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## The New Books Juvenile

(Continued from preceding page)

etc., to which a young child pays little or no attention. In some chapters there is enough dramatic material to carry this tooconcise information, but not always; the book is in this way rather uneven. Most of the selection of topics, however, is excellent, especially so in several cases, and the narratives are interesting.

One comment applies to both these books. It is difficult in such collections of unconnected stories or events to secure in the child's mind any orientation of the person or happening in relation to a given country or a given period in history; in other words, to place the story in a background. It is probably impossible to do this completely in small compass, but to keep the attempt in mind, would, I think, be of advantage to both these authors—and to many others. The chronological and geographical confusion in children's minds, in regard to stories familiar and complete in themselves would amaze many a grown-up if fully realized.

#### Miscellaneous

A KNIGHT'S LIFE IN THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY. By Walter Clifford MELLER. New York: Greenberg. 1924.

This is an exhaustive work limited to 250 copies, put forth by a new publisher who is swiftly making a name for himself through the production of books of unusual value in belles lettres. Dr. Meller's work which reveals long and thorough research, is a colorful canvas of the age of chivalry full of fascinating detail regarding armour, knight-errantry, jousts and tournaments, the chase, the crusades, military religious orders and so on. One can follow the training of a knight from his boyhood, and gain a vivid idea of his daily existence against the tapestried background of the Middle Ages. Scholars will find the volume excellent in learning while through it the layman may enter an enchanted realm. "A very great portion of the material," says

the author in his preface, "is drawn from books difficult to obtain in the usual libraries, and also, when found, in old and difficult French. Many of the ballads quoted are from a French author less known than our English Chaucer," These ballads are given both in the original and in translation. The author is a noted scholar of St. John's College, Oxford.

DR. LITTLE'S DOG BOOK. By George Watson Little. McBride.

Public Employment Offices. By Shelby M. Harrison. Russell Sage Foundation. \$3.50

RICE. By C. E. Douglas. Pitman. \$1.

NORTH STAR NAVIGATION. By L. M. Berkeley. New York: White Book & Supply Co., 36 West 91st St.

VOLUME Two. By Grant Hyde Code.

THE BOOK OF THE RANKS AND DIGNITIES OF BRITISH SOCIETY. Lately attributed to Charles Lamb. Scribners. \$1.75.

SKILL IN WORK AND PLAY. By T. H. Pear. Dutton. \$2.

MAINE FORTS. By Henry E. Dunnack. Augusta, Me. Chas. E. Nash.

FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. By Felesky. New York: Pioneer Publishing Co. \$3.50 net.

RHYMING DICTIONARY. By P. R. Bennett. Dutton. 70 cents.

ASTROLOGY OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS. By Karma. Stokes.

#### Science

A HANDBOOK OF SOLAR ECLIPSES. By ISABEL M. LEWIS. Duffield. 1924.

From time immemorial man has been strangely impressed with the total eclipse of the sun. Among the early tribes and races of men, and down to the later Middle Ages the feeling excited by the gradual blotting out of the sun was one of abject terror. In modern times, however, the cause of eclipses is generally understood, and keen scientific enthusiasm has displaced the fear inspired in past ages. On the twentyfourth of January, 1925, we are to have a total solar eclipse which may be seen in Michigan, New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, thus covering the most densely populated part of the country; the first to visit New York and New England since 1806, and the last to be seen in this region for many decades. Realizing the great interest to be aroused over such a rare event, Miss Lewis, of the Nautical Almanac office of the U.S. Naval Observatory, has prepared this study of solar eclipses. Though she deals with a highly technical subject, she has succeeded not only in giving a most readable and entertaining account of the phenomena connected with eclipses, but also manages to spread the contagion of her very evident enthusiasm to her readers. The chapter on How to View the Eclipse will appeal to many amateur astronomers, who will wish to know what are the most interesting features to be seen. Miss Lewis is known already to many readers from her previous books, "Astronomy for Young Folks," and "Splendors of the

X-RAYS AND CRYSTAL STRUCTURE. By W. H. BRAGG and W. L. BRAGG. Harcourt, Brace. New Edition. 1923.

When V. Laue made the discovery in 1912 that X-rays could be diffracted by means of the internal structure of crystals, he not only definitely proved that the X-ray was an electro-magnetic form of radiation belonging to the same series as light waves, but his work also furnished an entirely new method for the investigation of of crystals. Now instead of theorizing concerning the internal arrangement of the atoms of a crystal, we find ourselves able not only definitely to determine in many cases the structure, but even to measure the actual distances between the atoms. In the last decade an enormous amount of work has been accomplished along these lines, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the results already obtained are among the most important contributions that the science of physics has made during this period.

The English physicists, W. H. and W. L. Bragg, father and son, were pioneer workers in this field. They first published this book in 1915 and it was reprinted in 1916 and 1918. The present edition has been considerably enlarged in order to give an account of the subject up to 1923. While the matter treated is highly technical, the authors have succeeded in giving such a simple and clear treatment of it that a layman will find much of interest in its read-



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# The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BLOKER

Inquiries in regard to the selection of books and questions of like nature should be addressed to Mrs. BECKER, c/o The Saturday Review.

BALANCED RATION FOR WEEK-END READING

THE MATRIARCH. By G. B. STERN. (Knopf).

THE OCCIDENT AND THE ORIENT. By SIR VALENTINE CHIROL (University of Chicago).

HANDBOOK OF SOLAR ECLIPSES. By ISABEL M. LEWIS. (Duffield).

I. McF., Brooklyn, tells P. M. W., who asked for a literary geography of the United States like the one for Europe in Everyman's Library, that the very next number of that invaluable collection is the book for which he is looking, and sure enough there it is, Vol. 1, Europe; Vol. 2, America; Vol. 3, Asia; Vol. 4, Africa and Australia, of J. G. Bartholomew's "Atlas of Literary and Historical Geography."

THE number of times I have given up a book for lost and then found it in Everyman's I cannot estimate. And E. A. F., Cleveland, O., adds to the books on religious denominations in this country the "Handbook of All Denominations," by M. Phelan (Smith & Lamar, Nashville, Tenn.), saying, "It is briefer than Dr. Carroll's book, and with the single exception of the account of the Roman Catholics, fairminded as well as informing." This assistance emboldens me to ask someone to tell F. M. W., Portland, Ore., the original English for the following French quotation from the "Journal" of Emerson, cited in a French book in reference to the French revolution of 1848:

Rien n'est plus frappant que l'espèce d'identité de la France a travers ses changements. C'est comme la continuité d'une veritable personne.

There are ten volumes of the "Journal" (Houghton Mifflin), but the first six are

Elgy, New York, has a friend who knows so much about books "that he is sometimes called Mr. Becker," but even this omniscient gentleman cannot answer the question he sends.

DETERMINED to deserve this catacornered compliment, I went to headquarters and asked Professor La Rue Van Hook, author of "Greek Life and Thought" (Columbia University Press) to reply. The request, impelled by the recent reports of the discovery of the lost books of Livy, was for the names of books that would tell the general reader where the originals of Greek and Roman classics are located, how they were found, when, and by whom. Professor Van Hook says that F. W. Hall's "A Companion to Classical Texts" (Oxford, 1913) discusses the ancient books, the text of Greek and Latin authors in ancient times, and the history of Latin texts. See also the article "Palaeography" in the Encyclopedia Britannica. For the preservation of Greek literature see Gilbert Murray's "The 'Tradition' of Greek Literature" in the Yale Review," Vol. 2, pp. 215-233, and Smith's "The Recovery of Lost Greek Literature." In the same review, July, 1914, Professor Van Hook's own book, "Greek Life and Thought," devotes chapter 19 to "Greek Writing and Books"; there is another reference on pp. 282-4. Besides being scholarsympathetic, and spirited in itself, this book has a bibliography that will outfit anyone for extended study of all sides of its subject.

P. E. A., Wichita, Kan., says: "'The Ballad of Angel May' which appeared in the November 22 issue of the Saturday Review has whetted my appetite for more accounts of the doings of May and her beef-herding brothers. Perhaps you could provide for said interest and appetite by suggesting a list of American cowboy ballads and songs now available in published form."

THERE are several collections of ballads of the cow-country, though I cannot promise that all the entries come up to the one celebrating my frolicsome namesake. "Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads," collected by John A. Lomax (Macmillan), has not only the words of the songs but the music of seventeen of them. His other collection, "Songs of the Cattle Trail and Cow Camp" (Macmillan) is a valuable addition to this, without music but with plenty of local color. Another collection is N. Howard Thorp's "Songs of the Cowboys" (Houghton Mifflin, 1921). Add to these E. A. Brininstool's own poems, "Trail Dust of a Maverick," now published by the author at Los Angeles, and articles by J. Frank Dobie in the Texas Review, 1920, Vol. 5, and J. A. Lomax in the Sewanee Review, 1911, Vol. 19. The subject is treated in relation to English and Scottish popular ballads in Modern Philology, Chicago, 1913, and in the always interesting Journal of American Folk Lore, Lancaster, Pa., 1913. Read also Philip A. Rollins's "The Cowboy: His Characteristics, His Equipment, and His Part in the Development of the West" (Scribner); Francis Rolt-Wheeler's "The Book of Cowboys" (Lothrop, Lee, & Shepard), the unusual and adventurous book about a "dude-ranch" and Easterners in the West, written by Struthers Burt, author of "The Interpreter's House" and called "The Diary of a Dude Wrangler" (Scribner), and for a climax, the stories in the vernacular by Will James, "Cowboys North and South" (Scribner), brilliantly illustrated by the author.

A. F. T., Joliet, Ill., asks for books of use to a student of portrait painting.

"THE Art Spirit," by Robert Henri (Lippincott, 1923), is a series of "notes, letters, and talks to students bearing on the concept and technique of picturemaking, the study of art generally, and on appreciation." These have been taken down by Margery Ryerson during criticism and class-talks, and will be caught up by anyone who ever studied or wanted to study with Henri. Other books of recent publication bearing on this subject in one way or another are "Tone Relations in Painting," a text-book by Arthur Pope from the Harvard University Press, 1922; "The Painter's Palette: a theory of tone relations, an instrument of expression," by Denman Waldo Ross (Houghton Mifflin, 1919), author of the earlier volume from the same publisher, "On Drawing and Painting"; and Maximilian Toch's "How to Paint Permanent Pictures" (Van Nostrand, 1922); with the four-volume "History and Methods of Ancient and Modern Painting," by James Ward, published by Chapman & Hall, London, between 1913 and 1921.

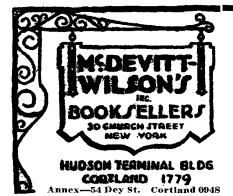
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