

would be the case. Left alone except for a pretty niece, who certainly was the most inconsequent and light-minded young piece, she lived in lonely grandeur, until a late love affair with her rector promised happiness. But a shipwreck destroyed all hope, and she was lost, leaving her fortune to harass her heirs. The difference between the tremendous disasters which the author finds are necessary to move her plot along, and the absurdly matter-of-fact way in which all the startling news is received by the survivors, is positively comic. The new novel will not add to the reputation of the author. It is an ill-assorted jumble of religious precept, misplaced melodrama, and many amusing conversations between rather stupid persons.

**ART IN
HOME DECORATION**

"Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful," wrote William Morris. Almost any one can decide what is useful, and numberless books and articles are being written now to help us decide what is beautiful. The ordinary home-maker may find sensible and helpful counsel in a little book upon Art and Economy in Home Decoration¹ by Mabel Tuke Priestman, for several years a practical worker in interior decoration. The clear classification of subjects in this manual will be appreciated by those who use it. Suggestions are given how to treat our walls, what curtain material is best, what to choose as floor-covering, and how much ornament is admissible on our furniture, besides many other points of vital importance to the young housekeeper, or the older one whose eyes are being opened to possible beauty. The illustrations in the book are excellent as aids to the text.

**THE SHADOW
WORLD**

It is fortunate for the reading public that such works as Mr. Hereward Carrington's "The Physical Phenomena of Spiritualism" and Mr. David P. Abbott's "Behind the Scenes with the Mediums" are available to correct the bizarre and sensational presentation of the phenomena of modern spiritism which Mr. Hamlin Garland has made in his "The Shadow World."² This book, although cast in the form of fiction, purports to give "a faithful record of the most marvelous phe-

nomena" that have come under its author's observation during many years of inquiry into things spiritistic. It also contains accounts of the mediumship of D. D. Home, Eusapia Paladino, and other celebrated wonder-workers, whose specialty has been the production of the so-called physical phenomena of spiritism, materializations, levitations, etc. Whatever may be said of Mr. Garland's highly colored narrative of the mediumistic performances which he personally has witnessed, there can be no doubt that he shows himself amazingly uncritical in his treatment of the more celebrated "psychics" of whom he writes. He declares his belief in the "perfect honesty" of Eusapia Paladino, when the fact is that she has been repeatedly detected in fraudulent practices, and on at least one occasion—in England, where, Mr. Garland naïvely says, she "made a partial failure"—was openly denounced as an impostor by the Society for Psychical Research. For the benefit of those inclined to take his book at all seriously it may be added that the "phase" of mediumship with which it is almost wholly concerned is precisely that which has been most conclusively demonstrated to be permeated through and through with fraud.

"DE LIBRIS" Mr. Dobson belongs among the most charming poets and the most agreeable prose writers of our time. He always brings with him the aroma of the best literary society, for the writers with whom he deals have almost always had some relation to the social life of their time. They have not only had the charm of genius, but the charm of manners. This volume of essays¹ is in Mr. Dobson's accustomed vein. One expects to see, and one finds on the title-page, the names of Samuel Rogers, Pepys, the Johnson Club, Fielding, and other old friends and old subjects. Mr. Johnson has long furnished a kind of running commentary on eighteenth-century manners, learning, and books. He knows all the minor writers of a period which was essentially a minor period, but one full of human variety and charm. When he comes to recent times, it seems very appropriate that Kate Greenaway should catch his eye, and that he should have something to say about Hugh Thomson. Verses are interjected here and there without violence to the text, and show that Mr. Dobson has lost none of his old grace and skill.

¹ Art and Economy in Home Decoration. By Mabel Tuke Priestman. The John Lane Company, New York. \$1.50, net.
² The Shadow World. By Hamlin Garland. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$1.35.

¹ De Libris, Prose and Verse. By Austin Dobson. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.50.