

## BOOK REVIEWS AND LITERARY NOTES

### POEMS.

*Alfred Gordon. Mussen, Toronto, \$1.00. Pp. 120.*

Several of the poems in this volume have appeared in the pages of this magazine, which can now look back on a goodly number of books of verse, issued by its contributors. His *Dedication* not only prepares us for good workmanship but for an interesting development. He has passed from the spell of "Swinburne and Dowson, Symons, Oscar Wilde,"—"From decoration and embroidered rhyme, to some poor reading of the minds of men." With growing strength and independence he has gained a truer perspective and a winning sincerity. Mr. Gordon has given us examples of his work in these stages, covering a wide range of moods. The war supplies the theme for many poems, varying from fiery denunciation to the paraphrase of Mr. Clutton Brock's *France*. But, perhaps, the poetic core is to be found in the more personal pieces: in (to mention only two) the passionate piety of *The Little Church*, and the delicate fancy of *Magic*.

### THE LIFE OF SIR PHILIP SYDNEY.

*Malcolm William Wallace, Associate Professor of English Literature, University College, Toronto. Cambridge; at the University Press, 1915.*

This book takes its place at once as the standard life of Sidney. It is based on first-hand examination of the sources of information, including some not previously available; it sets the events of Sidney's life against an adequate historical background; and it traces his career and estimates his character and significance with lucidity and discrimination. No previous biography of Sidney has united these three merits.

Professor Wallace's specific contributions to our knowledge of Sidney are of considerable importance. His discovery at Penshurst of a MS. account of Philip's expenses, while a pupil at Shrewsbury, makes real for us the routine of the boy's school-days and the excitement of his visits to his uncle, the Earl of Leicester, at Kenilworth and Oxford, when the modest equipment supplied by his father is replaced by a whole wardrobe of sumptuous clothing, the gift of the powerful favourite. Of especial interest to admirers of the ballads is the entry for September 8, 1566, when Sidney with his tutor and servants was at Chipping Norton, on his way from Oxford at Shrewsbury:

"Item, given by Mr. Philip's commandment to a blind harper who is Sir William Holles' man of Nottinghamshire ..... 12d."