

BOOKS OF THE HOUR.

THE SAILING OF THE LONG SHIPS AND OTHER POEMS. By Henry Newbolt. Toronto: George N. Morang & Co.

The poem which gives its name to this book and which naturally occupies the place of honor at the beginning of the volume affords a very fair example of the general contents. A stirring martial note rings through it, reminding one of the spirit of Campbell clothed in the words of Macaulay. The late war in South Africa afforded the inspiration of this as well as of several other of the poems in the book. The prevailing sentiments of all the poetry is one of virility. Directness, simplicity, and an utter lack of all sensuousness tend towards this result. One is constantly reminded of Campbell in reading these poems. In "Northumberland," in "The Bright 'Medusa'" and in "The Grenadier's Good-bye," the rhythm, swing and sentiment are much akin to those in Campbell's martial poems. But Newbolt is by no means an imitator. The resemblance is a mere coincidence. The other poems relating to school-days, and to love and to various other subjects, testify to original and strong poetic ability.

THE LITERARY YEAR-BOOK AND BOOKMAN'S DIRECTORY, 1903. London: George Allen, 156 Charing Cross Road.

As usual, this annual publication contains a well-arranged mass of valuable matter. To the author, to the would-be author, and to the bookman in general, it presents features of interest. A well-written review of the work of 1902 appears by way of introduction followed by obituary notices of the authors who have died during the year. A list of living authors with their chief works occupies a large portion of the book. Information regarding periodical publications, agents, publishers, press-clipping bureaus, artists, booksellers, and numerous other interesting points is likewise supplied, and copyright royalties, agreements and technical information are all discussed. All told, the volume contains upwards of 500 pages, neatly bound and well printed.

THE ENEMIES OF BOOKS. By W. Blades. London: Elliot Stock, 62 Paternoster Row.

This is the first volume of a re-issue of Mr. Stock's Book Lover's Library, edited by Henry B. Wheatley. The book is a convenient pocket size, bound in canvas and boards, neat and simple in appearance. The contents contain an astonishing amount of most readable information concerning books. The author, Mr. Blades, exhibits an intimate acquaintance with his subject and a degree of erudition that renders his work not only valuable as regards facts, but in a high degree interesting. Beginning with the ravages of fire in libraries, Mr. Blades passes on to the injury done by water and by gas, by dust and by insects, by binders and by collectors and by children

and servants. To any person with the slightest respect for books, this little work will be found most bright and congenial.

THE STUMBLING BLOCK. By Edwin Pugh. New York: A. S. Barnes & Company.

"The Stumbling Block" is a novel of considerable power. In conception it is unusual. The author has apparently set himself the task of an acute analysis of a young woman's emotional nature. To accomplish his purpose he has thrown his heroine into a skilfully-prepared situation, from which she is led to extricate herself in a highly dramatic manner. Beginning with the strange circumstances surrounding the birth of Bria, the heroine, the child's formative years are treated at some length. Then, in the briefest manner possible, the hero of the tale is introduced, and Bria's engagement occurs immediately afterwards. A subtle analysis of the girl's nature follows at the juncture where Saxon Basterfield leaves England to make his fortune. On his return she is found living with an aunt and a beautiful cousin in the country. The latter, on seeing Saxon, is determined to win him for herself. The crisis of the story now approaches rapidly and the denouement is placed in a most dramatic setting. The skill with which the author dissects Bria's heart is one of the strong features of the book. Indeed, apart from an occasional strong human touch imparted to several of the incidents, this is the most striking quality of the tale.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT. By Marguerite Linton Glentworth. Toronto: McLeod & Allen.

The tragic element predominates in this book of many emotions. The tale is powerful enough, both in conception and in treatment, to be decidedly disquieting. At times producing an extreme of abhorrence and at others calling forth the deepest sympathy, the ensemble forms an admixture of strange inconsistencies. A social problem of great moment is the groundwork of the story. Edythe Barattoni, a rising light in the theatrical world, leaves the stage in her hour of triumph to wed the son of one of New York's wealthiest families. For several years she lives with her husband, and four children are born. The life, however, proves galling to the young wife. She longs for her art and the old Bohemian life, and ultimately she deserts her family. Even the death of her youngest son, Maurice, (told in the tenderest manner) fails to reconcile her to them. Meanwhile, a love—deep, true and lasting—springs up between her and Rodgers Courtney, a brilliant young clergyman. The effect on both is depicted and their subsequent actions are detailed, as the influence of each life reffects on the other. The book is not exactly morbid, nor is it particularly elevating. It is rather a powerful presentation of an important social problem.

SOME FEATURES OF THE MAGAZINES.

CORNHILL.—The series devoted to Prospects in the Professions, which has been running for some time in this magazine, now nears its close; "The Schoolmaster" is taken up this month. Among other interesting articles other than fiction contained in this April number may be noted "The Making of a University," "The Menace of the Submarine," "The Flamboyant Period in Cooking," "The Outwitter of Napoleon," and a clever paper on "The Cuckoo."

BLACKWOOD.—This magazine for April opens with an article entitled "Roman Catholic Alliance," a name which explains itself. An article of interest to Canadians is a bright sketch entitled "In the Kootenays," by Mr. Hanbury Williams. Other articles are "In Nesting Time," "The Pleasures of Anger," and a description of Egypt.

SCRIBNER'S.—Several articles of considerable importance are promised in the May number of Scribner's Magazine. General John B. Gordon, of the Confederate Army, well-known as a lecturer on many American platforms, will contribute the first of a series of articles on the Civil War. Captain A. T. Mahan, whose treatment of naval subjects is always taken as authoritative, will discuss the Navy Department in Scribner's Governmental series. In "The Strangest Feat of Modern Magic," Brander Matthews will tell the story of a remarkable trick performed before Louis Philippe. Edmund R. Spearman will describe "The Sorbonne," and Mr. John Fox will continue his serial, "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come." In addition there will be several clever short stories.