

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.—*Cladstone.*

A STORY - TELLER'S PACK.—By Frank R. Stockton. Paper; 75c. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. Mr. Stockton is famous as a writer of short stories. There are eleven of them in this volume of 380 pages. Capital illustrations, to the number of sixteen, are scattered through the book. The stories are most amusing and in the author's best vein, describing the odd situations and comical accidents for which he is so noted. The last, "My Unwilling Neighbor," relating how the frame house of a bachelor, who kept a vineyard, slid down the hill one night and stuck fast against the house of a widow with a charming daughter, and how the only solution of the situation lay in the marriage of the bachelor and the widow's daughter, is very funny. So are the other stories.

SPRAYS OF NORTHERN PINE.—By Ferus Mackenzie. Antique paper; large crown 8vo.; art canvas binding; 3s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. This book is a series of bright, clever, humorous sketches of Scottish village life and character. Those who are admirers of Barrie, Crockett and Ian Maclaren will admire this book. It has even been sought to show that the writer has imitated Barrie. But he has been writing in this vein for years and began before Barrie, so that this book, like its predecessors, "Cruisie Sketches" and "The Humors of Glenbruar," must be taken on their merits, which are very high. In Canada it will take, without doubt, and the dialect and the insight into Scotch character are the product of a true Scot.

FLETCHER OF SALTOUN.—By G. W. T. Omond. Cloth; 1s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. This is the latest volume in the Famous Scots Series. It is one of the best. There is but one biography of Fletcher and it is not altogether accurate. The author of the present life has carefully consulted and digested all the available materials and his book is a faithful picture of a vivid period in Scottish history—the stormy days of the later Stuarts and the union of Scotland with England. Fletcher's part in the Monmouth rebellion is briefly told, and his strange escape from prison in Spain is also recorded. The author wastes no space in describing Fletcher's share in William of Orange's expedition, but takes him at once to Scotland,

where the rest of his eventful career was passed. The reader could, however, have welcomed a fuller account of this earlier period of Fletcher's life. But subsequent events, of course, constitute his right to be a Scottish worthy, so one reads on with increasing interest of the last days of the Scottish Parliament and the unfortunate social conditions of the poorer people at that time. The discussions anent the Union are well outlined, and in them all Fletcher bore a leading part. He favored a federal union and fought for the best terms that could be made, resisting violently the proceedings which finally ended in the Union of 1707. It is a most entertaining volume, and no Scottish-Canadian who wants a telling record of the last days of Scottish independence will care to be without it.

TALKS TO YOUNG MEN. TALKS TO YOUNG WOMEN.—By Chas. H. Parkhurst, D.D. Cloth; 16mo., 130 pp. each; \$1 each. The Century Co., New York. These two books are by the noted Presbyterian divine who has done so much for the purification of municipal life by courageous deeds and plain speaking. He speaks in these works some fearless and wholesome truths to the youth of both sexes, especially upon subjects that concern the period when they must take their places in the world. The "talks" are practical, helpful and such as one might expect from a man who knows life, its temptations and its limitations, and gives to young people the kind of advice a father should be—but seldom is—capable of giving his sons and daughters.

LADY BLANCHE BALFOUR.—By James Robertson, D.D. Cloth; 1s. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. This is a brief, pleasant biographical sketch of the good clever woman whose brother is the present Prime Minister of England, and whose son Arthur is the leader of the House of Commons. Her religious work is told by the minister of the Scotch parish where her married life was spent. It is a fine picture of a young widow, deprived of the husband she loved, settling down to educate her eight children.

MORNING SONGS IN THE NIGHT.—By Walter Ratcliffe. Cloth; 150 pp. Wm. Briggs. These fine poems, by Mr. Ratcliffe, of Listowel, Ont., are the solace of a man who is afflicted with blindness and deafness.

They are written with much tender pathos and vigor of sentiment; the themes are varied, and are treated with great skill in versification and a true poetic appreciation. Mr. Lighthall, of Montreal, himself a poet of note, writes an introduction.

HILDA STRAFFORD.—By Beatrice Harraden. Art cloth cover; \$1.25. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. This is a beautiful specimen of book-making. Miss Harraden's latest novel is the result of her stay in California. Hilda is an attractive example of selfish womanhood. She joins her husband in California, where he, a delicate Englishman, hopes to make a fortune. A storm destroys his ranche, the wife frets and the heart-broken husband dies. Ben. Overleigh, his intimate friend, admires Hilda but despises her too, and lets her go back to England to her friends. That, in brief, is the plot. The story is told with all the intensity of feeling and charm of style which distinguishes the writer.

RE-OPEN SESAME.—By Harlan H. Ballard. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. This is a clever little book, comprising rhymed acrostics in verse, answering Mr. Bellamy's new book "The Second Century," and involving in each answer a new charade. The verses are written with much wit and skill.

CAP AND GOWN.—By F. L. Knowles. L. C. Page & Co., Boston. This is a selection of college verse, and is full of gay charming bits, the product of bright collegians who write when the heart is young and the mind prone to the enjoyable side of life. The love lyrics are especially good. It is altogether a very attractive volume and well suited for a gift to the young of either sex. It is finely printed and bound.

KINGLESS FOLK.—By John Adams, B.D.; cloth; 1s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. This is a series of addresses on the animals mentioned in the Bible: the ant, the bear, the dove, etc. The lessons to be drawn from these animals, in the reference to them in the sacred writings, are told with simple force and much picturesque illustration. The devotional character of the work is enhanced by the industrious use of facts of natural history. It is altogether a delightful book for Sunday reading.

BUILDERS OF GREATER BRITAIN.

In a letter to Mr. Castell Hopkins, Mr. H. T. Wilson, private secretary to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, announces the appearance of a new series entitled "Builders of Greater Britain." The first volume deals with Cabot, and is by Mr. Raymond Brayley. Mr. Wilson edits the series, which will contain some Canadian names.