Those readers of The Outlook who are curious to know something about the tone of a good deal of contemporary German fiction and the brutal frankness of dealing with sexual immorality which some contempo-rary German novelists, and notably several women, are showing, will find these qualities, stark naked, so to speak, in Hermann Suder-mann's "The Song of Songs." The title itself is a piece of shocking satire, and the story is not a history of affairs of the heart, but of convulsions of passion. The heroine is a young German girl of a type which is interesting because it combines a curious vein of indescribable *naïveté* and ignorance of the world with the most astonishing abandon. It is an attempt to picture a woman who loses her chastity without losing her virtue! This attempt has been made by various novelists, and has never yet succeeded in fiction any more than in life. This young German girl, Lilly Czepanek, is not corrupt by nature; she is the victim of an extraordi-nary flood of noble sentiments with a most deplorable lack of will, and she is the willing victim of her senses. She has no power of resistance. On the contrary, she co-operates with nearly every seducer who comes in her way. A more hopeless confusion of highflown language and low-flying action, of beautiful ideals of freedom and helpfulness, and a persistent tendency to be a courtesan, has rarely been described in fiction. The story shows, of course, considerable literary skill, for Sudermann is one of the most accomplished of the present school of German writers. But the average German novel is a very inferior affair. It is badly con-structed, sentimental, and overloaded with language, with psychology, and with selfanalysis. It requires genius to lift German fiction out of this quagmire into the region of art. Sudermann has great literary skill; but he has written a book which is practically without plot or structure, which has a series of sensational episodes combined with heavenly visions, and which belongs with the worst novels of its kind. (B. W. Huebsch, New York. \$1.40, net.)

Ethics is distinctively a normative science, not only dealing with what is, but insisting on what ought to be. Hence Professor Ottley, in his lectures on "Christian Ideas and Ideals." justly observes that it is unscientific to limit ethical inquiry to average attainments, excluding the heights reached by a few. Christian ethics presents the ideal attained by the Christ—the ethics of a perfect human life. To thin the imitation of God was the rule of life: what God is in moral character, that man must become. Hence Christian ethics is not a distinct type of ethics: rather is it ethics perfectly developed and complete. Its aim is the normal development of human personality in freedom from all that hinders the realization of its highest possibilities; and this only is

the true meaning of "salvation," so often misconceived. Whether the teaching of the Church is consistently true to these fundamental conceptions is an urgent question now. Professor Ottley reminds us that this spiritual basis of life has been shaken; it is a time of serious moral peril; the moral ideal in the idea of God is obscured, and its dynamic power weakened. Thus viewing ethical reality and the present contradictions of it, his discussion covers a wide range of truths and problems, and deals with all the chief questions emergent in this time of unsettled conditions in Church and State. Its general, though not constant, breadth of view appears in the definition of faith as "confidence in the spirituality of the uni-verse." Addressed to candidates for the Anglican priesthood, it is a valuable work for all religious teachers. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York. \$2.50.)

Among the numerous publications called forth by the recent commemorations of Charles Darwin and his eventful work, none is more noteworthy than "Darwin on the Humanities," by Professor Baldwin, of Princeton, upon Darwin's influence in giving a new method to the sciences of Mind-"the Humanities"—Psychology, the Social Sciences, Ethics, Logic, Philosophy, Re-ligion. Dr. Baldwin is a thoroughgoing Darwinian, and finds Darwin's principle of natural selection a universal law of progressive change. Genetic, i. e., developmental or evolutionary, change is more than a mechanical sequence of cause and effect; results appear that are explicable only by a dynamic conception of the natural world; "actually new things are daily achieved in life, mind. and society." because of this "immanent principle of change." While, therefore, there is a natural history both of morality and religion, the genetic method of study finds in this history the outworking of a dynamic factor-call it "spirit," or what we will. Professor Baldwin's treatise is brief, succinct, and strikingly suggestive. Hardly forty years have passed since Darwinism was so misunderstood as to be denounced at Princeton as "atheism." (Review Publishing House, Baltimore.)

The compiler and author of "The Life and Memoirs of Comte Regis de Trobriand" is his daughter, Mrs. Charles A. Post, who. it is interesting to note, is the mother of Mr. Regis H. Post, recently Governor of Porto Rico. Mrs. Post in a dedicatory preface of unusual interest tells us that the material of the book has been brought together chiefly to keep alive her father's memory among his descendants, but the ordinary American reader will be surprised to find how much the work contains of real public and historical interest. Comparatively few Americans can now remember New York City as it was at the outbreak of the war. The Comte de

Trobriand was already at that date a noted figure in New York; he had come to this country twenty years before as a mere vis-itor, but had married in New York, quietly settled there, and took an active interest in American affairs. At the outbreak of the Civil War he volunteered for service, and by promotion from grade to grade he became in the end a major-general in the United States army. His letters to his daughter were usually written in French, and for the most part are here published without translation. They give an exceedingly lively and personal picture of war times. Mrs. Post tells us that "when questioned about people and things, political events or court intrigues, there came in answer a flow of information or anecdote which kept the listener absorbed, and this continued even when he reached great old age." One can well believe, after reading the letters, that General de Trobriand was a narrator of unusual vivacity. Besides his war memoirs he had a great fund of romance and incident about old times in France and Europe. His own father, grandfather, and other near relatives went through the dramatic and tragic experiences of the French Revolution and saw the great events of the Napoleonic era. Thus the introductory chapters written by Mrs. Post abound in side-lights on French history down to the Revolution of 1830, when the de Trobriands withdrew from military and civil activity. Altogether this work not only contains historical material and is a worthy memorial of a noble man, but it has unusual vivacity and story-telling interest. (E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$5.)

An old but unstaled theme is treated freshly, winsomely, pointedly, in the Shepard Lectures at Bangor by Dr. A. J. Lyman, of Brooklyn, collected in a volume entitled "The Christian Pastor in the New Age." They are soulful in the brotherly sympathy of a veteran with youthful inexperience, in view of the heights to be won. Fraternalism in the knightly service of the strong to the weak, for truth in forms of justice and right in forms of beauty, is their pervading note. Their style is that of the accomplished conversationalist rather than that of the professional lecturer. Their effect is distinctly inspirational. (Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York. \$1.)

The times are out of joint in Portugal. But, as Mr. W. H. Koebel says, the remedy lies within and not from without. Moreover, the remedy should be passive rather than active. Portugal has sunk in the scale of prestige. Its soil has been a European battleground. It has been harassed by civil strife. It has been shorn of its greatest colony. The forces of disorganization have swollen, and a well-intentioned king was recently assassinated. But, as we see from Mr. Koebel's "Portugal," the country's position is far from being hopeless. Side by side with the waning of the old political life is the waxing of a new industrial life. Because of the reclamation of the soil, agriculture in general, and in particular the production of fruit and the application of scientific forestry to the great growths of cork, have been productive of much material benefit. Moreover, new industries are being added to the old, and the country is at length seriously adapting itself to the influx of tourists. Portugal is well worth seeing, as we realize from glancing through Mr. Koebel's sumptuous volume, interesting alike in text and illustration, though the former may seem somewhat inadequate to those who "want to know everything." (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$4.)

The winter arid season in fiction publishing has followed the productive ante-holiday period, and for the last six weeks or so the novel crop has been both slender and poor. Among the dozen or more stories before us none is of the first or even second rank, and none seems to be competing in popularity with earlier books. Mr. Thomas A. Jan-vier's "Legends of the City of Mexico" (Harper & Brothers, New York, \$1.30) are only semi-fiction, for, as he tells us, they are genuine folk-lore tales which have grown out of some original strange happenings and have acquired a hold on the popular imagination. They are retold with the skill of a trained and sympathetic writer who has been fascinated by this folk-lore. An amusing but not altogether probable story is "Lord Loveland Discovers America," by C. N. and A. M. Williamson (Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, \$1.50), in which a young English marquis is mistaken for his own absconding valet, is turned out of his hotel penniless, and "hustles for a living" as a restaurant waiter and barn-storming actor. Anthony Par-tridge's "Passers By " (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, \$1.50) has originality in plot, and as a story of action is better than the average. The same may be said of Mr. H. de Vere Stacpoole's queer tale of Japan called "The Crimson Azaleas" (Duffield & Co., New York, \$1.50), which begins with an incident of occultism singularly vivid in the telling, although preposterous in substance. Of Josephine Daskam Bacon's "Biography of a Boy" it need only be said that it is cheer-ful and has clever hits at conventional ideas of family government, together with glimpses of child nature and some disillusions as to rural life. (Harper & Brothers, New York, \$1.50.) Ralph Connor's "The Foreigner " is a roughly vigorous Canadian story which deals with some of the strange phases of Russian and Polish emigration into Canada. The realism is trying in its faithfulness, but the book "takes hold " of the attention and suggests large problems, racial as well as moral. (George H. Doran Company, New York, \$1.50.)







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and companion. 3,112, Outlook. WANTED-A girl for second work and asist with two children; also a girl to cook, WANTED-A capable woman, Protestant preferred, as mother's helper. 3,097, Outlook. CAPABLE young woman wanted as mother's helper. Must be in good health and accustomed to children. 3,078, Outlook. Martin and accustomed to children. 3,078, Outlook. CAPABLE young woman wanted as and accustomed to children. 3,078, Outlook. Martin and accustomed to children.

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YOUNG woman of character desires posi-tion with elderly lady as companion ; adapt-able, capable. Highest references. Miss Roe, 102 Brskine St., Detroit, Mich.

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COLLEGE graduate, experienced man teacher in boys school, desires position as tutor or in summer camp. Will travel. Has traveled in Europe. 3,101, Outlook.

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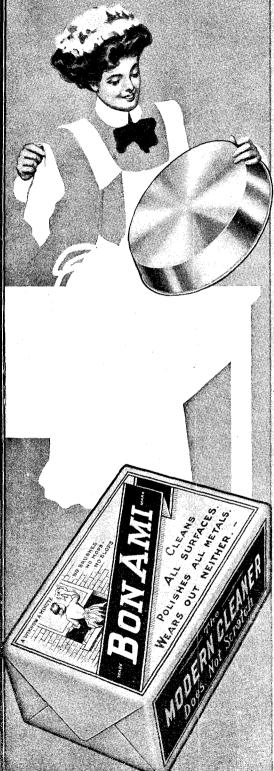
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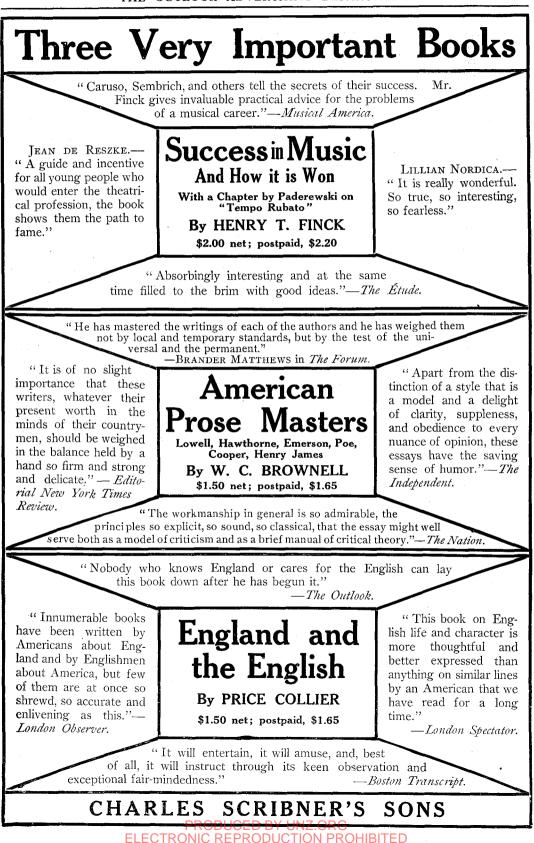
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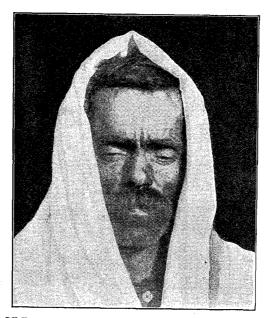
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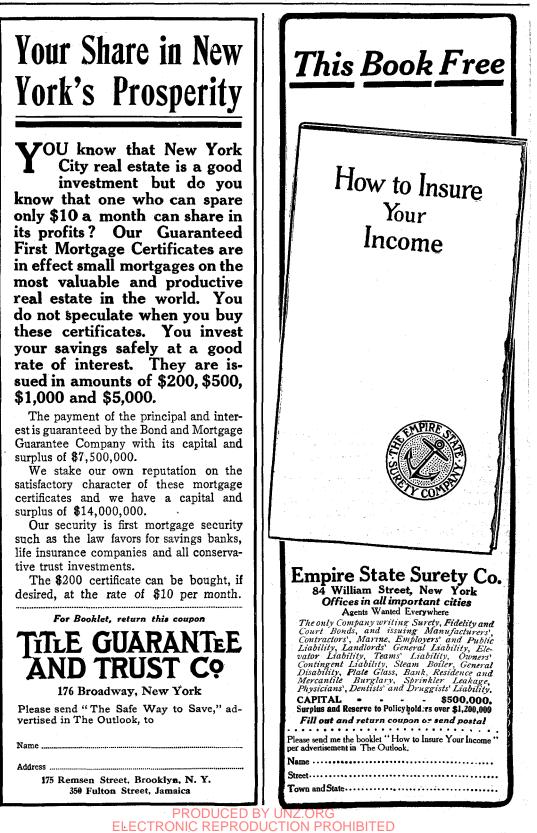
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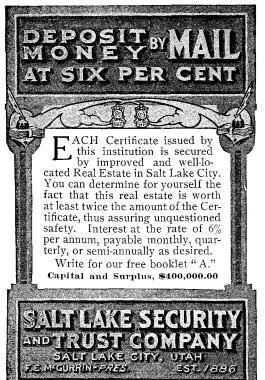
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