumberland. Cloth, \$1.25; 231 pp. William Briggs, Toronto. Mr. Cumberland is the son of the late Col. Cumberland, one of many loyal Englishmen who have made Canada their home. He is also the supreme officer in Canada of the Sons of England. So both by ancestry and by his present affiliations he is well qualified to write the story of the British flag. The work, considering its size, is a most elaborate one.

There are over 40 illustrations and 9 colored plates. Mr. Cumberland traces the history of flags and gives a clear recital of the formation of the Union Jack. This is a book for every Canadian boy. It is patriotically written, but will give offence to none.

CAMP AND LAMP.—By Samuel Mathewson Baylis. Cloth: 316 pp.; \$1.25. Wm. Drysdale & Co., Montreal. This is an attractive volume of Canadian stories, verses and sketches. The talented author has collected his writings and they make a very suitable book for the hammock in summer or the fireside in winter. For variety it is hard to excel, as a partial list of contents will show: "Tent, Rod and Pen," a series of sporting sketches; "Annexed, a tale"; "Ballads and Poems"; "A Coward," a tale; "Sonnets, Villanelles and Rondeaux"; "Rebel or Patriot," a story of '37; "Rhymes, Verses and Jingles." The edition is limited and the author signs each volume. The book is quaintly and tastefully bound and printed, reflecting much credit on the well-known publishers, Messrs. Wm. Drysdale & Co.

A LUCKY RESCUE.

An enthusiastic bibliophile entered a humble East End of London tobacco shop in order to be directed to a street in the vicinity he wished to find, when he was horrified to perceive the proprietress tearing wrappers from a black leather book. He snatched the mutilated volume from her and found that it was the "Goode Huswife Jewell," published in the reign of Elizabeth. He eagerly bid a shilling for the the book, and his offer was accepted. The storekeeper explained that she had bought the treasure from an itinerant waste paper merchant. Only three leaves were missing, and she fortunately remembered who had got them. On a promise to give the owners a pint of beer each the missing sheets were speedily recovered, but the fly-leaf had a narrow escape, the owner having twisted it into a pipelight.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE SERVICE.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons, Limited, publishers of The Queen, announce the publication in their popular platinotype panel form, of this memorable scene of national rejoicing in St. Paul's Cathedral on June 22, the picture having been specially taken from a commanding position by the London Stereoscopic Co. The subject is published in two sizes. The trade in Canada may obtain a supply from Warwick Bros. & Rutter, Toronto.