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Check List of NEW BOOKS

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happened—to Canada." It contains certain new matter, but in the main it has been distilled from earlier volumes. All of it, however, is apposite to the subject and very amusing.

CRITICISM

CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI.

By Eleanor Walter Thomas.

The Columbia University Press

\$3 8¼ x 5½; 229 pp. New York

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) was one of the most unfortunate of lady poets. At the age of twenty-two she developed angina pectoris, in her late thirties tuberculosis seized her, and just as she turned forty she was affected by Graves' disease. In middle life she fell in love with two men, one a third-rate painter and the other a shy Dante scholar, but for religious reasons she had to reject both of them—or so the legend is. She was extremely devout, and 450 of her total of 996 poems deal with pious subjects. She was a miserable and lonely woman, and spent most of her days in her London house, pining for communion with the Holy Ghost. She had command of a simple and at times moving poetic line, but the great bulk of her verse somehow seems alien to the average human breast. Dr. Thomas' essay on her is well documented, but she seems to be in deadly fear of stating a definite critical opinion, and it is thus extremely difficult to make out where she stands. A bibliography and an index are appended.

SHAKESPEARE VS. SHALLOW.

By Leslie Hotson. Little, Brown & Company

\$4 9 x 6; 375 pp. Boston

Dr. Hotson, who is professor of English at Haverford, put in two years in London as a Guggenheim fellow, searching the interminable papers in the Public Record Office. He unearthed many things of interest to students of Elizabethan literature, and in the present volume he describes some of his finds relating to Shakespeare. They have to do, in the main, with William Gardiner, a Southwark magistrate, with whom the Bard several times came into conflict. Dr. Hotson offers plausible evidence that Gardiner was the prototype of Justice Shallow in "The Merry Wives of Windsor". He also shows that "The Wives" was probably first presented in April, 1597, some time before the date usually accepted. The author tells his story well, and does not overlook its dramatic moments. In an appendix he reprints no less than 250 contemporary documents, all of them hitherto unknown. The book is the most interesting and valuable contribution to Shakespeareana since the discoveries of Dr. Charles W. Wallace.

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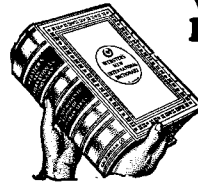
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