

Book Reviews.

The Great Fight; Poems and Sketches, by Dr. William Henry Drummond, author of "The Habitant," "Johnie Courteau," etc.; edited with a biographical sketch of the poet's wife, May Harvey Drummond. William Briggs, Toronto, Publishers. Price, \$1.25 net.

IN this last collection of Dr. Drummond's works, there is portrayed a more varied list of phases of French-Canadian Life than in his previous volumes. In "Chibongamon" and "The Great Fight," the poem that gives its name to the volume, we have the Dr. Drummond of "The Habitant." To the people who knew him intimately his highest aim in life was to further a feeling of common interest and sympathetic neighborliness between the English and French races in this country. He had lived a great part of his life in the closest connection with the "habitant," and had grown to admire and love him. He points out a few of the types and lets them tell their own story in broken English to his Canadian readers, and in this way has done more than could be accomplished by any series of homelies.

The poems in "The Great Fight" were written at various times, but mainly since the publication of "The Voyageur." Many of them, such as "The Calcite Vein," and "Silver Lake Camp," give a picture of the French-Canadian in the Cobalt mining district, where the poet spent his last days. His characteristic French-Canadian humor (which in his case may be largely Irish in its descent), and his quaint, homely sentiment is everywhere visible in his work; and, as his biographer says, "the poems all ring true, and clean and healthy, and in them, whether humorous or sad, there are simplicity and a direct appeal to the heart."

Through the Magic Door, by Dr. A. Conan Doyle. Published by William Briggs, Toronto. Price, \$1.25 net.

This new book, by the popular author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, will be welcomed by a large reading public. It presents us with an aspect of his disposition of which many of his admirers are doubtless ignorant. Dr. Conan Doyle is a literary critic of considerable merit, as well as a writer of detective stories.

In this book, the author represents himself as entering his library, and closing the door behind him. He sits on his settee and surveys his study. His eye rests on the bookshelf, and here opens a magic casement. He is suddenly transported into all ages of the past, and lives for an hour or so at a time with several of the great masters. His meditations are given to us, just as they entered his mind. Macaulay's "Essays" and "History of England," Scott's "Novels," Boswell's "Life of Johnson," Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Edgar Allan Poe's works, and those of Richardson, Fielding and Smollett, find prominent places on the top few shelves. The author discusses all of these and many others in separate chapters of the book, and the treatments are highly interesting and wholesome. Dr. Doyle's style is simple and direct; no attempt to elaborate is visible; and the reader is carried on from paragraph to paragraph, utterly unconscious of the motion. The whole book contains for the ordinary man of affairs a wealth of literary criticism, which cannot be lightly passed over.