

duction is thoroughly interesting and informative. To read that and to look at a few pages of the letters is all that most readers will care to do. More will require perseverance.

SUETONIUS; HISTORY OF TWELVE CÆSARS. Translated by Philemon Holland (1606). Edited by J. H. Freese. (Broadway Translations.) E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$5.

Perhaps the best volume yet to appear in these Broadway Translations. We get our legends, our stories, and, it is to be feared, our lies about the Roman emperors from Suetonius. He has blackened their characters forever. When we see how easily the most ridiculous scandals arise in their own time about many of our public men, is it too much to believe that Suetonius may indeed have perpetuated the slanders of political enemies? The fishing trips of one of our Presidents were called drunken debauches by his unscrupulous foes; is it not possible to credit the quaint story that Tiberius, at Capri, was really engaged in philosophical speculation, instead of infamous orgies? At all events, H. G. Wells is right when he says that what are mere passing black thoughts and angry impulses with most of us, became deeds, or could have become deeds, with the Cæsars, and before a man condemns Nero as a different species of being from himself he should examine his own secret thoughts very carefully.

This is a pleasing seventeenth-century translation, with a tangle of notes from which the incautious reader may never emerge if once he ventures into such a blackberry thicket. They are all at the end, and may conveniently be left quite alone.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. By Gilbert K. Chesterton. (Doran's Modern Readers' Bookshelf.) The George H. Doran Company, New York. \$1.25.

A small, neat book in which Mr. Chesterton presents his idea of the saint in his characteristic manner. Mr. Chesterton has been the great modern defender of nonsense, and has carried over his earlier methods into his defense of greater and more serious topics like miracles and the problems of religious faith. He is satisfied with such a *non sequitur* as to ask why, if one rejects the story that St. Francis flung himself into a fire and emerged unharmed, one should not also reject the story that St. Francis flung himself into a camp of ferocious Moslems and returned safe?

TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION

CAMERA TRAILS IN AFRICA. By Martin Johnson. The Century Company, New York. \$4.

Mr. Johnson, who is known for his books and pictures about the South Seas, has now turned to Africa, especially British East Africa, for his material. It is his ambition to record by a camera the



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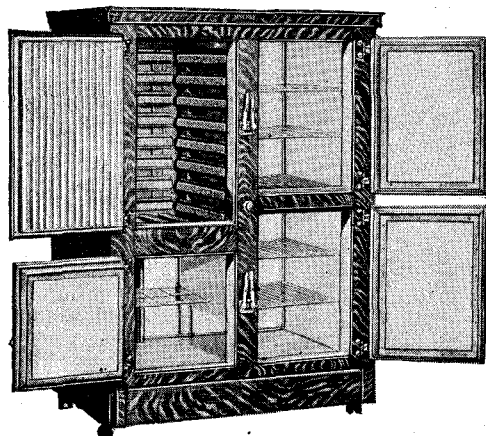
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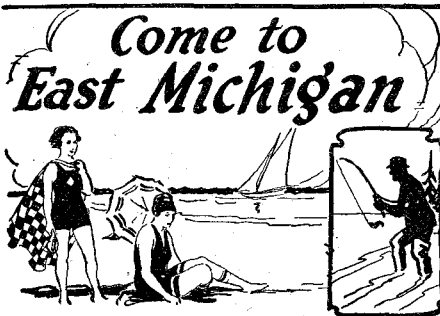
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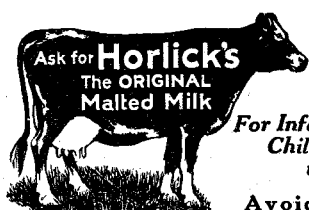
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lives of the wild animals of that country. This narrative of his adventures, accompanied by his wife and his father, is easy to read. If it is not particularly distinguished in style, it is simple and never dull. He killed few animals, and took the pictures of many. There are two or three thrilling episodes and many excellent photographs. The African natives or the great beasts often appear in contrast with the figure of the comely Mrs. Johnson, who is herself an intrepid hunter and the slayer of lions. Some photographs of zebras, of giraffes, of rhinoceroses, and a few views of the African landscape are notable in a book which is full of admirable illustrations.

NATURALIST AT THE POLES (A). By R. N. Rudmore Brown. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$6.

An account of the life, work, and voyages of Dr. W. S. Bruce, a Scottish polar explorer of considerable scientific note, who was virtually unknown to the world at large. He preferred strictly scientific investigation, and so planned and recorded his work in a scholarly rather than in a popular manner. Dr. Bruce published no general account of his many voyages, and it is left to his sympathetic friend and biographer to tell of his thirty years' travel and exploration of polar regions. He did remarkable work as a field naturalist, showing keen interest in collecting and observing.

Dr. Bruce's first work at sea was on the *Balaena* in the Antarctic, where his scientific pursuits were greatly hindered by the whaling and sealing operations it was necessary to carry on. Some of his most important work was with the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition of 1902-4 in the Scotia, a full account of which is given.

He also became much interested in Arctic regions, making surveys and explorations in Spitzbergen between 1909 and 1920. Maps and illustrations assist in making this a book of value to all who are interested in polar exploration.

TO THE ALPS OF CHINESE TIBET. By J. W. Gregory and C. J. Gregory. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$6.

This book records a four months' trip of two Scottish scientists who traveled mostly afoot for 1,500 miles through Burma and Yunnan in search of geological, zoological, and botanical data. They were especially interested in studying the relation of the mountains in these countries to the main chain of the Himalayas. Much of their journey was over routes where an escort was necessary to prevent their being robbed by brigands, and through villages where the natives were unfamiliar with Europeans. The greater

part of their account relates to the people and their curious customs.

As has been reported elsewhere by travelers in Chinese Tibet, they had no difficulty in locating the schools, for the pupils spend most of their time in shouting the Chinese characters at the top of their voices. It is their duty to learn for ordinary purposes about 5,000 characters which represent entire words; and 10,000 are necessary if one is to be well educated. Naturally, there is scant time to learn much else.

Tibetan bridges are described as consisting of a single rope woven of bamboo strips, which is fastened to a post near the water on one side of the river, and at a height of fifty feet on the opposite bank. A grooved hardwood bar is laid on the rope and a thong is passed over it and around the victim, who then runs down the jumping-off platform and steadies himself above the water by placing his hands on the bar. The return journey may be made on another rope slanting the other way.

Travel along the cliff paths was somewhat precarious, as they sometimes ran along the face of vertical rocks only a few feet above the turbulent water. At sharp corners the mules had to be unloaded so that they might turn with some degree of safety. The authors commend

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LANGUAGES

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April 2, 1924

the neat appearance of the "potted lamas" which they observed near water-driven prayer-wheels. They were cone-shaped lumps of grayish-white clay about four inches high, and were formed by grinding up and compressing a lama's bones, which in this way "keep indefinitely and can be transported as easily as a rock specimen."

HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

READINGS IN ENGLISH SOCIAL HISTORY FROM PRE-ROMAN DAYS TO A.D. 1837. Edited by R. B. Morgan. The University Press, Cambridge, England. 16 shillings.

A picture of Britain and its inhabitants, presented by extracts chosen from writers beginning with Strabo and ending with Washington Irving and Sydney Smith. A thick book, but not a heavy one in either sense; a fine book for casual reading.

POETRY

SKYLINES AND HORIZONS. By DuBose Heyward. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.25.

The Horizons of Mr. DuBose Heyward's slender volume are those of the South Carolina low country; the Skylines, those of the Great Smoky Mountains. In several poems about old Charleston he expresses, gracefully and fervently, a natural rebellion at the encroachments of modern ugliness; and it is easy for the most practical of Northerners or Westerners—even though feeling more than a suspicion that Mr. Heyward rebels at modernity itself, ugly or not—to sympathize with his passionate devotion to the ancient city erected in the past by—

Statesmen and dreamers, workers with taut sinews,
Who builded Beauty here and called it home.

But it is the highland, not the lowland, poems of Mr. Heyward which really haunt the memory; they possess power, poignancy, and beauty, and often interpretative or dramatic value as well. "The Yoke of Oxen," "The Mountain Girl," "The Mountain Woman," "The Mountain Graveyard," and others of the little group bear the test of reading and re-reading. In all but one the poet himself speaks for or concerning the mountain people. In that one, "Black Christmas," a swift, deadly simple tragedy of feud is compressed into less than twenty lines, put into the mouth of a mountain wife. Even further compression cannot destroy its quality:

An' a year gone by, an' with every-
thin' thet still
An' never once a Galloway on our side
the hill—
Oh, I was glad this mornin', when Dal
hollered up to me



Generations of travelers in Europe have seen women washing clothes, like the woman in this illustration, on the banks of rivers.

Shall the river work— or shall you?

Too many women, abroad, are still washing clothes like this.

They go to the river. Our American rivers are being trained to come to us. Water-wheels drive electric generators—thus water is supplied to your home, and electric current runs the washing machine which has banished so much toil.



Back of every great step in woman's progress from a drudge to a free citizen has been some labor-saving invention. Back of most inventions in electricity's progress from a mystery to a utility has been the research of General Electric Company scientists and engineers.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

To sen' the younguns runnin' to help
him fetch a tree—
I watched him drop the saplin' with a
single stroke
An' the snow all whirlin' round him
like a shinin' smoke
While the younguns tumbled an'
laughed an' sang:
Then someone shouted sudden—an' a
rifle rang.
Now the folk are gatherin' to bring
him from the shed;
An' I got to stop denyin' that my man
is dead.

Books Received

HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY
RESTRICTION ON IMMIGRATION. By Edith M. Phelps. The H. W. Wilson Company, New York. 75c.

RUSSIA AND PEACE. By Fridtjof Nansen. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.

SOURCES AND DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. By S. E. Morison. Clarendon Press, Oxford. \$3.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY
OASIS. By Gertrude Bone. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York.

REVELATION OF GOD IN NATURE (THE). By Rev. C. J. Shebbeare and Joseph McCabe. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.