

points, though a poet who started pursuing the muse after the year 1910 would not employ them—nor, for that matter, would he speak of pursuing the muse. And it seems necessary to record that in this case the muse was never truly won, for method alone cannot make memorable poetry. Dr. Spingarn versifies suavely, rhymes gracefully, and phrases tritely. He produces nothing startling, largely because his ideas, which work upon conventional and unconventional love themes and patriotic religious tributes, turn up nothing very poignant or satisfying in ideas old or new.

ESSAYS AND CRITICISM

SMALL HOUSE AND LARGE GARDEN (A). By Richardson Wright. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$2.

To get a penny tin flute and sit on the ferny bank of a side road and play it is one of the life ambitions of Mr. Richardson Wright; but to the actual enjoyment of this afternoon of a faun he has not yet attained. Another no less laudable and innocent ambition, and one less likely to invite unappreciative comment, he has achieved in full; but the book of brief essays to which his success has given a title is pervaded no less by the echo of that unplayed flute than by the cozy atmosphere of the Small House and the fragrance of the Large Garden of which he has become the happy owner. Its pages are by turns fanciful, humorous, reminiscent, bookish, or out-of-doorsy, but always pleasant and companionable; nor is that final attribute of the Admirable Essayist lacking, a nice instinct for quotation. Few hosts or hostesses will fail to applaud the author's discovery of certain verses on "The Perfect Guest," though perhaps still fewer are likely to emulate his daring in hanging them, neatly framed, on the walls of the guest room, even despite his assurance that nobody was huffed and the hint was not wasted. Many guests copied the lines. So do we:

She answered by return of post
The invitation of her host.
She caught the train she said she would
And changed at stations as she should.
She brought a small and lightish box
And keys belonging to the locks.
Food rich and rare she did not beg,
But ate the boiled or scrambled egg.
When offered lukewarm tea, she drank
it,
And did not crave an extra blanket,
Nor extra pillow for her head.
She seemed to like the spare room bed.
She brought her own self-filling pen
And always went to bed at ten.
She left no little things behind
But stories new and gossip kind.

Mr. Wright's book has one drawback: it is likely to disturb the comfort of readers who own large houses and small

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mance of that city's history—battles, sieges, victories, defeats.

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India is just as interesting in another way. Its people, customs, architecture, are fascinating.

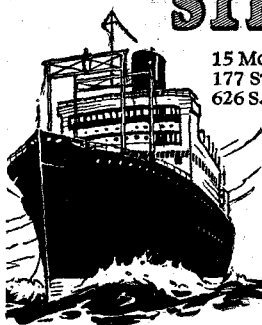
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gardens with an envious suspicion that those proportions ought to be reversed.

TAKING THE LITERARY PULSE. By Joseph Collins. The George H. Doran Company, New York. \$3.

The author of "The Doctor Looks at Literature" considers some further aspects of books and their writers. He is vigorous, sensible, sometimes rather dogmatic, in his decisions about the kinds of books which we ought to disapprove, and the folly of disapproving of some others of which he (Dr. Collins) happens not to disapprove.

TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION
LONDON OF DICKENS (THE). By Walter Dexter. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2.50.

What Dickens did not know about London was not worth knowing. From his boyhood in the shoeblacking factory, through hectic journalistic years, and finally in the sunshine of fame he was a persistent, keen observer of the city's life. The zest for adventure never deserted him, and he was never happier than when exploring dilapidated genteel quarter or sordid slum. Mr. Dexter covers all localities mentioned in the novels, neatly grouping them into fifteen rambles, each of which could be accomplished in about two hours. Frequent quotations enliven a book which otherwise might seem dull as Baedeker. Itinerary and references to the novels, detail-

ing chapters in which the particular localities are mentioned, are listed at the end of each ramble. A topographical compendium for the devotee.

YOUR WASHINGTON AND MINE. By Louise Payson Latimer. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

A well printed and illustrated book about the capital of the Nation. There are historical chapters, followed by much information about the city as it is to-day.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY
GENIUS OF ISRAEL (THE). By Carleton Noyes. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$5.

This is an "interpretation" of the life of the Israelites and of the history of Israel. It is based on the Old Testament, but is given in the order of chronology. There is an attempt to show the people of Israel as they were in their daily life and in their relations with other folk.

MISCELLANEOUS
BEST NEWS STORIES OF 1923 (THE). Edited by Joseph Anthony. Small, Maynard & Co., Boston. \$2.50.

There are anthologies of everything, and here is a good selection of the best reportorial work of 1923. Astonishingly good it is; astonishingly readable; and yet, somehow, astonishingly old. Just because the passage of President Harding's funeral train across the continent and the Yale-Harvard game of 1923 were news about a year ago these news-

paper accounts of them seem curiously antique to-day.

DE NUGIS CURIALIUM (Courtiers' Trifles). By Walter Map. Translated from Latin by Frederick Tupper and Marbury Bladen Ugie. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$6.

Walter Map, the mediæval author who flourished about 1200 A.D., was an Englishman who studied and spent much time in France and elsewhere in Europe. His "Courtiers' Trifles" is a curious collection of stories and anecdotes about a hundred different subjects. It is a charming book for casual reading, in a measure comparable to such leisurely works as "The Anatomy of Melancholy" and the "Morte d'Arthur." But why did the two learned professors of the University of Vermont who translated it choose to say that they "Englished" it? When an American scholar uses that Teutonicism, it is much to be feared that somebody has German-ed him so far as that phrase is concerned.

Books Received

FICTION

AGAINST THE TIDE. By John Wycliffe. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$2.

BROWN VELVET HOUSE (THE). By Lois Walker Jacobs. The Bookfellow, Chicago.

GENTLEMAN OF COURAGE (A). By James Oliver Curwood. The Cosmopolitan Book Corporation, New York.

QUALITY OF MERCY (THE). By Allen Jacobs. The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

STORY OF AN AFRICAN FARM (THE). By Olive Schreiner. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$2.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

CONCERNING CHRIST. By A. H. McNelle, D.D. D. Appleton & Co., New York.

HOME: THE SAVIOR OF CIVILIZATION. By J. E. McCulloch. The Southern Co-operative League, Washington, D. C. \$3.

LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS (THE). By Edward Increase Bosworth. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

EDUCATIONAL

DYING LIGHTS AND DAWNING. By Edmond Holmes. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2.

HOW THE WORLD GROWS SMALLER. By Daniel J. Beeby. The Charles E. Merrill Company, New York.

VELLEIUS PATERCULUS. By Frederick W. Shipley. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

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