

and hand, and stone deaf. The book tells, not of battles with bullets and bayonets, but of the after effects of war, especially as experienced by one individual. The cripple who, in these pages, tells his own tale, became the victim of hallucinations, and the narrative frankly and vividly describes his fight against insanity and the fierce battle waged in his own soul between the forces of evil and the impulses towards a life of unselfish service. The story of his love affair and of the circumstances which, from time to time, bring back to his mind the experiences of the War, add to the human interest of a really powerful and keenly analytic novel.

It is sufficient praise of Charles G. D. Roberts' **The Secret Trails** (The Macmillan Company, London and New York, The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 212 pages, 8 full page illustrations, \$1.35) to say that it takes a high place amongst the author's books about the woods and the streams, with the creatures which haunt them. There are a half score of stories in this volume, describing the strange ways of the boar, the dog, the ox, the egret, the eagle, the rabbit and other animals. In every one of these tales there is the thrill of excitement and the breath of God's great out-of-doors, which give to them a peculiar charm.

"**Limpy**," by William Johnston (Thomas Allen, Toronto, 334 pages, 4 full page illustrations by Arthur W. Brown, \$1.35 net), is a capital book for boys. The sub-title is *The Boy Who Felt Neglected*, and the opening chapters describe the keen suffering of a crippled lad, who was "out of" many things because of his

lameness. Fortunately, however, he formed the acquaintance of "Old Jonas," a war veteran with a wooden leg, who inspired and encouraged him to fight manfully against his handicap. Day by day he found and made full use of his opportunities for showing courage and cheerfulness and unselfishness, and, as he did so, fresh interests so filled his mind, that he almost forgot his infirmity. Besides, his quickness and cleverness won him a high place amongst his classmates. At last, indeed, the epithet "Limpy," which, at first, had hurt him so deeply, became a title of distinction. Without any petting or coddling the cripple won straight out in his fight, and his reward came when a skilful surgeon made his leg all right again. This book should be on the boys' shelf of every Public and Sunday School Library.

Hilda M. Sharp is a new name in fiction. **The Stars in Their Courses** (William Briggs, Toronto, 381 pages, \$1.25) is a late issue of "The First Novel Library." It is the story of a life blighted by a family tragedy and an unforgiving, misunderstanding father. The misunderstood, hated, suppressed boy gains the victory over circumstances and himself in the end, but not without tribulation immeasurable. The various characters of the tale are very real; the writer is refreshingly keen and original in style. Oddly enough the heroine of the story is the least convincing of all, but the delineation of the hero more than atones. Incidentally the book throws a lurid light on the inconsequence of the life of the idle rich in Britain before the War, for the story ends, and ends happily, as a story ought to do, just before the great shadow of the War fell.

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