

THE NEW BOOKS

"The Winning of Immortality," by Fred-eric Palmer, treats immortality, not as a gift to all men in creation, but as an endowment to be won by character. It is to be classed with the books on so-called "conditional immortality"—that is, immortality conditional on possessing a character worthy of being immortal. It is free from the literalism and the dogmatism which impair some books which advocate the same general faith. It recognizes the mystery in which the whole subject of a future life is necessarily involved. And the author does not assume to prescribe in detail the conditions as though he had been appointed to prepare the examination papers for entrance on a future state. On the other hand, his doctrine, that immortality is an endowment to be won, rids us of that nightmare of eternal sin and suffering which has done so much to make faith in a future repellent alike to the reason and to humane sentiments. It is well worth careful reading by those who desire to be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them. (Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York. \$1.)

"Mary E. Stearns," by Milicent Todd, is a portrait-biography which we believe can be obtained only by writing to the author at Amherst, Massachusetts. We are sorry that it was not given to a wider public through a publisher. In many ways Mrs. Stearns was a remarkable woman. Her letters from India give a vivid description of life in that fascinating country. Her widowhood affords a fine illustration of what a wife can be to the world through her home. Her widowhood affords a splendid inspiration to quiet, unpretentious, unassuming courage. And her whole life shows, as only deeds can show, that the true woman, in whatever place in life she may be put, does not lack the opportunity for a great service if she has the needful qualities of heart and mind. (Printed for the Author at Riverside Press, Cambridge. \$1.75.)

An English translation of Count Okuma's "Fifty Years of New Japan" now appears. It forms perhaps the most authoritative source of information yet published on Japanese development during the half-century (1854-1904) since the ratification of Japan's first treaties with the outside world. His country's development, so Count Okuma believes, has been the result of foreign intercourse. The Japanese should cultivate such intercourse more closely than ever, he declares, and should adopt its superior features. That Japan is cultivating foreign intercourse is quite evident from the dedication of the English edition of the present work to the late King of England, "whose influence with Japan has been most widespread and salutary." While some Englishmen question the net benefit of the Anglo-Japan-

nese alliance to Great Britain, its benefit to Japan has been more evident. But has not America's connection with Japan also been beneficial? Yes, in most respects. Yet, as with China, so with Japan, we have had trouble with the problem of Oriental immigration. Referring to this, Count Okuma justly says:

I do not in any way sympathize with the idea that by sending abroad emigrants who become a cause of domestic trouble in the country of their destination, the rights or honor of a great and civilized Power, such as ours claims to be, will be served. But I contend that, when a treaty Power seeks to enact a law restricting the immigration of our laborers, the terms of such restriction should be analogous, and even identical, with those applicable to the peoples of other great Powers.

Another problem has been the Manchurian. In a recent interview we note that Count Okuma would have Japan occupy Manchuria. Here foreign influence evidently is *not* welcome. The present work is not as exhaustive as might be expected. In connection with Japanese-American relations one vainly searches the index for such important names as those of Count Komura, Viscount Kaneko, John Hay, and Elihu Root. The index is inadequate, for Viscount Kaneko's name is mentioned in the text, and the book contains Count Komura's important speech of a year ago on Japan's foreign policy. Count Okuma's direct contributions comprise but a very small part of the two volumes. His editorship extends over a much larger part. The fifty-six chapters have been contributed by almost as many authorities, each chapter presumably written independently of the other and with surprisingly little of the overlapping one might expect. For instance, the late Prince Ito contributed the chapter on the Constitution; Prince Yamagata writes about the army; Admiral Yamamoto about the navy; ex-Prime Minister Saionji about education; Baron Tsudzuki about intercourse with foreigners; Mayor Ozaki, of Tokyo, about municipal progress; Viscount Inouye about railways; and Baron Shibusawa, who recently visited America, about banking. Properly to understand present-day Japan one must understand not only the past fifty years but also the twenty-five hundred years of her history. Hence the first chapter, written by Count Okuma, summarizes that history, and the next, also written by him, gives special attention to the Emperor's powers. We are then taken along step by step through Japan's introduction to the comity of nations, through the history of the making of her Constitution and the development of her legal institutions, to those evidences of progress shown in her local governments, municipalities, police, prisons, finance, land and water connections, industries, agriculture, mining, colonial enterprises, trade, education, culture, journalism, literature, philanthropy, science, art, society,

and religion. The work is thus truly monumental. In his summing up Count Okuma points out the results of the new civilization on old social characteristics, on the lessening of the distinction between classes, and on the corresponding advance of the people. The author's widespread experience and varied proclivities give to his exposition a certain atmosphere which makes us realize his distinction as the leader of the Japanese progressives and as the honored founder and promoter of Waseda University. Yet his detractors have called Count Okuma a demagogue, a man who uses bombastic language, professedly to advance democracy, while at heart he is an aristocrat and plutocrat. It is difficult to believe this as we read that statesman's unsparing pointing out of national defects, such as the lack of legal ideas in Japan, an indifference to manhood rights, defective education, and a low commercial morality. Of course he could not end here. As in the initial chapter he sets forth the strong points of Japanese history, so at the close of the last chapter he proudly cites the strong points of Japanese character—stability of race, adaptability, readiness to learn, consciousness of real greatness, and, in particular, a national aspiration towards a seemingly heaven-appointed mission, namely, to introduce Occidental civilization to the Orient. Representing Oriental civilization, the Japanese have now assimilated much of the Occidental. As is no other nation, Japan is thus entitled to represent Oriental civilization to the Occident and Occidental civilization to the Orient. On Japan, therefore, devolves the mission of harmonizing the politics of East and West, and of leading the world, as a whole, to a higher plane. (E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$7.50.)

In the "Diary of a Daly Débutante" the high spirits and extreme innocence of the anonymous writer may have been characteristic of the "early eighties," when the diary was written, but they make the same impression that so many reminiscences of childhood do; the sophistication of maturity casts a bloom over the record. There is much to enjoy in the book, and the view of the stage under Augustin Daly's management is most interesting. The young girl who keeps her journal is full of naïve comment, and her enthusiasm over her small parts is really contagious. The stage of "the eighties" must have been, besides a place to do hard work, a scene of almost idyllic good humor and perfect propriety. (Duffield & Co., New York. \$1.25.)

"The Royal Americans," by Mary Hallock Foote, is a carefully written, dignified piece of fiction founded upon our history before the Revolution and covering a part of that time. English and Dutch, Tories and Patriots, pass across the stage, producing real impressions, and with the skillfully painted background stand out as individuals. Catherine and Charlotte are at the center of all

movement. Their attendant relatives and lovers fill the picture. The story is one that will not attract great attention, because it is not sensational, but it will command respect for its truth and good workmanship. (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$1.25.)

In Alice Brown's group of stories called "Country Neighbors" there are a delicacy of touch and a high appreciation of the reality of ideals that warm a reader's heart. Instead of offering the crude popular solution of the difficulties presented in "The Playhouse," for instance, we are allowed to believe in the purity and unquestioning obedience to higher laws that are too frequently regarded as almost extinct in modern society. Notwithstanding the problem novels, we adhere to our faith in old-fashioned American ideals. Miss Alice Brown is an artist in her portrayal of these lovely conditions. She has insight and humor, and the traditions of New England story-telling are safe in her hands. (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$1.20.)

There is much that is charming and original in "The Education of Uncle Paul," a semi-fairy tale by Algernon Blackwood. Uncle Paul returns, after many years spent in vast American forests, to his boyhood home in England. His free life has unfitted him for conventionalities, but the lack he feels is not shown in the ordinary way. With his nephews and nieces he establishes an intimate comradeship, and is admitted to their wonder world of youth, where, in spite of his years, he is at home. The touch of pathos and the tacked-on moral do not improve the pretty story, but it is true, they do not spoil it. It is filled with poetic fancy and a sweet, childlike sentiment quite unusual in stories of the day. (Henry Holt & Co., New York. \$1.50.)

Elinor Macartney Lane offers us a dainty bit of a love story to while away a half-hour. Quaint impertinence enlivens the pages, and sufficient difficulty besets the lover to make him serious at last. "The Apple-Tree Cottage" is an ideal setting for the sunshiny sketch. (Harper & Brothers, New York. 50c.)

People in these days think overmuch about their own health and too little about healthful conditions. That is one reason why there is so much "nervous prostration" and so little real advance in preventing preventable disease. Less thinking and more real knowledge would injure some of our physiological religious cults, but would contribute toward the spread of health. There is much that everybody should know about disease and sanitation, and there is much that everybody should know about how limited is the range of knowledge on which any one individual not an expert should act. There are four books worth mentioning that will help to give this sort of knowledge. One is "Life's Day," by Dr. William Seaman

Bainbridge (Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, \$1.35). It is, as the author says, a series of guide-posts as to the sensible way to health. Another, very readable, is "Preventable Diseases" (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, \$1.50), by Dr. Woods-Hutchinson. A third is called "A Primer of Sanitation" (World Book Company, Yonkers, N. Y., 50c.), by John W. Ritchie. It is, as its name implies, an elementary book adapted for use in schools. With these should be mentioned three other books: "Civics and Health," by Dr. W. H.

Allen (Ginn & Co., Boston, \$1.25); "Medical Sociology" (D. Appleton & Co., New York, \$2), by Dr. J. P. Warbasse; and "Rural Hygiene" (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, \$1.25), by Dr. I. W. Brewer. These three relate less to the individual's conduct regarding his own health than to the conduct of the community toward the public health. In this matter of health, however, one thing needs to be remembered: that no book for either the individual or the community can take the place of the direction of the medical expert.

LETTERS TO THE OUTLOOK

MR. KNOX AND MANCHURIA

I have read with much interest the article entitled "The Policy of Secretary Knox," printed in *The Outlook* of February 12, 1910. I find in that article, however, a statement to which, as a student of international politics, I would like, with your leave, to take an exception.

With reference to the secret protocol to the Peking Treaty of December 22, 1905, in which China agrees, for the purpose of protecting the interests of the South Manchurian Railway, not to construct any parallel line to that railway, or any branch line that might be injurious to it, the writer of the article says: "As this secret agreement was obtained under duress, and as it contradicts the Treaty of Portsmouth, signed by Russia and Japan, which pledges both nations not to place any obstacle in the way of measures for commercial development in Manchuria which apply equally to all nations, it cannot be regarded as binding."

The later agreement between China and Japan in a sense apparently contradicts the provision of the Portsmouth Treaty cited above, but if there be any contradiction between them, the proper and usual course would be to interpret the earlier agreement in the light and under the limitations of the later one. The limitations which Japan secured at Peking are essential for the protection of her railway rights acquired at such tremendous sacrifices. The same protection is also enjoyed by Russia with regard to her railways in Manchuria.

Scarcely less tenable is the contention that the secret agreement was obtained under duress. If this plea be valid, the same would hold good in the case of the majority of treaties and conventions upon which the cumbrous fabric of international relations rests. It would certainly apply to those in virtue of which the United States holds the Philippines and controls Cuba.

Whatever irresponsible writers may say, the United States Government unquestionably recognizes the validity of the secret

protocol concerning the protection of Japanese railway interests in Manchuria. This protocol was communicated to the United States Government through its diplomatic representative at Tokyo about the middle of February, 1906, and no word of adverse comment, much less a protest, has been heard from Washington. M. ZUMOTO.

[By the Portsmouth Treaty of 1905 Japan and Russia pledged themselves "not to place any obstacle in the way of general measures which apply equally to all nations, and which China might adopt for the development of commerce and industry in Manchuria." Later, in 1905, Japan and Russia signed a treaty at Peking. A secret protocol to it by which China agreed not to build in the neighborhood a railway paralleling the existing Manchurian railway was, as Mr. Zumoto says, communicated to the American Government in February, 1906. There has, we think, been no disposition on our Government's part to question the validity of this agreement, nor to consider that it was not a proper provision if reasonably applied. It has only been contended by Americans that Japan could not expect, by the terms of such a protocol, to obstruct all railway development in Manchuria, regardless of its engagements in the Portsmouth Treaty. Certainly, if it were used to obstruct such development, the clause contradicts the Portsmouth Treaty. As to Mr. Zumoto's claim that, if there be any contradiction between treaties, the proper course would be to interpret the earlier agreement in the light of the later one, the claim would seem to be extraordinary that a secret clause in a treaty subsequent to the Treaty of Portsmouth was an express modification of an openly published agreement. In other words, to substitute a secret for a public undertaking requires some assurance. As to Russia, she too now brings out a secret agreement—one not entered into after, but before, the Treaty of Portsmouth—six years before. While Japan wants to interpret an earlier agreement in the light of the later one, Russia