

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED—Continued.

rance and Hugh McLennan, whose names are associated with our ocean and inland tonnage. With the help of those familiar with the steam vessels of the various Provinces, Mr. Croil is able to present a pretty thorough narrative of Canadian steam navigation. The book is written in a popular style. Those who collect Canadian books that have a permanent value will buy this one.

THE ADVENTURES OF FRANCOIS.—By Dr. S. Weir Mitchell. Illus., 321 pp., cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75c. The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto. Dr. Mitchell's novel of last year, "Hugh Wynne," had a great run both in the United States, where it was first published, and in England. The new work is not inferior in strength and artistic merit. Francois is an absolutely unique character—a young thief, a vagabond, an adventurer during the reign of terror in France. He is a real creation in literature—his physical eccentricities, his cynical cleverness, and withal his lovable disposition are the product of a master hand in writing. His narrow escapes from the guillotine cause the hair of the reader's head to raise, and the final escape through the sewers is a fine denouement to the story, which chains the attention from cover to cover.

WHEN HYACINTHS BLOOM.—By Ida Jackson. Cloth, 251 pp., 2s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. This is a Scotch story, with a pleasant flavor, and recounts the fortunes and misfortunes of a number of worthy people. There are two love stories in the plot, both of which end happily.

FRIENDSHIP.—By Hugh Black, M.A. Cloth, gilt top, boxed, 237 pp., \$1.25. The Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto. The get-up of this book is something to be remembered, with its illustrated pages, rough edges, and gilt top. It is admirable in every way for the gift season. As to the book itself, its literary merits have already been recognized, and Mr. Black, as the minister of Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh, has already won fame as a most popular preacher. The writing is charming, and upon the religious basis of the essays the author has laid a great deal of sensible philosophy.

BLACK ROCK: A TALE OF THE SELKIRKS.—By Ralph Connor, author of "Beyond the Marshes." Cloth, gilt top, 327 pp., \$1. The Westminster Co., Limited, Toronto. We have to congratulate this publishing firm on the appearance of their first book. It is one which is entirely worthy of a first

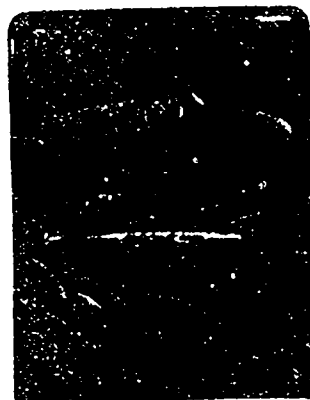
effort, and is probably one of the strongest pieces of literary work which has been produced in Canada for many years. When the story was running serially through *The Westminster*, it was hailed by the readers of that magazine as something quite above the average in fiction. The story, as is well known, deals with the experiences of a missionary in the mining camps of British Columbia, and the difficulties which pioneers find in leading clean, good lives there. The various characters in the book are extremely well drawn. The dialogue is bright, and there is a spice of humor to relieve the tragic. As a product of a new Canadian writer, whose pen name is said to conceal a well-known university man and clergyman, the book deserves to be widely read, both from its merits and the healthy influence which it is bound to have.

THE TREASURE CAVE OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.—By Oliphant Smeaton. Cloth, 312 pages; 3s. 6d. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. The author has already written a good Australian novel and a short biography of "Allen Ramsay," and possesses a very engaging style. The present novel is a story of adventures in Australia and a lucky find of gold by a party of people to whom the discovery of the wealth brings happiness. It is very readable and interesting.

FRENCH INKSTANDS.

The French have for many years past excelled in the production of fancy articles. They do not, perhaps, appeal to British taste, which is not overfond of "pretty, little, tiny kink-shaws" even now, though there has been a great change in the matters of taste within the last few years. More especially does French fancy break out in the matter of inkstands—why, I know not, for outside the big towns there is little employment for pens, and, perforce, inkstands cannot be in any great demand save as ornaments. I have an idea that it is in that last capacity they are mostly used, for an inkstand generally has to pretend to be something else. I have seen several such lately. One was a miniature representation of a "bowler hat," and a second was fashioned like unto the curious squat shaped, but not inartistic, bottle in which that pleasant liqueur, Benedictine, comes to table.

The worst of these inkstands, from the point of view of the practical man, and more especially the journalist, is that they hold hardly any ink, the primary purpose of an inkstand, viz., to contain ink, being sacrificed to adornment and "show." It is true that the majority of Frenchmen write a very small, neat hand, which only requires a minimum amount of writing fluid.—Paris correspondent, Stationery Trades Journal.

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