

THE BOOK PAGE

Books for review sent to the EDITORS OF THE TEACHERS MONTHLY, Room 123, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Wherever the significant letters, Y.M.C.A. are known—and that is now the world over—the name of its founder is also familiar, and so **The Life of Sir George Williams** (Hodder and Stoughton, London, Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, 356 pages, \$1.25 net) will have a wide welcome. It is written by his nephew, J. E. Hodder Williams, and leaves nothing of interest unsaid. A farmer's son, a draper's apprentice, a clerk, and afterwards a partner, in a drapery business, a successful merchant, this is the warp of a notable career. The woof, which gives the fabric its specific individuality, is the "absorbing passion for souls," the whole-hearted, practical religion, which sought the conversion and the temporal and spiritual welfare of all about him, and especially of young men. Knighthood is not always as worthily bestowed as upon this consecrated business man, George Williams, who in 1844 gathered together a few like spirits with himself, and in the "little upper room" in which he slept, laid the foundations of the Y.M.C.A., and who lived to see its lines go out into all the earth.

Four other books, also from Hodder and Stoughton (Upper Canada Tract Society) require briefer notice, as by already well known writers. Dr. Armstrong Black's, **Ruth**: A Hebrew Idyll (246 pages, \$1.25), consists of "twelve short studies" in that enticing

pastoral. The author's rarely subtle poetical insight and charm of style appear on every page. The red rubrics add to the beauty of the exquisite printing. In his **Wayside Talks** (234 pages, \$1.25), Charles Wagner, the author of *The Simple Life*, wanders at large, with that keen, discerning, kindly eye of his; and we have no less than sixty short sketches, with such varying titles as *Cradle, Dark Pathways, Dog-shearers and Schoolmaster, Apples, and Old Christ-masses*, and each of them carrying its lesson surely home. **The Golden Book of Henry Drummond** (103 pages, 50c.) is a classified selection of that most gifted and beloved writer's choicest sayings. Annie Swan needs no introduction. Readers will welcome her new story, **Nancy Nicolson: Or Who Shall be Heir?** (322 pages, \$1.25). It has the elements that hold—passion, crime, true love, repentance, and a happy ending.

In **White Fang** (The Macmillan Co., Toronto, 325 pages, \$1.50) Jack London has once more given us a strong picture of the Wild and its fierce life. White Fang is a wolf, with a strain of canine blood, who lives in the Mackenzie river country. While yet a puppy, he is captured by Indians, and thereafter his story has almost a human interest. It makes a fascinating tale, but sometimes an unpleasant one.

The new nature book, **Brier Patch Philosophy**, by W. J. Long (The Copp, Clark Company, Toronto, 296 pages, \$1.75 net), leaves the beaten track, to follow interesting paths of its own. It takes us into the realm of the feelings, habits and impulses to

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