

BOOK NEWS.

"A Red, Red Rose," by Mrs. Hinkson (Katharine Tynan) is promised.

A second edition of Lucas Cleeve's novel, "The Man in the Street," has been issued by Mr. Fisher Unwin.

Mr. Grant Richards is publishing "The Life of Theodore Roosevelt," by Murat Halstead.

"Isola," a play written by Lady Florence Dixie, in her youth, is about to be published in London.

The death is announced of the widow of George Henry Lewes, the author of the "History of Philosophy," but better known by his relationship to George Eliot.

Mr. H. J. Whigham, the war correspondent, has recently been to the Persian Gulf to study the problem of that locality, and a book is to be the result.

"Fire and Sword in Shansi" is to be the title of a book by Dr. E. H. Edwards, who has been for twenty years a medical missionary in China.

Mr. Ranger-Gull has now completed his new novel, "His Grace's Grace," and his publishers, Messrs. Greening and Co., Limited, expected to have it out at the end of last month.

Balzac is represented in the "Century of French Romance," by "The Two Young Brides." In a critical introduction, Mr. Henry James admits the egotism of Balzac, but defends the abounding genius of the brilliant Frenchman.

The success which attended the first volume of Mr. F. C. Gould's "Froissart's Modern Chronicles" has encouraged that inimitable caricaturist to essay another volume chronicling the principal events of the year 1902. It was to be published by Mr. Fisher Unwin on 16th February. "Sir Dickon Seddon" figures in the volume.

The following sixpenny editions are announced by Geo. Robinson and Co. Proprietary, Limited:—Marchmont's "Dash for a Throne"; Warren's "Lady Joan's Companion"; Hocking's (Silas K.), "The Adventures of Latimer Field, Curate"; Griffiths's (Major A.), "The Thin Red Line"; and Sergeant's "A Master of Beechwood."

Lord William Nevill's publication of his experiences in prison, is defended by some of the reputable English papers, one of which says:—"It occurs to us that, if the publication of the book brings more profit to the author by the use of his name the other members of the family might reasonably put up with the little additional notoriety involved."

Two books following on the "Aeschylus" of Professor Warr, are warmly praised by the English critics. They are "Sophocles," translated and explained by Mr. J. S. Phillimore, M.A., and "Euripides," by Professor Gilbert Murray. Mr. Phillimore (says the "Literary World") endorses Matthew Arnold's description of Sophocles as the man "who saw life steadily and saw it whole."

A cheap edition of the late Sir Chas.

Gavan Duffy's autobiography, "My Life in Two Hemispheres," is promised by Mr. Fisher Unwin, also the final edition of the same author's "Young Ireland" and his "Short Life of Thomas Davis," which appeared in "The Irish Library." Of the latter, Sir Gavan Duffy was editor, in conjunction with Mr. Douglas Hyde and Mr. Barry O'Brien.

The publication of the works of Nietzsche in London is proving successful. The English people since their experience with Schopenhauer have begun to understand that even German philosophic writing need not be dry. Nietzsche deals with religion, science, morals, social conventions, and beliefs of all kinds, with music, and with art generally.

A new edition of Mr. Henry Harland's "Mademoiselle Miss" has been issued by Mr. John Lane. This was the first published work of the author of "The Cardinal's Snuff-box," and in a preface he says:—"These stories were written a good many years ago by a young pen trying its paces. My admiring publisher is so anxious to reprint them and coaxed so hard, I really haven't the heart to cross him."

George Robertson and Co. Proprietary, Limited, Brisbane, have the following new books to arrive shortly:—Doyle (A. Conan), "The Adventures of Etienne Gerard"; Hocking's (Silas K.), "The Wizard's Light"; Tracy (Louis), "A Fatal Legacy"; Savage (R. H.), "Commander Leigh: A Story of the Lower Coast of Louisiana"; Bailey (H. C.), "Karl of Erbach"; Gould (F. Carruthers), "Froissart's Modern Chronicles," Illustrated; "James Chalmers of New Guinea: Autobiography and Letters," edited by R. Lovett. Nineteenth Century Series: Cogan (T. W.) and Ewing (T. T.), "Progress of Australasia in the Century"; Browning (Professor Oscar), "War of the Century, and the Developments of Military Science"; Little (J. S.), "Progress of the British Empire in the Century."

Some weeks ago reference was made to the success of "The Queen's Vigil," a volume of poems by Mr. W. W. Gibson, who had given much promise with "Orlyn the Harper." A Scottish critic, in quoting some of his lines, says that Mr. Gibson "reveals in the sensuous beauty of things and words," and that "he can pour a vague emotion into a crystal chalice of exquisitely wrought phrase." These are the lines specially alluded to:

"The glow-worm's emerald signal-fires
Lighted the cool green dusk, and held
The bats about the ramparts old
Fluttered with silence-weaving flight;
While drowsily above the mould
The roses swung, and on the night
Unloosed their petalled wealth of bloom."

The following is a typical piece of Australian picturing by George Essex Evans in his fine narrative poem, "Lorraine":—

I have seen the plains lying baked and bare
When drought and famine hold revel there,
And the cattle sink where the rotting shoals
Of the fish float dead in the waterholes."

I have seen the plains when the flood brings down
The leaguers of its waters, sullen and brown,

I have seen the plains when the flood brings down
The leagues of its waters, sullen and brown,
When only the tops of the swaying trees
Mark the creek that wound thro' the level seas,
And all be a sea to the straining eyes
Save some lonely hut on a distant rise.

I have seen the plains in the mad delight
Of the racing flames in their crimson flight,
When the whip of the wind will not stay or spare,
And was to the rider who lingers there!

Hut, O! the plains, what beauty lurk!
On our wondering eyes as we crossed them first!
When the sun shone bright and a soft wind blew,
And the sky was clear with a fairy hue,
And star, like an isle in a sea of mist,
Rose a mountain-cap as of amethyst.

The wave of temperance reform is spreading. The Belgian Chamber is now being urged to pass a law making it a penal offence to import, manufacture, or sell absinthe in Belgium. M. Francotte, the Minister of Commerce, in his reply on behalf of the Government, stated that the authorities would not place any opposition in the way of the proposed bill.

Writing in the January number of "Macclure's Magazine," Mr. G. W. Smalley says that he has known four men who could compose to order, and who scoffed at the theory of waiting for inspiration. The four were Trollope, Sir Richard Burton, Browning, and Mr. Marion Crawford. Of Burton's unfailing facility as a writer, Mr. Smalley gives an interesting example. He once found him in a house in London, sitting on the landing steps at the angle of the stairs with a book in his hand and a small writing pad on his knees. It was a crowded and noisy party, men were passing and repassing, but Burton was quite absorbed in his work; his pencil went steadily on. Mr. Smalley said, "You have chosen a nice quiet place to work." "One place is as good as another," he growled out. "It makes no difference to you?" "None." "May I see your book?" He handed up the little book in its dark, queer cover, much the worse for wear—a volume of Camoens in the Portuguese, which he was translating into English—Portuguese being one of the twenty-seven languages which he knew and spoke. "Well," I said, "I suppose you want to be left alone, but are you never tired?" He replied, "I never knew what it was to be tired."