

to light the unpublished writings of Remy de Gourmont. With Jean de Gourmont and André Rouveyre, she has taken attentive care of the writer's posthumous influence, and they have even begun running a "Revue Gourmontienne". It is undoubtedly thanks to them that the translation of "Decadence, and Other Essays on the Culture of Ideas" (Harcourt, Brace) has been entrusted to such an able hand as William Aspenwall Bradley's. This book will prove a good introduction to the skeptical and materialistic doctrines of Gourmont.

The last commentary on Remy de Gourmont and his friends has been given by André Rouveyre, in the form of a book, "Souvenirs de mon Commerce" (Crès). Rouveyre is known as an artist, and especially as a wood-engraver. For many years, a "Visage" by him appeared every month in the "Mercure de France". It was always a most cruel supercaricature, and neither friend nor foe was spared. We have also, by Rouveyre, a series of drawings for "Phèdre" and a collection called "Le Gynécée", to which Remy de Gourmont contributed a preface.

André Rouveyre appears now as a writer. Only a dozen woodcuts accompany his book. Besides the figures of Gourmont, Miss Barney, and their friends, there are excellent notes on Guillaume Apollinaire. We shall have more to say about this latter poet, whose influence is so marked on those of the literary vanguard.

PIERRE DE LANUX

The German Book World

UNDOUBTEDLY the most important and most eagerly awaited book of this or many another publishing season is the long forbidden third volume of Bismarck's "Reminiscences".

The former Kaiser's most comprehensible final attempts to hold up the publication have caused English readers to enjoy a few months' start of the German in regard to this most fascinating human document. The legend that Bismarck himself wished to stifle the book during the Kaiser's lifetime has been exploded. For all its absorbing human interest, the weighty volume makes sad reading, like most revelations of great men. It reveals how easily vast catastrophe might have been averted. The German public, eagerly waiting for years to devour this personal explanation of their greatest statesman, bought up the first edition of 200,000 almost entirely in the form of advance orders to book-sellers. A second edition of 200,000 is appearing at once. Bismarck himself declared the object of his third volume to be the inculcation of "understanding of the past and a lesson for the future". Another epoch-making man seems to be Rudolf Steiner, founder of Anthroposophy and the comprehensive social-political system which he calls a "Trinity of Social Organism". With the success of his magazine, Rudolf Steiner has descended into the lecture hall and thus popularized will no doubt gain untold new followers. He owns a strange temple-observatory on a hill near Basel, the only work of civilization created during the World War by the cooperation of all "enemies" and called the "Goetheanum". Congresses are to be held here, solemn festivals, instructive scientific courses. The trinity of social organism has already been put into practise by several great manufacturers in South Germany.

An Encyclopædia almost as famous in Germany as the "Encyclopædia Britannica" is Brockhaus's "Konversationslexikon". This fine old pub-

lishing house woke to the unsuitability of an early Victorian title which implied that one's whole desire for encyclopædic knowledge was to improve one's small-talk. A prize competition for a new title brought 4,760 replies and the winning title, chosen by three senders, was Brockhaus's "Handbuch des Wissens".

In Bremen the "Urgötz" has been performed in the City Theatre. This is Goethe's "Götz von Berlichingen" in the original draft of 1771. There were countless characters, forty-four scenes, and the performance took nearly six hours. It was not only a literary but a purely human curiosity, for it revealed a fiery young twenty-two year old Goethe, akin to Schiller, and a comparison with the later and approved version of "Götz" shows how much vigor, originality, and sheer genius were stifled in Goethe by his life in little Weimar and his position as a court official.

Neukölln, a suburb in the poverty-stricken north of Berlin, is making a determined effort to do away with the "penny dreadful" which so often shows the youthfully depraved the quick way to criminality. A great library of well printed, good literature, two hundred different books of thirty pages each, has been provided in the Town Hall. Every child or youth who brings a worthless book receives one of the good books in exchange. It is interesting to note that next to the great German animal story-teller Herman Löns appears Ernest Thompson Seton, and that the travel writers include Nansen and Stanley. So far the affair is a great success. Over three thousand worthless books have already been exchanged and other Berlin boroughs are preparing to follow Neukölln's example.

Ernst Toller's "Masse Mensch", a

passionate advocacy of absolute pacifism even in the face of brutal tyranny, has been produced at the Berlin People's Theatre. The effect in certain scenes was so great that the play ceased to be theatre and became life—Toller is welcomed by certain critics as the only expressionistic dramatist of strong dramatic power. Meanwhile the young Communist still serves out his sentence, earned during the wild week in Munich for riot, and has lately been forbidden to write—an abominable torture for a literary man, against which the world of German authors is to raise a roar of protest.

Another work of importance far beyond the books of the day is Fritz Mauthner's "History of Atheism in the Occident", of which the second volume has just appeared. Mauthner, who is famous as a philosophical and philological scholar, has here written a vast work which is described as the "stupendous romance of an idea". This history of free thought rises frequently to dramatic heights in its description of the breaking of the way for freedom of the mind, and is thereby so objective that it is scarcely possible to discover Mauthner's personal standpoint on the question of atheism.

H. L. Mencken's brilliant "In Defense of Woman" is to be issued shortly by the famous Munich house of Georg Müller and the graceful essayist Franz Blei is making the translation. Sinclair Lewis's "Main Street" is exciting the attention of several publishers and will soon be definitely launched in the midst of the German public. S. Fischer, one of the most important publishers of belles lettres, has taken Frank Harris's vividly psychological "Life of Oscar Wilde" and the translation is already well under way.

ETHEL TALBOT SCHEFFAUER

THE GOSSIP SHOP



Palmer Cox

One of the first events we remember from the panorama of childhood, is the handing over to us by some uncle, aunt, or grandparent, of a huge red bound volume of "St. Nicholas". There commenced days of golden delight. Brownies! As industrious as ants were the Brownies, and as gay as clowns! They made our days joyous, and scampered through our dreams. It was not until the other day during BOOKMAN WEEK that we finally met the creator of the famous Brownies. He lives now out at East Quogue, Long Island, by the sea, where he writes verses and makes Brownie cards for his friends. What a kindly, delightful, stalwart old gentleman, who brought along Palmer Smith, his young namesake, for his first trip to New York City. Mr. Cox rambled on about old days in San Francisco, of newspaper work, of his first encounter with Mary Mapes Dodge, then editor of "St. Nicholas", of how she liked his work, and finally, of the creation of the first Brownie, forty years ago. And the Brownie books sell as well as ever! His niece wanted Mr. Cox to stay all night; but no, this was impossible, for Palmer Smith loudly asserted that he must get back to Long Island for Sunday School the next morning.

It was indeed an event when the Goops met the Brownies. Gelett Burgess, that encyclopædia of children's bad manners, came to tell us about how much jam it is possible for a child to hold in one bare hand. If Rose O'Neil had been present with her Kewpies, we should have been a most happy family; but, after all, it was the Brownies who came on the scene first, and they still live their scampering lives in the nursery and over the library shelves. The following verse to ourself surprised us a bit. In fact, it even worried us a little; for it is said that a Brownie knows all things:

There's nothing sure below the stars,
Whatever plans you lay,
The gate will swing, or break the bars
And sin will have its day.
So careful be, and guard your name.
Observing Brownies say,
Be free from all that leads to shame
And bravely go your way.

We would have liked so much to spend last summer in Italy—for many reasons. Perhaps the greatest of these is that one can live comfortably on so little money. That is particularly appealing at this time of the inflocking of bills. It would have been a privilege for the Gossip Shop to attend the Dante celebration at Ravenna, too. However, our Lares and Penates guard us, and Miss K. R. Steege saw fit to write us an account of the happenings.

People of every class and creed and shade of political opinion were there, passing through the narrow street which leads to the tomb. From the Piazza which bears the poet's name, past the house of Guido da Polenta, where Dante was once the honored guest, the crowd came and went from morning until evening. Some had brought flowers, and leaves of laurel were strewn everywhere. Many of these had come by aeroplane from the villa by the Lake