

The Bookshelf

TABLOID REVIEWS OF RECENT NON-FICTION ARRIVALS AT SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Theism and Thought

By A. J. Balfour. In this, as in the first course of his Gifford Lectures, "Theism and Humanism," Lord Balfour is most closely concerned with a particular challenge, that of the system called "Naturalism." The book takes shape as an examination on the lines of "methodological doubt" into that set of fundamental beliefs, those assumptions of "common sense" from which the deepest mysteries, the most daring flights of science, start, and to which they return for verification. That we are living beings in a world of living beings, that there are permanent material objects, that regularity prevails in Nature, that memory is a trustworthy instrument, are specimens of these necessary assumptions.

How to Make a Curriculum

By J. F. Bobbitt. This book explains the plan of curriculum improvement that was employed recently by the author in Los Angeles. It provides no detailed courses of study but makes, rather, a broad analysis in outline of the entire field of man's experiences and activities, laying out the general routes to follow and the objectives to be obtained by an education which shall prepare for a well-rounded life.

Professor Bobbitt's latest book represents thinking and work in education so advanced and sound that, if the phrase were not hackneyed, it would deserve to be called "epoch-making." It is hardly a book, however, for teachers or administrators waiting for settled formulas and finished prescriptions ready for immediate application. It is a very important book for teachers and other educators interested in the reconstruction of curriculums and willing to co-operate in discovering means and methods in the formulation of objectives more realistic and functional than those now provided by custom and empirical insight.

Gypsy Fires in America

By I. H. Brown. Mr. Brown, a student of gypsy life and history, in this volume introduces the reader to many varied types of true Romanies found in the United States and Canada. He describes odd encounters with gypsy folk, depicts their domestic life, and the enduring folk-lore

of these picturesque people. Partial contents: The Iliad of Elena Mike; Gypsy Cunning; Nomads of field and slum; "When the Gypsy Fiddles Cry"; The never-ending trail.

It is a colorful story, with many high points of romance as we wander over countryside watching them trading, reading fortunes, singing world old songs and telling tales of humanity's youth. Mr. Brown has had a wonderful chance as student of Romany life, folk lore and history. He has the eye to see their color and ear to catch their rhythm, but he has enough Romany in him to tell it all in a fascinating, romantic fashion. It is a good deal better reading than most fiction.

Old and New Germany

By J. F. Coar. An account of German conditions before, during and since the war. Part one outlines the elements of German Kultur—the conception of Pan-Germanism, the pretensions of Germany's ruling class before the war, the doctrine of state absolutism, the bureaucratic system and its close ally, militarism. Part two tells the story of the revolution that failed, describes the constitution which has been in force since 1919 and Germany's new political structure. Part three sets forth some of the worst obstacles that stand in the way of economic recovery—the impairment of Germany's two great natural resources, coal and iron; the excessive reparation demands; the depreciation of the currency.

Where Evolution and Religion Meet

By J. M. and M. C. Coulter. The authors explain the various theories of evolution showing how it has revolutionized human thought and how evolution and religion, so far from being contradictory, are mutually helpful and revealing.

The information they present is trustworthy, and so stated that the reader may draw his own conclusions.

The book would be valuable enough for its clear setting forth of the doctrine of evolution; it has the additional recommendation, at a time like this, of coming from authors who can combine both outlooks in a single view, without injury to either.

Book of Entertainments and Theatricals

By H. S. Dayton and L. B. Barratt. A book for clubs, churches, little theatre groups, and all those who are called to serve upon entertainment committees. It treats in detail all manner of organized entertainments—costume dance, charity bazaar, society circus, pageant, dinner re-union, exhibition and play and the preliminary arrangements, printing, publicity, decorations and tickets. One-third of the book is given to amateur theatricals.

We know of no book of its kind that covers so much and covers it so well. An attractive book, it will be found of much value for the amateur, and is so well written that it will interest the lay reader who has no immediate intention of plunging into the actual management of such tasks.

One Thousand Best Books

By A. D. Dickinson. From over fifty published lists of best books made by scholars and book-lovers, the librarian of the University of Pennsylvania has compiled this list of one thousand books. The main text is arranged alphabetically by the names of the authors whose books are included, with brief descriptive notes. In each case the number of endorsements the book has received on previous lists is indicated. The main text is followed by various arrangements: authors and anonymous classics by dates, by nationality, and by number of endorsements; titles, by endorsements; authors and titles classified by subject or literary form, general title index. Finally, the one thousand books have been distributed into ten lists of one hundred titles each to provide a course of reading for ten consecutive years.

Our Second American Adventure

By Sir A. C. Doyle. Conan Doyle's first campaign in the United States covered the eastern states only. His second lecture tour started at New York, carried him to the Pacific coast and home through Canada. As in his previous volumes of psychic travels he describes his impressions of the cities visited, the reception given his lectures and the things he found America interested in at the time, but his chief interest is always in his psychic experiences.

He writes with all his usual brightness and whether one remains unconvinced or not by his chronicle of wonderful happenings it is certainly very entertaining. Be-

sides his spiritualistic researches Sir Arthur has much of interest to tell us of the United States, of the dancing craze, of prohibition, of the film world, and of the oil fields.

With Stefansson in the Arctic

By Harold Noice. Harold Noice, who, at nineteen, took to the Arctic for adventure, happened to fall in with Stefansson at the time of his rescue, when everyone had given him up for lost. He joined Stefansson as a member of one of the most famous expeditions in history, and his book is a narrative of his two years with that explorer in the Arctic. It is not only an account of great adventure, but a portrait of Stefansson himself, who, in the end, became a great hero to the author, though he did not at first like him.

We heartily commend Mr. Noice's book to all who care for the literature of scientific adventure.

Margaret Ethel MacDonald

By J. R. MacDonald. Margaret Ethel MacDonald, who died in 1911, was the wife of England's Labor Premier. She was a woman of lovely character and noble activities, who lived a life of helpfulness to others. She was a profound influence in the life of her husband, whose political faith she shared, and his reverence for her is apparent in every page of his biography. It is chiefly the public side of her life of which he writes, but he shows her also in her home which was "the source of her steadfastness and energy."

He displays a beauty of style and of sentiment that at places verges on the poetic and is written from a heart whose inner shrine is veiled with a delicate and complete reticence, this biography of the wife of the ex-Prime Minister of England takes its place beside that other "perfect work of biography," "The Life of Alice Freeman Palmer."

Guide to World History

By A. R. Cowan. His method is to take a period of a hundred years (a longer term in the earlier days of history), and rapidly to summarize events and tendencies in the leading countries of the world during that time. The result is a conspectus in which contemporary events in different countries are brought into line. Mr. Cowan will not supersede the orderly study of history by countries or periods—such is not indeed his intention—but he will probably be of considerable assistance to those who wish to obtain a world view of the subject.