

charming manner about one of the most fascinating countries and peoples in the world and with the keen insight and broad sympathy that should follow long experience in travel and social study. The author seems to have approached the subject with an open mind, with an abundance of excellent credentials and introductions, and with sufficient residence in India to enable him to write after good observation, but not too close to the matter in hand. He was received into the highest circles in India and was enabled to form an opinion of diplomatic relations there, with the result that his book is one of the most valuable of the kind that has appeared within recent years. (Toronto: McClelland & Goodechild).

\*

NOW Arnold Bennett gives publicity to a new book, entitled "Mental Efficiency." The title indicates something very different from "Paris Nights," "The Old Wives' Tales," and "How to Live on Twenty-four Hours a Day," and, indeed, it is different. But, while it is philosophical under the crust, it is not dry philosophy, for the author has the happy knack of beguiling his readers into the meshes of his reasoning and pleasing them while he administers culture and good advice. The book is divided into chapters, such as "Marriage," "Success," "The Secret of Content." (Toronto: the Musson Book Company).

\*

A GOOD many illusions about Japan are dispelled in the reading of "Behind the Screens in Japan," by Evelyn Adam. Miss Adam lived six years in Japan, and

during that time she was enabled to observe things from the inside instead of, as is usually the case, from the outside. The book is written in a chatty, entertaining style, and is well stored with illuminating anecdotes and incidents. The author touches on the dress, manners, habits, sports, pleasures, pastimes of the Japanese people, and contrasts their life with that of the English. Temperament, training and custom count for much, and she has found that, while a foreigner will be bored unbearably by a succession, for instance, of *Geisha* dances, the natives will watch the same thing over and over again for hours without displaying the least semblance of fatigue. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons).

\*

OWEN WISTER'S latest book of Western tales, "Members of the Family," promises to be almost as popular as "The Virginian." It consists of a number of short stories, each distinct in itself, but all more or less related one to another. The novel part is the preface. In a book of this kind one hardly knows why there should be a preface at all, but if any reader should find the tales dull (which is not probable) he can turn for amusement to the preface. (Toronto: the Macmillan Company of Canada).

\*

"THE hammock or the after deck is the place for "The People of Popham," the latest novel by Mary C. E. Wemyss. But in any place it is an amusing story of country life and characters in England. (Toronto: the Musson Book Company).

