

## Review of the Newest Books

By H. S. ROSS.

"JOAN AT HALFWAY," by Grace Dean McLeod Rogers. McClelland & Stewart, Limited, 215-217 Victoria Street, Toronto.

The author's stories were incorporated into the School Readers of three countries, Canada, New Zealand and Old Scotia, and widely used also as supplementary reading both in Canada and the United States. That was the recognition won by Mrs. Rogers' first volume, "Stories from the Land of Evangeline," folklore of early Nova Scotia, the Acadia of Indian legends and of conflicts between the English and the French.

These skilfully wrought tales, the rare beauty of which was recognized in this way, were written when Mrs. Rogers was Grace Dean McLeod. In 1891 she married T. S. Rogers, K.C., of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her strong love of her home and her faithful adherence to her conception of her duties as wife and mother, caused her charming pen to remain for years silent, although her talents seemed to call her to public service. Now that her domestic cares are lessening and Mrs. Rogers is able to again apply herself to the cultivation of her literary talents we may look for more frequent contribution from her.

"GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS," by Edith M. Phelps. The H. W. Wilson Company, New York, \$1.50.

This volume is not a new edition of the former handbook on this subject, but is an entirely new compilation, based on railroad conditions as they exist at the present time. The best of what has appeared on the subject has been selected to cover the history of government regulation of railroads in the United States to

date, especially during the critical period of the war, and the present status of the roads under Government administration. The various arguments for and against government ownership of the roads are brought out in the Affirmative and Negative Discussions. A selected bibliography is included, limited chiefly to the literature of the past two years, although earlier standard works have been added and a list of bibliographies which points the way to other material on the subject. The volume also contains a new set of briefs, and an introduction which is a brief review of the subject as a whole. This handbook will be useful not only to the student or debater, but also to the general reader who wishes a concise review of the subject, and to the library wishing to supply good reference material in convenient form.

"RAINBOW VALLEY," by Lucy Maud Montgomery. McClelland & Stewart, Limited, 215-217 Victoria Street, Toronto.

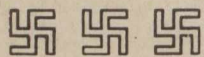
From our smallest Province, Prince Edward Island, Canada's "million acre farm," comes one of our best known authors—L. M. Montgomery (who in 1911 became Mrs. Ewan Macdonald of Leaskdale, Ont.) Lucy Maud Montgomery was born at Clifton, Prince Edward Island, where her father, Hugh John Montgomery, a son of Senator Montgomery, was a merchant. Owing to the death of her mother when she was only a few months old, she was brought up by her grandparents at Cavendish, P.E.I. Her education was completed at the Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, and Dalhousie College, Halifax. She taught school for a few years. It was while she

was at the Prince of Wales College that her first work was published—a poem, in an American magazine—although she says, "As far back as my memory runs I was writing stories and verse for my own amusement. Her first "Anne" book grew out of a request for a serial for a Sunday School Weekly. It was based on an entry in an old note-book: "Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy; a girl is sent to them." The proposed serial grew to a book and from that arose a whole series of the "Anne" books. In "Anne's House of Dreams" comes the happy ending of the romance between Anne and Gilbert Blythe, which began on the day when she cracked a slate over his head at the country school and continued through their careers at college. Gilbert becomes the doctor of the sea-coast community and is involved in many of the community happenings.

Full of a splendid wholesomeness, a delectable humor and pure romance is this new novel, "Rainbow Valley," again staged on her native Prince Edward Island. It tells of the every-day events in a community of kindly people whose lives—sometimes dramatic, sometimes prosaic—are the counterpart of other lives the country over.

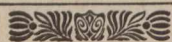
The six children of Anne Blythe (of "Anne of Green Gables" fame) and their four young neighbors at the Manse are just the sort of lovable incorrigibles that keep the town aghast at their mischief while it secretly gloats over their irresistibility. It is around their adventures and misadventures that the story turns and it is partly through them that two romances are brought to a happy outcome.

Miss Cornelia (Mrs. Marshall Elliott) of previous acquaintance is still as quaint, humorous and plain-speaking and as much interested in the doings of everybody in the community. John Meredith, the widowed occupant of the manse, with his family of irrepressibles is just such a problem as Miss Cornelia likes to handle.



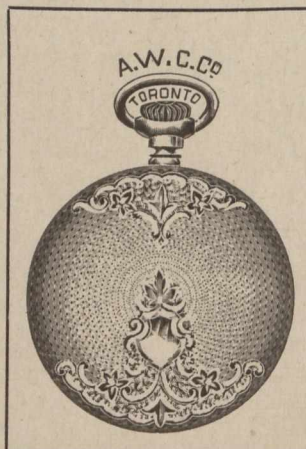
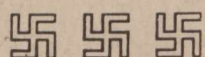
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