

Books and Authors

Books of the Week

[The books mentioned under this head and under that of Books Received include all received by The Outlook during the week ending April 9. This weekly report of current literature will be supplemented by fuller reviews of the more important works.]

LITERATURE

Professor Francis T. Palgrave is so high an authority in all matters relating to the judgment of poetry or its criticism that his study of *Landscape in Poetry from Homer to Tennyson* (The Macmillan Company) will find interested readers. The chapters which compose the volume are enlarged from lectures delivered at the University of Oxford two years ago, and the title of the book suggests the rich line of investigation which the lecturer followed. Discussions of purely literary quality are so uncommon at Oxford that this volume will be welcomed, not only for what it contains, but also as an indication of the increasing intelligence with which literary study is being treated in our ancient seats of learning. Professor Palgrave examines in outline Greek, Roman, Hebrew, Italian, Celtic, and Anglo-Saxon poetry, and devotes the concluding eight chapters of the book to an account of landscape in English poetry from the days of Elizabeth to those of Tennyson. This account is very generously illustrated by extracts from the different poets, and the development and change in the feeling toward nature are very clearly brought out, not in the comments of the lecturer, but in the words of the poets themselves.

Mr. Donald G. Mitchell has followed his three volumes of familiar, charming talks on "English Lands, Letters, and Kings" with a kind of companion volume on *American Lands and Letters*, the scope of which is indicated by its sub-title, "From the Mayflower to Rip Van Winkle." Ik Marvel has lost none of his old charm of sentiment or of style, and he has turned both to the best account in this story of our earlier literature, which begins at the beginning and ends on the threshold of the new era inaugurated by the New England school of poets and writers. The volume is very handsomely made, very entertainingly illustrated, and will demand more extended treatment in these columns. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.)

NOVELS AND TALES

Mr. John R. Spears's *The Port of Missing Ships and Other Stories of the Sea* are not only very graphically told, but disclose an imaginative element which lends such stories an unusual quality of interest. The tale which gives its title to this volume is an exceptionally strong piece of work from the imaginative side. It is very finely conceived and it is very well executed. (The Macmillan Company.)—Thomas Love Peacock's *The*

Misfortunes of Elphin, which Mr. Saintsbury declares is his favorite, is by no means as well known as several others of Peacock's works. It is, however, one of the most individualistic of them all, and its appearance, in combination with *Rhododaphne*, in a single volume, illustrated by F. H. Townsend, with an introduction by Professor Saintsbury, will bring both works to the attention of a larger audience. (The Macmillan Company, New York.)

A collection of bright and entertaining stories, with a moral carefully concealed, has been published under the title of *Sunbeam Stories and Others*, by Annie Flint, illustrated by Dora Wheeler Keith, Meredith Newbury, and Izora C. Chandler. (Bonnell, Silver & Co., New York.) The illustrations add greatly to the interest of the book, which is well printed with large type and broad margins. The stories will delight many little people.—*A Tale of the Thames*, by J. Ashby-Sterry (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York), is, as its name indicates, the story of a journey on the Thames made by a group of friends.

Dr. Charles Conrad Abbott has published through the J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, a novel, attractively entitled *When the Century was New*. In parts this novel is rather pleasant reading. The characters are not remarkable, the descriptions are better.—From the cover which Messrs. Ginn & Co., of Boston, have put upon *Doña Perfecta*, one would suppose the author to be Professor A. R. Marsh, and not Señor Benito Pérez Galdós. However, this erroneous impression is quite removed by the title-page and by the admirable preface by Professor Marsh. The editor should be congratulated on the abundant fullness of his notes at the end of the novel. The book is emphatically worth while, and is in such easy Spanish that it may be undertaken by the bright student not many months after beginning that language. It is a study of ignorant and stubborn Spanish religiosity.

The Master-Beggars, by L. Cope Cornford, is, as the title indicates, a tale of the Netherlands in the time of the terrible Duke of Alva. It is a strong story of war and adventure, crisply told and well sustained. (The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.)—In *Chun Ti-Kung* the author, Claude A. Rees, attempts to show us China as it appears to the eyes of a young Chinaman who has just left his paternal home and gone to a great city to begin a life of business and pleasure. The information conveyed is curious and interesting; as a work of fiction the book is rather clumsily written. (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.)—*The Sign of the Spider*, by Bertram Mitford, is a sensational and extravagant

story of Africa, somewhat of the Rider Haggard style, but far inferior to "King Solomon's Mines," and in some ways really repellent. (Same publishers.)—Of Francis Tillou Buck's *A Fiancé on Trial* (The Merriam Company, New York) and Elizabeth Phipps Train's *A Marital Liability* (The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia), we need only say that both are wordy and futile.

Mrs. Florence Morse Kingsley's "Titus" has had remarkable success. Like it, *Paul, a Herald of the Cross* is a reverent attempt to throw into the form of fiction Bible history. Both books appeal to the great class of readers who in years past admired "The Prince of the House of David" and in our day have equally admired "Ben-Hur." The present book is, however, much more like the first than the second novel just named. The author has a strong, earnest religious spirit, and the story is free from sensationalism. Its diction is often stilted and unnatural, and it has other obvious defects. (Henry Altemus, Philadelphia.)

Balzac's *A Woman of Thirty*, translated by Ellen Marriage, with a preface by Professor Saintsbury, takes its place in the new series of translations now coming from the press of The Macmillan Company (New York).—The J. B. Lippincott Company (Philadelphia) has given *Lovice*, the latest story by Mrs. Hungerford, better known as the "Duchess," a modest and attractive binding.

NEW EDITIONS

Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons are placing their imprint on a series of really notable editions of standard authors—editions which, by reason of their mechanical elegance and their editorial intelligence and completeness, will take their place as finalities. Five additional volumes in the Centenary Edition of the Works of Carlyle, covering *The French Revolution, Heroes and Hero-Worship*, and the first four volumes devoted to *Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches*, deepen the impression of the substantial quality of this piece of book-making—an impression which is still further deepened by the first volumes in the Gadshill Edition of the Works of Charles Dickens, edited by Andrew Lang, and to be completed in thirty-two volumes, at the moderate price of \$1.50 each. The books are issued in what is known as the square crown octavo—large, substantial volumes, printed from unusually large, clear type, on pages of ample margin. The edition includes the original etchings and woodcuts by Seymour, Browne, and Cruikshank which appeared in the first edition of Dickens's works, and which the public has come very largely to associate with the best known of Dickens's characters. To these will also be added illustrations hardly less widely appreciated, by Pinwell, Walker, Landseer, Leech, Maclise, Barnard, and others. The illustrative value of the edition will be still further enhanced by the fact that in some of the more recent novels, the illustrations for which

were not drawn under the direct superintendence of Dickens, fresh illustrations have been secured from the best-known black-and-white artists of the present day. Mr. Andrew Lang will contribute to the first volume of each work an introduction, with notes to each volume, and a general essay on Dickens's genius and work will appear in one of the later volumes.

The new edition of the Works of Wordsworth, edited by William Knight, which is now coming from the press of the Macmillan Company, is enlarged by the publication of the first two volumes of the *Prose Works*, which have never till now been brought together in chronological order or published apart from his verse, for many of the most important of these prose works took the form of prefaces and appendices to the poems. The letters, which were in reality essays, appeared in many instances in the Memoirs published in 1851, and others in Dr. Grosart's edition of the *Prose Works* published in 1876. These volumes begin with the letter to the Bishop of Llandaff on the extraordinary avowal of his political principles. They contain the famous preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*, the almost equally well-known pamphlet on the Convention of Cintra, the account of the Lake District which Wordsworth called "a guide through the Lake District in the North of England." The preface to "The Excursion," and various other prose writings, have great interest and value to the lovers and students of the Lake Poet.

OUT OF DOORS

A most delightful collection of essays by Thomas Wentworth Higginson has been brought together under the title of *The Procession of the Flowers*. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York.) It is like wandering through the woods with a sympathetic friend when nature is in her kindest mood to read these pages. One smells the earth in its freshness, and watches the play of light and shadow, so true and so delicate are the writer's observation and expression. The book is a collection of observations on botany that teach without effort, and open the eyes of the most careless to the beauties that lie round about him, and to which he has hitherto been blind. The flowers are studied in the order of their appearance in our northern woods and fields, and the reader is educated while emotions of the keenest pleasure are aroused.

Mr. Frederick W. Wendt has published through the Colorado Book Company, New York, a small volume of extremely clever *Ocean Sketches*. As a specimen of book-making it is charming, and is an appropriate gift for intending voyagers.

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

The Rev. Dr. J. Franck Bright, the Master of University College, Oxford, has quickly followed his capital volume on Maria Theresa with one on her son, *Joseph II.*, which, like the other, we will reserve for more extended notice. (The