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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 b: travelers, but we are not as well informe 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. Notwithstanc 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 Edm E. Slosson. Harcourt, Brace \& Co., Ne York.
It is said-we have not counted-that 1 topics are discussed in this book, and th each of them can be read in about ten mi: utes. It does describe in readable and sim ple fashion a great number of the discor eries of modern science, and each one of th sections is about two or three pages length. A good Christmas gift for a boy.
THE WONDERS OF SAIVAGE. By David Ma
ters. 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 apper especially to men and boys.
THE GEM-HUNTERS. By Francis Rolt-Wheele
The Lothrop, Lee \& Shepard Company, Bo ton. \$1.75.
Another interesting book of real advei ture; stories of the search for precion stones. A boy would be glad to own th book.
HEROES OF THE SEA. By Chelsea Fraser. Ty Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New Yor $\$ 1.75$.
Still another book of adventure; abot lighthouse keepers, whale fishers, subm rine sailors, and airplane pilots

OOWNLAND 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 ight upon the "downs," recalling Kipling poem. "Sussex," and looking for fairy circh strange monuments, prehistoric remain old inns, grassy hills and fields! How rit
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: HERRICK 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. $\$ 2$.
Throw all ideals of probability aside, all e who enter here! This Swedish plottory writer, his humorous Grand Duke of Iajorca, his Grand Duchess of Russia, his narvelous Swedish detective (met before in The Emperor's Old Clothes'), and all the rest are wildly and joyously unreal, but iso gorgeously exciting to plot-lovers.
A beachcomber in the orient. By Harry L. Foster. Dodd, Mead \& Co., New York. \$3. A beachcomber 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 y 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 capial record of adventure, this.
Homas The lambein. 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 5.th ferocity. If you want to shiver with error, this is your chance. The story has oower as well as excitement.
HARBACKA. 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. vedish life is faithfully portrayed.
hoiterer in london. By Helen W. Henderson. The George H. Doran Company, New York. $\$ 5$.
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feys to crookdom. By George C. Henderson. D. Appleton \& Co, New York. $\$ 3$.

An encyclopædia of modern crime, based in American and especially on Californian xperience, and upon observations in San


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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 356 . Hardly any incident or person connected Hardly any incident or person connected
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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 translation little of the charm is left. His liberty to invent" biographical details about persons of whom we are nearly ignorant is persons of whom we are nearly ignorant is
undoubted, considering his title. But why with Burke and Hare does he depart from with Burke and Hare does he depart from
the truth when the truth was easy to disthe truth when the truth was easy to disdistortion 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.
THE MONKEYFOLK OF SOUTIC AFRICA. By F. W. Fitzsimmons. Longmans, Greeń \& 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.
C. By Maurice Baring. Doubleday, Page \& Co., New York.
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 ing its length. Our advice is to read the author's autobiography, The Puppet show 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.

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## By the Way

Aflagman on the Western Pacific Railroad has many duties, and he is helped to perform them by a code of directions which is printed in the "Railway Age." One of the items is as follows:

When necessary (in the night) to use a lantern to kill a rattlesnake, the white lantern is recommended-to make use of the red one might result in its being extinguished. This is no joke; there are all kinds and sizes of rattlers on the desert from sidewinders to diamond-head. They have all the way from eight to twenty rattles, not counting the button.
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

