

# BOOKS AND AUTHORS — REVIEWS AND COMMENT

## A Book as a Xmas Gift

If Well Chosen Books Increase in Value and Interest with Each Succeeding Day, and Every Book Is the Nucleus of a Possible Library.

This is the season of books par excellence. Enter any bookstore in the city and be convinced. Books are living companions if once one begins to cultivate their acquaintance. There is an infinite variety that nothing can stale. The taste for reading, once formed, is a pleasure of life that endures to the end.

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### HAVE BOOKS IN RESERVE IN YOUR HOUSE!

Wait for the mood, the opportunity. Have books within reach even though your interests lie elsewhere. These may fail you on some rainy day or stormy evening, in days of convalescence. The occupants of your shelf will patiently await their time. They ask no more than to be an added interest in your existence. Buying books without a definite intention of reading them, or with the vague one of reading them "some time"—buying them merely as inexpensive and most decorative furnishings, even, is a good habit. For few can live with books without coming under their influence, without learning to appreciate their resources in some degree, however slight. And even in the least bookish family there is always one member who is born with the blessed taste for reading, whether it be a taste for fiction and poetry or a thirst for knowledge. And there are very few books that do not satisfy both.

### BOOKS FOR ALL AGES, ALL TASTES, ALL PURSES.

In these practical days, returns on investments are so much considered and discussed that

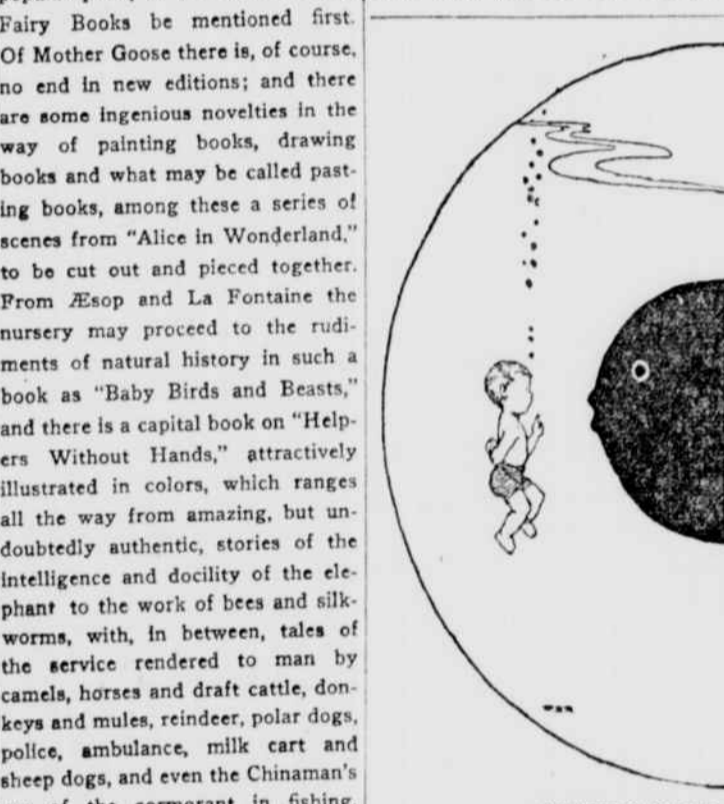


DRAWING BY MAURICE L. BOWER. (From Mrs. Burnett's "The Lost Prince"; The Century Company.)

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Old and the New—Perennial Favorites—Biography for Younger Readers—An Excellent New Anthology.

The new children's books are again confronting us in serried ranks. Whether they are less in number than last year, who can tell? Nor does it matter. Childhood has its own classics to draw upon; the old books are certainly as good as the new. The folklore of the race was long ago relegated to the nursery; it will live as long as new generations are born and reach the "Tell me a story" stage of life. Therefore let a new edition, at a popular price, of the Andrew Lang Fairy Books be mentioned first. Of Mother Goose there is, of course, no end in new editions; and there are some ingenious novelties in the way of painting books, drawing books and what may be called pasting books, among these a series of scenes from "Alice in Wonderland," to be cut out and pieced together. From Aesop and La Fontaine the nursery may proceed to the rudiments of natural history in such a book as "Baby Birds and Beasts," and there is a capital book on "Helpers Without Hands," attractively illustrated in colors, which ranges all the way from amazing, but undoubtedly authentic, stories of the intelligence and docility of the elephant to the work of bees and silkworms, with, in between, tales of the service rendered to man by camels, horses and draft cattle, donkeys and mules, reindeer, polar dogs, police, ambulance, milk cart and sheep dogs, and even the Chinaman's use of the coromant in fishing. And from year to year there will always be happiness, and a deeper love of animals, wherever Ernest Thompson-Seton's "Animals I Have Known" is placed in the hands of childhood.



DRAWING BY W. HEATH ROBINSON. (From Kingsley's "The Water Babies"; Houghton, Mifflin Company.)

land of Stamps," to which the end of the war may give new zest.

### BOY SCOUTS AND CAMP GIRLS.

Mr. Seton's name brings up, of course, the literature of the Boy Scout movement. There is a rift in the lute just now, but that does not affect the books devoted to the propaganda. They are numerous, even more numerous than the Camp Girl books, and can be had from any bookseller. The Boy Scouts have even begun the publication of an Everyboy's Library, which already contains a number of capital books, among them Emerson's Hough's "Story of the Cowboy," a classic for grown-ups in which youngsters will revel, and Frederic Remington's "Crooked Trails." Then there is "The Boy Scouts' Year Book," whose list of contributors includes President Wilson, Colonel Roosevelt, Admiral Peary, Orville Wright, William T. Hornaday and Paul J. Rainey, Walter Camp, Postmaster General Burleson, Dr. Henry van Dyke and ever so many others, among them Dan Beard, a "good scout," indeed, as delightful a companion as our boys can find to-day, with his "handy books" in field and forest, in camp, indoors and out. Another writer for the young whose

S. Brooks, join hands with historians who, without the guise of romance, tell the story of our army and navy. And there is a rousing good volume of American bravery, "The Road to Glory," by E. Alexander Powell, which ranges from the heroes of the winning of Texas, Florida and the Louisiana Territory to Matthew Galbraith Perry's expedition to Japan. Mr. Powell insists that there can be no reasonable doubt of Marcus Whitman's claim to glory as the savior of Oregon. And, certainly, the tale of his winter ride is a rousing romance.

To the dim and distant past our boys and girls can find no more engaging guide than Howard Pyle, with his books of the Arthurian legends. And there is Scott—always Scott, in many editions, with all sorts of illustrations. Nor should we forget James Fenimore Cooper, whose "Spy" and "Pilot" are reissued this season in most attractive form. Since this survey has drifted into the realm of historical fiction for the young, mention may be made here, also, of last year's new edition of Captain Marryat's tale of Cavaliers and Roundheads, "The Children of the New Forest," which, and this is a disappointment, has not been followed up this year with a new issue of his Robinson Crusoe-like story, "Masterman Ready."

### STORIES OF ALL KINDS.

A movement has been started this season by Boy Scout leaders, librarians and booksellers for some measure of regulation of the quality of the fiction for our boys and girls. This service to the next generation is needed. It should begin at the very beginning, with the correction of slovenly English and the abuse of slang; above all, with a correction of the downward levelling of cultural influences in many of these books. And the ethical tone of many of them has of recent years left much to be desired. Material achievement—success—has been all too often depicted as the only test of merit. Our writers for the young have turned to realism. In girls' books the changes produced and still going on under the influence of feminism have resulted in chaotic conditions. Home has been relegated to the background; parents are suffered only in the middle distance; the new relations which the movement is establishing have, as a rule,

### SOME OF THE SEASON'S NEW BOOKS.

Burton Egbert Stevenson has made a capital anthology of his "Home Book of Verse for Young Folks," which begins with nursery rhymes and progresses gradually to Gray's Elegy, "Thanatopsis," "Crossing the Bar," Henley's "So Be My Passing," Stevenson's "Requiem," Browning's "Prospice" and Whitman's "Joy, Shipmate, Joy!" A book that grows with its possessor, an increasingly interesting companion through childhood and youth, representative of the highest and best that has been sung in Anglo-American verse.

"Little Verses and Big Names" needs no further recommendation than that the proceeds of its sale will be devoted to the provision of pure milk for sick babies and the maintenance of a visiting nurse—a worthy American charity. There is a little of everything here: verse and prose, stories and aphorisms, snatches of original music, and drawings. The contributors range all the way from literary men and women and artists of international reputation to leaders in the world of business and industry. Actors give us lines of their own—in rhyme—so do Governors of many states. F. P. A. and Henry E. Krehbiel represent The Tribune; James J. Hill contributes a limerick, Thomas A. Edison some verses by his son, the "family poet." The famous Oscar helps the good cause along; Louise Homer, jr., represents her mother and grand opera; H. J. Heinz gives five rules for the conduct of life from a stock evidently more numerous even than his products. Cardinal Farley, Jacob H. Schiff and Andrew Carnegie labor for the cause; Mrs. Vernon Castle's jewels, she tells us, are not those of the mother of the Gracchi, but goldfish, a bird and Kickapoo, her "wee little dog." And President Wilson introduces them all. There is music by Horatio Parker, Lillian Blauvelt, Victor Herbert and others; and there are drawings by Gibson, Goldberg, Peter Newell, Christy, Wisa and many more. There is also a "Who's Who" of the most heterogeneous company of celebrities that ever con-

tributed to a single volume. And remember that you are aiding a good cause.

W. Heath Robinson's delightful illustrations make a new edition of Charles Kingsley's "Water Babies" worth mentioning. They have the charm of childhood and appeal to the imagination. The colored cover behind islinglass, producing the illusion of water, is a happy thought.



DRAWING BY A. J. FRUEH. (From "The Lost Prince"; E. P. Dutton & Co.)



WALL PAINTING BY ALBERT HERTER. (From "The Magic of Jewels and Charms"; J. B. Lippincott Company.)

of these tales lay at least obligatory stress upon study—life at college is, alas, not all play—and most of them, if not all, inculcate the spirit of clean sportsmanship. It is this that gives Ralph Henry Barbour's books of school and college their value. One can trust him implicitly in this regard.

Francis Hodgson Burnett's "The Lost Prince" is certain to repeat the success of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," thirty years ago. That story's senior, the late Mary Mapes Dodge's "Hans Brinker," celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its undiminished popularity in a holiday dress that is as typically Dutch as George Wharton Edwards can make it, with a colored cover as gay as a Dutch skating carnival can be, with colored illustrations that are full of local color and with end-papers of a Delft tile effect. "For the first time," say the publishers, "this book is illustrated in colors." In English, no doubt. But the Dutch translation was published nearly forty years ago with just that pomp and circumstance. "This book is dedicated to the boys and girls of New York," declared the author on the flyleaf of the first edition. The story's merits have dedicated it to the childhood of the world.

"Tout à la Russe." It was a foregone conclusion that we should have a volume of "Russian Fairy Tales" this year, and an interesting one it is, and handsome withal, bravely illustrated in colors and black-and-white by Noel L. Nisbet. The translator, R. Nisbet Bain, assures us that students of folklore "give the palm for fun and fancy" to these *skazki* over the *Maerchen* of Germany, but that is a matter which does not require discussion. Sufficient to childhood will be the delight of these tales, though, no doubt, its opinion of the verdict of Mr. Bain's comparative folklorists would be worth having.

In "Katrinka: The History of a Russian Child," Helen Eggleston Haskell ingeniously exploits our enthusiasm for the Russian ballet. The little heroine's parents are exiled to Siberia when she is ten. She bravely starts for St. Petersburg to appeal to the Czar, attracts attention by her graceful dancing, is taken into the school of the Imperial Ballet, advanced to the ballet itself, and, of course, obtains her parents' liberation. The plot, ranging from the peasant's hut to the Winter Palace, gives the author the opportunity to tell a great deal of Russian life and customs and conditions, her sympathies being, of course, with the liberal cause.

A tender book Rich in human charm and interest, in quick humor and romance.

## The Prairie Wife

By Arthur Stringer. Pictures in Full Color by Dunn. At all Stores, \$1.25 net. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Publishers.

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