

he had a force about as large as ours, and occupied a position for defence very much stronger than was our position for attack. Our army was so depleted by the three days' fighting at Gettysburg, losing 25,000 men killed and wounded, that my regiment of a thousand men compared favorably in numbers with almost any brigade that had been in the fighting.

Some years after the close of the war I saw Gen. Meade in Boston, and had an opportunity to ask him about the battle. He told me that, of course, he desired to attack Lee after Gettysburg, but regarded the risk as too great.

We were then making every effort to recruit the army by enlistment bounties and draft, but with no great success. Had we met with a disaster following what was called success at Gettysburg, the recruiting would have stopped entirely. Had Lee captured Washington, which was then poorly defended, the political, moral, and foreign effect would have been frightful, and the game of bagging Lee under such risks as these was not worth the candle. Of course, neither Gen. Meade nor any other soldier supposed that this was our last chance to fight Lee, and, if you remember, we won at last under Gen. Meade.

CHARLES L. PEIRSON,
Late colonel commanding Thirty-ninth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and brevet brigadier-general.
Boston, Mass., November 22.

LACKS A PRESIDENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The British republic lacks a President. Is not this the moral of the legislative difficulty in England? If the King had a real veto, the budget bill might be sent back for reconsideration in a perfectly constitutional and unobjectionable way.

That the House of Lords needs complete change to make it a fair court of legislative revision cannot be doubted. But the objection to the present bill seems to be that under the guise of a fiscal measure it carries in it social and political change. This nobody who has read Mr. Lloyd-George's speeches can fail to see.

GOLDWIN SMITH.
Toronto, Can., November 24.

Literature.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.—I.

Gertrude W. Arnold has placed in a compact "Mother's List of Books for Children" (McClurg) titles to suit all ages from two to fourteen, the prescribed span of childhood, and, with the assistance of the supervisor of children's work in the New York Public Library, has given sufficient comment under each to characterize the story. The selection is suggestive, provided one is content to pass over the latest novelty.

In one volume, Charles Welsh attempts with a commendable amount of success to gather together "Stories Children Love" (Dodge), guaranteed by experts who have had opportunity for extensive observation as to juvenile taste. By as fair a system of grading as grading will allow, the

editor makes "The Story of A Apple Pie" dwell amicably under the same glaring cover with Hawthorne's "Great Stone Face." Mr. Welsh keeps faith with his selections, but not so the editors of "Kipling Stories and Poems Every Child Should Know" (Doubleday, Page), who have in a single volume reduced the great storyteller to terms of one syllable and have shown no fairness because they give only a smattering to each class of reader. Undoubtedly they have some rich material here, but that is Kipling's fault; he cannot be harmed by the commonplace remarks at the head of the selections, printed in excruciating type, and serving as superfluous connective tissue.

Publishers may succumb to the popular demand, but they show feeling in special ways. Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" (Dutton), one of the eternal classics for children, comes to us embellished with delightful and delicate color drawings by Arthur Rackham; as a companion volume, he has likewise furnished illustrations for the Lambs' "Tales from Shakespeare" (Dutton), effectively sketchy in conception and perhaps on that account not as appealing to children as the edition of Lamb, with brilliant color plates by N. M. Price (Scribner). Rackham's volume of "Grimm," as imaginative as his "Midsummer Night's Dream" (Doubleday, Page) and as his "Peter Pan" (Scribner), has just been imported (Doubleday, Page).

For depth of imagination and for majesty of color, nothing exceeds Maxfield Parrish's plates for a group of "The Arabian Nights" tales, selected by Kate Douglas Wiggin and her sister, Miss Smith (Scribner). The editors' introduction is entertaining, and their work with the text seems to be carefully thought out.

One usually associates "Robinson Crusoe" and "Swiss Family Robinson" together, and deservedly so, apart from the conscious and successful imitation of the latter. This season they are both reissued with double guarantee of their perennial worth. E. Boyd Smith, whose brush and pen are exceptionally clever when not overtaxed, is part sponsor for "Robinson Crusoe," while the unnamed editor in a Publisher's Note (Houghton Mifflin) exploits the excellence of this "kitchen literature." W. D. Howells is beholden to the new edition of "Swiss Family Robinson" (Harper) for his first reading of the story, in order to write the introduction, wherein he makes the discovery that girls are as much entranced by this wrecked household as boys. Louis Rhead's illustrations are decorative and are not at all harmed by the fact that he made his sketches actually in the tropics.

The Lippincotts are to be commended for their holiday editions of such juvenile classics as MacDonald's "At the Back of the North Wind" and Ouida's "A Dog of Flanders." We remember no stories more satisfying than these, and, were it possible to establish a school of writing for children, there are passages in MacDonald we should like to use as correctives for "simple" style.

Ever welcome is Thackeray's "The Rose and the Ring," and especially so in the Stokes edition with such line drawings as those by Gordon Browne. The charming format given to Mrs. Ewing's "A Flat Iron for a Farthing," by the Macmillan

Co., will assuredly gain many new readers among whom appreciation will see certain subtleties quite absent in much of our recent writing for children. We prefer the quiet simplicity and quaintness of the cover design for this story to the pretentious color scheme for Rand McNally's edition of Miss Mulock's "The Little Lame Prince," which is nevertheless deserving of examination; the color work shows a certain excellence, though possessing little feeling. Certainly it is devoid of the old-time color which Cecil Aldin has caught for his pictures in Irving's "Old Christmas" (Dodd, Mead), a most commendable Yuletide gift in which our early American author presents his impressions of the rich English traditions.

There are very few Christmas books as such in our season's output. Such an anthology as "The Book of Christmas" (Macmillan), with its introduction by Mr. Macbie, is in some ways striking evidence of our fragmentary hold upon the healthy legendary spirit that educators are driving out, along with Kris Kringle. That is why, apart from the undoubted appeal of Norman Duncan's "The Suitable Child" (Revell), which tells of an orphan boy's Christmas eve on an express train, we welcome his cry against those whose ethics would steal from childhood an atom "of innocent delight."

There is no end of picture books for the youngest readers; the parent, we hope, has a natural antipathy toward the glaring supplement style which we were surprised to find adopted by *St. Nicholas*, when Denslow's pictures and verses, now gathered together in book form, under the title, "When I Grow Up" (Century), ran as a serial. The "ambitions" savor, both in observation and in imagining, of the Sunday comic section of the newspaper. In direct contrast comes the modest and distinctive description of "The Animals in the Ark" (Duffield) from the French of P. Guizou, with Vimar's delightfully humorous sketches.

In "The Circus," which is a fairly attractive oblong book issued by the Stokes, E. Boyd Smith shows a decided falling off from his Santa Claus of last year, and from his initial volume recording the fun in Noah's Ark (Houghton). When his brush becomes literal, it loses its felicity. His humor is usually reached through his "asides," and he loses his own facility in trying to keep abreast of three rings in a "faithful" manner.

The Walter Crane picture book, "The Song of Sixpence" (Lane), contains three sets of remarkable drawings by that superior nursery illustrator. The "fairy ships" launched by him bring joy to more eyes than those in the curly heads of youngsters. Of grosser nature, though purporting to have refining effect, Gelett Burgess's "Blue Goops and Red" (Stokes) illustrates the power of conversion whereby the naughty blues are changed into model reds. We fear Gelett Burgess will soon reach the extreme limit of his manners. B. Cory Kilvert's "The Kite Book" gives sufficient adventure (Dodd, Mead) to please the youth-needing stimulus, and what the artist lacks in fine humor he counteracts by action sufficiently exciting. He has done better work, and we have seen color plates more exactly registered on the press.

There are two volumes of somewhat similar character. Millicent Sowerby's "Yes-

terday's Children" (Duffield) is sentimentally charming, while Jessie Willcox Smith's "Seven Ages of Childhood" (Moffat, Yard) is up to this artist's average level. What strikes us as most distinctive about the latter volume, is the verse by Carolyn Wells, with a flavor of excellence rather unexpected, where verse is made to order.

Publishers have different ideas regarding what constitutes the complete Mother Goose. The Stokes edition, claiming distinction on account of Miss Betts's illustrations in color, differs greatly from the large book which is issued by the Dodge Publishing Company. This latter volume, according to the title page, is edited by Walter Jerrold, the same who is responsible for that remarkably sumptuous "Big-Book of Nursery Rhymes" (Dutton), which all children should either have or see. Let us beseech the Dodge Co. to be careful hereafter with their cover designs! This "Mother Goose" is copiously and well illustrated by John Hassall, though he is hardly to be compared with Charles Robinson in his grace and easy use of lines.

The field of biography shades from collections of short accounts, to individual life stories; from individual effort dependent on character, to fame based on historical importance. Unlike Mrs. Wiggin and Miss who seem to have a monopoly now on all types of folk-lore, and who this year continue their "fairy literature" with "Tales of Wonder," the fourth in a series (Doubleday, Page), Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lang find it necessary to turn to the heroic in real life. Still retaining their rainbow enthusiasm, they call their newest product "The Red Book of Heroes" (Longmans, Green), in which are presented satisfactory accounts of such figures as Palissy the Potter, the Marquis of Montrose, and Florence Nightingale. The publishers have adopted a format altogether rich in general effect.

The individual "lives" narrow down in number to four with any special distinction. Prompted by the same commendable intent which marked her "Boys' Life of Lincoln" (Century), Miss Helen Nicolay has written in similar vein her "Boys' Life of Grant." Mrs. Laura E. Richards, chosen by the Appletons to prepare a story of "Florence Nightingale" for young people, succeeded in making a slim volume, which, if it is slightly marred by a certain condescending style, nevertheless accomplishes a difficult and delicate task with much skill. From the Appletons, also, there comes a more youthful and appropriate biography of "Louisa May Alcott" than Mrs. Cheney's "Life and Journal," which has, up to the present, been the only available record of this great author's career for children to read. Miss Belle Moses has written this very direct and sympathetic book, and she has pleasantly and simply accentuated the charm of the woman whose charm is so easily felt in "Eight Cousins" and "Little Women." Frederick A. Ober continues his "Heroes of American History" (Harper) by writing, with his customary fullness and picturesque knowledge, an account of "Sir Walter Raleigh."

What one might well take to be a human record is the volume compiled by Miss M. G. Humphreys from Catlin's "My Life Among the Indians" (Scribner); it is a book which boys will welcome heartily as being stranger than fiction, however careful

the fact. The illustrations are from Catlin's drawings.

Biography readily shades into history and into literature. Francis Jameson Rowbotham's "Story-Lives of Great Authors" (Stokes) introduces seven men in a pleasing and anecdotal manner, while the illustrations by their imaginative character serve to decorate the text. Agnes Carr Sage's "The Boys and Girls of the White House" (Stokes) sweeps over all our administrations in an interesting style, and mingles history and diplomacy with the home life of "Presidential children." John T. Faris's "Winning Their Way" (Stokes) is modelled along the line of Samuel Smiles's "Self-Help"; it is more definitely arranged according to special activities, and gives to each subject considerable space.

We may reach history through the suggestive "Decisive Battles of America," modelled by the editor, Ripley Hitchcock, on books of similar character, though not of equal thoroughness; it is an appropriate companion to Creasy's book (Harper). The chapters are indeed ample in scope, and each one is prepared by a specialist; this type of book, carefully planned, with adequate maps and full index, is one that teachers as well as the layman should welcome. Tudor Jenks, also, in "When America Won Liberty" (Crowell), has written a very satisfactory account of this country's struggle for independence; he has done this in no stereotyped spirit, but has applied the excellent method of viewing a movement or an event in perspective, of picturing the *force* primarily, and of stating the fact secondarily. An age *lives* if treated thus.

HISTORY OF THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL.

History of the Harvard Law School and of Early Legal Conditions in America. By Charles Warren. 3 vols. Illustrated. New York: Lewis Publishing Co. \$25.

In these volumes, with only two of which we have to deal, the third being a catalogue of past members of the school, Mr. Warren has construed liberally the duty of an historian of the Harvard Law School. The result is that, while the history appeals most strongly to the interest of those who have been connected with this particular institution, it has nevertheless a not inconsiderable value for any member of the profession interested in legal history and legal education in America.

The first dozen chapters, comprising approximately half of the first volume, give a brief history of the early American bar. A short chapter suffices for the consideration of New England Law and Lawyers in the Seventeenth Century; this is followed by a somewhat fuller account of the law and the lawyers in all of the colonies during the eighteenth century, while The Bar and the Law, 1789-1815, especially the Massachusetts bar, receive adequate attention. An interesting account is given of legal education in the eighteenth cen-

tury, of the early law professorships, the first of which in America was founded at the College of William and Mary in 1779, and of the influential Litchfield Law School started five years later. Mr. Warren has also a word to say on the lawyers and the law of England during the seventeenth and the succeeding century; he calls attention to early American barristers and bar associations, and to the early American law books; and he points out the obstacles and prejudices which, from the Revolutionary War to the founding of the Harvard Law School in 1817, worked against the growth of the bar and the development of legal studies as a science. These early chapters, with another picturing Cambridge and Harvard College in 1817, are a fitting introduction to the history itself.

The first law professorship in Harvard College was established in 1815, when Isaac Parker, Chief Justice of Massachusetts, was chosen Royall professor. His inaugural address, delivered in the following year, contained, to quote Mr. Warren, "the first suggestion ever officially made at Harvard for the founding of a separate school of law." Asahel Stearns was appointed University professor of law. He began with one student, and five more entered the first year. The first degree of LL.B. was not conferred until 1820. Mr. Warren's history of the Law School falls, naturally, into half a dozen periods, beginning with the decade or so when the school was under Professor Stearns. The almost complete failure of the school—there seems to have been but one law student in the spring of 1829—Mr. Warren does not lay at the door of the hard-working professor; he attributes it rather to "the expenses of life at Harvard, the lack of a proper building for the school, the prejudice in States outside of New England, as well as within, against the supposedly ultra-Unitarian proclivities of Harvard, the depressed conditions of the national finances during many of the years 1817-1829, and especially the rise of other law schools more conveniently located." The endowment of a law professorship by Nathan Dane within a couple of months after Stearns's resignation led to the immediate appointment of Joseph Story as Dane professor. During the same month the Royall professorship, which had remained vacant since the resignation of Judge Parker two years before, was filled by the election of John Hooker Ashmun. These two appointments set the Law School on its feet again. Furthermore, Ashmun's untimely death in 1833 necessarily brought Story into closer relations with the school.

Ashmun's successor as Royall professor was Simon Greenleaf. With his appointment opens one of the most brilliant and interesting periods in the his-