

Literary Notes.

IT is an interesting announcement that Miss E. S. Haldane and Mr. G. R. T. Ross are doing a translation of the complete philosophical works of Descartes. Miss Haldane is, of course, the sister of the Secretary of State for War. She has been a student of philosophy for many years, and possesses, in addition to an extensive knowledge of the subject, considerable acumen as to the relative merits of the various systems. Miss Haldane has already published acceptable translations of Hegel's "History of Philosophy," besides a very capable study of "The Life and Times of Descartes." Mr. Ross is a member of the staff of Hartley College, Southampton.



This month publishing begins to revive. The "flat" summer season and its lighter literature is passed and gone and the real serious publication will soon make its appearance. It seems a pity that publishers should crowd practically into four months the publication of all their most important books. As the next few weeks come and go, congestion in book-publication arrives at a stage when almost an *impasse* will have been reached. But somehow the publisher and his assistants come out of the hurly-burly all right. Yet the fact remains that a good many likely books are choked in the race for a life. In America there are not such hard and fast rules as to seasons. Good books come out when they are ready; although, of course, even there, the tendency is to keep the summer months entirely to fiction. Even the spring in England is never so brisk as of old. Naturally, people read more in the winter; but there are many books of the lighter kind, not necessarily novels, which would sell in the other months of the year as much as during the last few months.



From Messrs. Nisbet we may expect shortly some very attractive volumes of reminiscences of more than usual interest, at least to the religious world. These books will come from the pens of Miss Agnes Weston and Dr. Eugene Stock. It is obvious that whatever Miss Weston or Dr. Stock puts down on paper is bound to be attractive from many points of view. The work of both has been, during the many years they have been engaged in it, of the utmost importance, and in different ways has had a profound influence. Dr. Stock's contributions to our pages will make his book doubly welcome to our readers.



Yet again I have to record the approaching publication of a new magazine. In this case it is to be welcomed. Any new effort to spread culture and artistic influence must be always encouraged. We are shortly to have a new monthly review which Mr. T. P. O'Connor is to edit. Now there are not very many distinctively literary reviews—I mean solely and absolutely devoted to books—other than the trade organs, such as the "Publishers' Circular" and "The Bookseller," both excellent papers, well edited, well written, and up-to-date. There is, of course, "The Bookman," published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, a valuable and interesting monthly, and "The Book

Monthly," edited by that indefatigable literary man, Mr. James Milne. His monthly is probably more quoted than any other journal of its kind, while his "Personal and Particular" notes betray the personality and style of their writer. But a real, live, popular monthly literary review there is not, and it will have a hard fight to bring itself to be accepted, although, seeing that its editor is Mr. T. P. O'Connor, more than half the battle has been fought and won. We wish it a long life and great success. It will contain critical sketches of notable authors, book-reviews, and gossip about all that relates to the world of letters.



The bicentenary of the birth of Dr. Johnson occurs this month, and there is to be an exhibition of Johnsonian books, manuscripts, portraits, relics, etc., at Lichfield. Efforts have been made to secure as many mementoes as possible, and the commemoration has been advertised widely, so that it is expected the exhibition will be a thoroughly representative one; at least it will be highly interesting. The "affair" has had an almost "official" ring about it, seeing that the Mayor of Lichfield made the appeals for the mementoes, while the Town Clerk received them. Messrs. Bell published an excellent little monograph the other day in their charming "Miniature Series of Great Writers," in which was reproduced the painting by Eyre Crowe, giving a capital representation, a literary study really, of three great men of the time: Dr. Johnson, James Boswell and Oliver Goldsmith. The author of this little book is Mr. Lang Buckland.



It is certainly good news that we are to have this autumn what was probably the late Dr. Richard Garnett's last book, "The Life of W. J. Fox," who was a famous preacher and a fervent politician. There is a good deal of original matter in the book. Mr. Fox was one of Robert Browning's friends.



We have long been expecting the "Life of Christ" by Professor Sanday. But Dr. Nicoll, who always seems to get hold of early information about new and important books, says that it will not appear for some time, but that Professor Sanday will issue two other works before it—*i.e.*, a short volume on the "Doctrine of the Person of Christ," and then "Prolegomena."



Mr. Arthur Rackham, whose success and importance seem to make a great advance on each occasion when he illustrates a new standard work, has been preparing for some time now a set of illustrations for Fouqué's "Undine." There will be, in addition to fifteen plates in colour, quite a large number of pictures in the text. Mr. W. L. Courtney, the able editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, has made the adaptation of the book. There is probably no more original book-illustrator to-day than Mr. Rackham, and his yearly volumes are looked forward to with more interest each year.



"Fifty Years of New Japan" is a title likely to be used for a work promised for publication early this autumn by Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. The volume has been compiled by Count Okuma, late Prime Minister of

Japan, and he has received considerable and valuable assistance in its preparation by a number of specialists. Their co-operation has been of the most useful kind, and as a result it is said that the work will be the most authoritative issued in recent times. It surveys thoroughly the modern and remarkable growth of the country. Mr. Marcus B. Huish, who is Vice-Chairman of the Japanese Society, has edited the book.



In a few weeks Messrs. Macmillan will publish a most important book by that intrepid explorer, Dr. Sven Hedin. It is, in every sense of the word, a full, descriptive, and picturesque account of his last adventurous journey. Altogether, there will be something like 400 illustrations. The title will probably be "Trans-Himalayas: Discoveries and Adventures in Tibet," and will be in two octavo volumes. Another important book of exploration will, of course, be Lieutenant Shackleton's.



Two "Tudor" books are appearing shortly through the Oxford University Press. One is a volume composed of several lectures dealing with Tudor England's literary relations with France in the sixteenth century. These lectures were given at Oxford by Mr. Sidney Lee in the summer. The title of the book is to be "The French Renaissance in England." The other volume is an addition to the "Tudor and Stuart Library." This is Sir Thomas Browne's "Religio Medici," together with the "Observations" by Sir Kenelm Digby, which followed the surreptitious publication of Browne's work in 1648.



The "History of English Poetry" is, undoubtedly, a very great and important work, and Professor Courthope has expended upon the production much skilled labour and considerable learning. Five volumes have so far been published by Messrs. Macmillan, and quite recently Professor Courthope completed the sixth, which is to come out some time this autumn. It is of interest to note that the first volume of this monumental work appeared fourteen years ago, and it is a real pleasure to know that it is about to be completed. It was no light task and responsibility which Professor Courthope took upon himself when he decided to commence such a work. Very few scholars would have thought it worth while to give so much time and labour to such an undertaking, and one is, therefore, all the more deeply grateful to the author for having so courageously stuck to it. It is probably the only exhaustive history of poetry published since that of Wharton's which was issued as far back as the eighteenth century.



To the *Hibbert Journal* for next month there will be added a supplement, price 6s. net, entitled "Jesus or Christ?" The volume will comprise contributions from many writers of prominence. Each of the articles have been, it is almost unnecessary to say, written entirely from an independent standpoint. Here are the writers and the titles of their papers: "Who say ye that I am?" by the Bishop of Southwark; "The Jesus of History and the Christ of Religion," by Canon Scott Holland; "One Lord Jesus Christ," by Father Rickaby; "The Point at Issue," by the late Rev. George Tyrrell;

“Faith and Fact,” by Principal Garvie; “Jesus or Christ?” by Rev. R. J. Campbell; “The Jesus of History and the Christ of Religion: the Approach toward Consistency,” by Professor Bacon; “Jesus Christ and His Teaching,” by Dr. Drummond; “Jesus or Christ?” by Principal Carpenter; “A Divine Incarnation,” by Sir Oliver Lodge; “The Idealism of Jesus,” by Professor Henry Jones; “Jesus or Christ? a Pragmatist View,” by Professor Percy Gardner; “The Christian Cult as Christ Worship,” by Mr. James Collier; “Jesus our Saviour,” by Professor Weinel; “The Christ of Theology and the Jesus of Religion,” by Professor P. Schmiedel; and “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: their Changed Relationships in Modern Thought,” by Professor Nathan Soderblöm of Upsala. We shall look forward with a good deal of interest to this volume, and it should prove to be one of the most noteworthy symposiums of modern times. The writers obviously represent many points of view, though we should have liked even one more, that of the strong Evangelicalism of Principal Forsyth. Messrs. Williams and Norgate are the publishers.



One of the best weekly journals in America, and one which is conducted on a plan more akin to our own understanding in matters journalistic, is the *New York Nation*. There occurred the other day the death—the regrettable death, for he was indeed a high-minded man—of its editor, Mr. Hammond Lamont. The paper had always a high tone, but under Mr. Lamont’s able—one might almost say remarkable—direction, it had become a great force in the land. The character of the journal reminds one very forcibly of such a great English institution as the *Spectator*; and really this is distinctive praise which those of any political creed will admit. Mr. Lamont had been editor for three short years, but in that time he had accomplished much. Then came the end—sudden and swift. He succumbed under an operation. It was a fortuitous circumstance which enabled the directors of the journal to have at hand such an able successor as Mr. Paul Elmer More. He was the associate-editor, and now he takes sole charge of the fortunes of the paper. He has been making for himself of late an international reputation, through the medium of his learned and incisive volumes of Essays, entitled “Shelburne Essays.” These have undoubtedly stamped him as a definite and distinctive critic of letters in the Twentieth Century. His last volume, the “Sixth Series,” dealt with “Studies of Religious Dualism,” which included such papers as “The Bhagavad Gītā,” “Saint Augustine,” “Pascal,” and “Bunyan.” Mr. More has also written several poems, as well as a life of Benjamin Franklin. He is also a classical scholar, and was for some time a professor of Sanskrit at Harvard.



“Europe in Renaissance and Reformation,” by Miss M. A. Hollings, M.A., is a volume in Messrs. Methuen’s “Six Ages of European History.” This work is intended as an introduction to the study of medieval history.



A volume entitled “The Gospel of Rightness: A Study in Pauline Philosophy,” by C. E. Woods, is announced by Messrs. Williams and Norgate.