

"The Affair at the Inn." By Kate Douglas Wiggin, Mary Findlater, Jane Findlater, Allan McAulay. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 220. Price, \$1.25.

The automobile is asserting itself in literature. It would be hardly fair to say that it is the hero—or should it be heroine?—of this story, but it plays a very important part. The humour of the situation is in Kate Douglas Wiggin's best vein—refined, delicate, but excessively funny. A peculiarity of the book is that four distinct authors of note impersonate its four leading characters, and describe their respective adventures, yet the whole has a perfect unity. We have just one criticism, and that is the seeming tolerance of Sunday billiard-playing. The illustrations are very dainty and beautiful.

"The Report of the Bureau of Mines, 1904." By Thos. W. Gibson, Director.

Part I. of the Thirteenth Report of the Bureau of Mines comes to hand. An examination of its pages, with their maps and illustrations, will afford an enlarged conception of the resources of our country. The total output of mineral products for the past year amounted to \$12,870,593. Professor Miller also reports some remarkable discoveries of nickel, cobalt, arsenic and silver ores in the unsurveyed territory along the line of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. The growing importance of the fuel problem makes us glad that the peat industry is being developed in Ontario, and promises something for the future. Part II. of the report will be a monograph on Ontario limestones.

"The Mystic Spring, and Other Tales of Western Life." By D. W. Higgins. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 407. Price, \$1.50.

The stories in this volume relate to that storm and stress period of our national history when the foundations of empire were being laid in the new colony of the Pacific coast. Mr. Higgins went to the province in the early days when it was still in the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company, and has been identified with its social, political and commercial changes to the present time. He was for many years Speaker of the British Columbia Legislature, and was one of the pathfinders of empire who accompanied

the first rush of gold-seekers to what was then called New Caledonia. These are strongly-written sketches of dramatic or tragic incidents which took place in those early days. It is a contribution of real value to our national literature.

"The Silences of the Master." By John Walker Powell, Jr. Cincinnati: Jennings & Graham. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 62. Price, 25 cents net.

"As men grow more generally cultivated and refined," says our author, "the tragedy of human life deepens. When the physical wants of the being are satisfied, the deeper needs of the spirit make their cry heard. In God's apparent indifference to this call lies humanity's Gethsemane. The very heart of our Christian faith is belief in the Father-Love, which suffers with human sin and woe till man is redeemed and glorified." The book is a thoughtful study of the life of our Lord and His silences under idle questionings.

"Kant and Spencer." By Dr. Paul Carus. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 20 cents.

Dr. Carus corrects the mistaken ideas afloat concerning Kant and his philosophy. He believes that these ideas are largely due to Spencer's misinterpretation of the great German. He severely attacks the position taken by Spencer.

"Ants, and Some Other Insects." By Dr. August Forel. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 50 cents.

This little book is a translation from the German, heavily laden with scientific terms. The author assumes that his readers have already wide acquaintance with the subject. It is an inquiry into the psychic powers of ants, and will prove valuable to the student of science.

"The Nature of the State." By Dr. Paul Carus. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 15 cents.

This is a readable and logical little work on the relation of the individual to the State, and such matters as revolution, established government, and government in modern times beset by modern ills.