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GLIMPSES OF JAPAN AND FORMOSA. B Harry A. Franck. The Century Company New York. \$3.

That Japan is a country of great ar tistic charm has often been stated by travelers, but we are not as well informed in regard to the life of the people Twenty years ago the author visited th islands, and he now gives his impression of a recent trip through Japan and For mosa, while on his way to China. H frankly recounts many curious custom and describes a moral code that seem strange to American thought.

Recent travel in this attractive cour try has been marred for foreigners b exorbitant prices and by what is said t be the most atrocious tipping system i the world. In Formosa, however, th prices average twenty-five per cer higher. Mr. Franck tells us that, whil there are no tramps in Japan, the lan is full of beggar pilgrims. Notwithstance ing this, in some of the holy cities th guide-book says that "the occupation c the people is to feed peacefully upon pi grims."

Notes on New Books

KEEPING UP WITH SCIENCE. Edited by Edw E. Slosson. Harcourt, Brace & Co., No

It is said-we have not counted-that 1 topics are discussed in this book, and the each of them can be read in about ten mi utes. It does describe in readable and sin ple fashion a great number of the discov eries of modern science, and each one of the sections is about two or three pages relength. A good Christmas gift for a boy.

THE WONDERS OF SALVAGE. By David Maters. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$2.50.

Raising sunken wrecks and searching fo lost treasure at sea. True stories wit great romantic interest; a book to appeespecially to men and boys.

THE GEM-HUNTERS. By Francis Rolt-Wheeler The Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company, Bo ton. \$1.75.

Another interesting book of real adverture; stories of the search for precior stones. A boy would be glad to own th

HEROES OF THE SEA. By Chelsea Fraser. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New Yor \$1.75.

Still another book of adventure; abou lighthouse keepers, whale fishers, submirine sailors, and airplane pilots.

DOWNLAND PATHWAYS. By A. Hadrian A croft. Houghton Mifflin Company, Bosto \$2.50.

How refreshing is the idea of an ear morning gallop on the "downs"! And ho mysteriously fascinating to wander by tw light upon the "downs," recalling Kipling poem "Sussex," and looking for fairy circle strange monuments, prehistoric remain old inns, grassy hills and fields! How ru

DIET

in suggestion is the very word "downs"! And all the richer because none of us has anything except a vague notion what on earth it means.

ONE-PIECE DINNERS. By Mary D. Chambers. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$2.

How to cook and serve the whole meal from the same pot. Simple recipes for good meals which are easy to prepare. First aid to the housewife in an emergency or in doubt what to have for dinner.

GESTA ROMANORUM. Translated by Charles Swan. (Broadway Translations.) E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$5.

Translation into modern English of a work which for centuries was as popular as the "Arabian Nights."

AN ANTHOLOGY OF HUMOROUS VERSE: HER-RICK TO OWEN SEAMAN. Selected by Helen and Lewis Melville. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

A charming little book in every respect, and fit for a Christmas present. We would like to tell you its price, but the publishers were too coy to print it anywhere upon the volume.

ONE-ACT PLAYS. By Christopher Morley.
Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. \$2.

Six short plays, especially for amateurs.

THE TRUTH AT LAST. By Charles Hawtrey. Little, Brown & Co., New York. \$5.

Autobiography of a delightful English actor who has appeared in "The Private Secretary," "Lord and Lady Algy," "A Message from Mars," and recently in "Captain Applejack."

LA BELLE STUART. By Cyril Hughes Hartmann. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$5.

Court memoirs in the time of Charles II. Miss Stuart became Duchess of Richmond and Lennox, and figures in the Memoirs of Count Grammont.

THE GRAND DUKE'S FINANCES. By Frank Heller. The Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$2.

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A BEACHCOMBER IN THE ORIENT. By Harry L. Foster. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$3. A beach comber is a tramp in hard luck. When Mr. Foster, well known to lovers of travel adventure as the "Tropical Tramp," ost his steamer by accident and his clothes or the standard by accident and in Scholles to theft, he became a real Oriental beachomber; and so he hikes on land or sails y sea to and through Borneo, China, apan, and the Philippines, always seeing hings queer, funny, or surprising. A capi-al record of adventure, this.

HOMAS THE LAMBKIN. By Claude Farrère.
Translated by Leo Ongley. E. P. Dutton &
Co., New York. \$2.50.

This "gentleman of fortune" ("lambkin" irony) simply drips with gore and grins th ferocity. If you want to shiver with error, this is your chance. The story has ower as well as excitement.

IARBACKA. By Selma Lagerlöf. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. \$2.50.

This has been described as the soulutobiography of the author. Its best haracters are its children and women, who re made both natural and interesting wedish life is faithfully portrayed.

LOITERER IN LONDON. By Helen W. Henderson. The George H. Doran Company, New York. \$5.

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EYS TO CROOKDOM. By George C. Henderson.
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OUR CAPITAL ON THE POTOMAC. By Helen Nicolay. The Century Company, New York.

A history of the city of Washington. Much attention is given to the early days; in a volume of over 500 pages the period of the Civil War is not reached until page 366. Hardly any incident or person connected with the city is neglected, but with all this comprehensiveness it is never dull. The half-tone illustrations are good, and a few of them merit the word superb.

IMAGINARY LIVES. By Marcel Schwob. Translated by Lorimer Hammond. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$2.50.

They are indeed imaginary. The author writes about Empedocles, Lucretius, Clodia, Pocahontas, Captain Kidd, Burke and Hare, and other peculiar personages, ancient and comparatively modern. His style, in French, may have been charming; in translation little of the charm is left. His liberty to invent biographical details about persons of whom we are nearly ignorant is undoubted, considering his title. But why with Burke and Hare does he depart from the truth when the truth was easy to discover, and makes a better story than this distortion and perversion? Creative literature is indeed different from historical narrative, but a false statement of a fact does not become literature merely by virtue of its falsity. They are indeed imaginary. The author

THE MONKEYFOLK OF SOUTH AFRICA. By F. W. Fitzsimmons. Longmans, Green & Co., New York. \$3.50.

Second edition of an interesting and novel book by a competent zoölogist. He makes the animals tell their own stories in very simple language.

By Maurice Baring. Doubleday, Page & Co.,

This is a curious novel. It is very long, in two volumes, with the shortest title on record. It is the life history of a man;

moderately interesting, but hardly justifying its length. Our advice is to read the author's autobiography, "The Puppet Show of Memory," or better, his earlier books like "Dead Letters."

LITERARY STUDIES AND REVIEWS. By Richard Aldington. Lincoln MacVeagh: The Dial Press, New York. \$2.50.

Essays are included upon some of the older French writers, but the book is more apt to be read for its level-headed comments upon modern authors like James Joyce, Remy de Gourmont, Marcel Proust, and others and others.

THE GYPSIES. By Charles G. Leland. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$3.

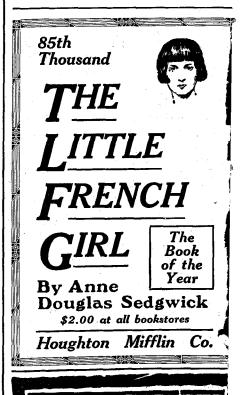
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THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY. By William Addleman Gance, Major of Infantry, U. S. A. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$5.

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BOOK OF CHARACTERS. Compiled and Translated by Richard Aldington from Theophrastus, Sir Thomas Overbury, and other English and French Authors. (Broadway) Translations.) E. P. Dutton & Co., New York & 55 BOOK OF CHARACTERS. York. \$5.

Brief characterizations of human types from a large number of writers. There are 559 pages, of which about 500 seem to be pretty tedious. Good to "dip into" from time to time; also good for insomnia.





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But why kill the rattlesnakes? Why not train them to rattle when the track is not clear, thus saving the flagmen's shoeleather?

From the "Notre Dame Juggler:" A humorist is one who listens impatiently to your story and then tells a "good one" of his own.

The death of Sir Claude Phillips, art critic, reminds the London "Daily Chronicle" that some years ago, when Sir Claude was seriously ill, his obituary was written by another critic who was his colleague on the staff of a daily paper, but who was at odds with Sir Claude on questions of art. By an accident, a proof of this ante-mortem obituary notice was sent to the subject of it! He found that his supposed antagonist had written a sympathetic, discerning, and eulogistic appreciation of his personality and work! Thenceforth the two men were the best of friends.

"Rain is a circumstance," quotes the editor of the "laughing horse" (he prints it that way), a periodical of Santa Fe, and he goes on to show how a prayer for rain was answered in that old refuge of the Franciscans:

"A few years ago, when the rain had not wet the earth for weeks upon weeks, a religious procession was held as a special plea for relief: a pilgrimage of the multitude from the church to a holy shrine on the outskirts of the village. The throngs marched in the heat along the dust of the road to the chapel and back—but no rain came. The faithful stoically traversed the heated Holy Way a second time-and no rain came.

"The few men who carried the sacred throne dashed from the churchyard with angry shouts before any one could prevent them, kidnapping the Virgin! Her