

## NEW BOOKS

ACADIAN BALLADS AND LYRICS IN MANY MOODS. By Arthur Wentworth Eaton. McClelland, Stewart & Co., Toronto and Boston. 1930.

The appearance of this collection of Dr. Eaton's poems will be very welcome to his many friends and admirers,—especially to those who live in his native and much-loved province. There are few of the legends and stories of the old Acadian land which he has not celebrated in verse, and he has a peculiar felicity in his descriptions of the landscape of that region in which Longfellow laid the scene of his best known poem. Of this the opening ballad of the present volume may be taken as an example:

Now the rainbow tints of autumn  
Deck the ancient hills,  
And the dreamy river saunters  
Past the lazy mills,  
Let us seek the murmuring forest  
Where the pines and hemlocks grow,  
And a thousand fringed shadows  
Fall upon the Gaspereau.

When the first Acadian farmers  
Sailing up the bay  
Landed with their goods and cattle  
On the fair Grand Pré,  
Wandering through the ancient forest  
Claude, René, and Theriot,  
In a vale of wondrous beauty,  
Found the river Gaspereau.

\* \* \* \*

Still it flows among the meadows  
Singing as of yore  
To the trailing ferns and mosses  
On the winding shore,  
To the pines that dip their branches  
In the crystal wave below,  
And the crimson leaves of autumn  
Falling in the Gaspereau.

But Dr. Eaton's muse is not dependent on any special locality for inspiration; some of his lyrics treat of the deepest problems of the life of the soul. In "An Orient Prayer" he gives expression to the thought of those who look for the final absorption of the human in the Divine:

Then let me go  
Into the long hereafter joyously,  
To live, yet not to live apart from Thee,  
From thy great life the life now lent to me  
No more to flow.

Much of his verse is devotional, but there is in it nothing of Puritanical austerity or sectarian narrowness. Here faith is brightened by hope and broadened by charity.

When we have come with all our faults and fears  
 Into the presence chamber of the King,  
 I do not think we shall recount the years  
 That now seem scarred so deep with suffering;

I do not think that He will give us time  
 To scourge our souls because we were so vile,  
 But only look on us and make us climb  
 Into high heaven upon His loving smile.

\* \* \* \* \*

And rest like little children at the side  
 Of Him who leads us up to those high lands,  
 Lost in His life, for ever satisfied,  
 Since He misjudges not, but understands.

E. R.

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THE CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA. By R. M. Dawson. Oxford Univ. Press. 1929. pp. 266.

In many quarters in Canada political science is still regarded as an unnecessary "frill" in university education, while its teachers are numbered among astrologers or journalists. The physicists with their feet on the atom are presumed to be on solid ground, the classicists to use sound educational methods in drilling unwilling youth in languages they will never speak or read with ease, and the mathematicians to preserve the toughmindedness of the Anglo-Saxon world by enlightening the undergraduate on the perversities of  $x+y$ . On the other hand, political science, which happens to include Aristotle among its professors, is a modern fad, or at the best a by-path of history, economics, law, or philosophy. But of late there has been a glimmer of hope that it may yet come into its own in Canada. A number of universities have admitted it within their walls, though perhaps with reluctance, and on probation. More important has been the appearance of a few scholarly monographs on various phases of Canadian government. Professor Dawson's *Principle of Official Independence* some six years ago was one of the first of these. The promise shown by Professor Dawson in his former book has been amply fulfilled in the one entitled *The Civil Service of Canada*. This is the type of book which might persuade physicists, classicists, and mathematicians, perhaps even the manufacturer who sees a *quid pro quo* for his contributions to research in the natural or theoretical sciences, that political science is an orphan worth saving.

The Civil Service grew up in Canada in a bad environment. Originally the patronage of colonial governors and of Family Compacts, with responsible government it became the patronage of party leaders. Federation saw patronage entrenched as firmly in Ottawa as it had been in the provincial capitals. With the Liberal victory

in 1874 the American habit of dismissing party opponents from office began, a practice which grew with each political turn-over down to the Great War. An examining board had been set up in 1868 to consider all candidates, but within a few years it had virtually ceased to act. A second board, set up in 1882, succeeded in eliminating imbeciles and illiterates, but few others. Real reform came only with the Civil Service Act of 1908, which provided for a Commission independent of the government of the day, and established a system of open competitive examinations for the "Inside Service". The "Outside Service", that is the Service beyond Ottawa, was finally brought under the Commission's authority by Order-in-Council in 1918. Reorganization and reclassification by a Commission of so-called experts, and a new Pension Act in the two years following, served to complete the principles on which the present Service is conducted.

In Part II Professor Dawson launches a vigorous attack on the present system. He concludes that except for posts removed from the Commission's control (and there are a number in this class), patronage plays little part to-day, as respects either appointments or promotions, but the fear of patronage dominates the whole Service. Zeal for abolition of patronage has gone so far that it endangers efficiency in other ways. It has led to placing upon the Commission responsibility not alone for appointments, but for promotions, reclassification, transfers and oversight of salaries, tasks which the Commission is perhaps constitutionally unable to perform. In any case, this seriously weakens the control of the Deputy Minister over his department. The examination system is equally bad. The experts Commission of 1919 succeeded in scrapping the British system of general examinations based largely on academic training, and in substituting for it the American system of specialized examinations based on the nature of the task to be performed by the applicant. This applies not only to appointments in the first instance, but to promotions as well. Thus, while it is theoretically possible for a civil servant to mount from the lowest rung in his department to the top, the number of examinations which he must pass and the technical nature of each, together with the special qualifications required of applicants for higher posts, offer almost insurmountable obstacles. On the other hand, in many cases the intelligent youth with university training alone has little chance in competition with those having business or Civil Service experience. The system thus tends to keep out university graduates, who form the backbone of the English Service, and to discourage the ambitions of all who enter the Service.

"The mere selection of a Civil Service", says Professor Dawson, "is but the first step, if the administration is to do its work properly in the modern government. . . . The object of the new democracy must be to discover the best environment, the most suitable conditions of tenure in its broadest sense, the most adequate stimuli, which will produce the intense mental and volitional effort in the different officers of government, while preserving in the last resort popular control over the whole." (p. 257). Professor Dawson's vigorous criticism of the present régime points the way to reform in all these phases.

The author of this book has placed the Canadian public in his debt. His wide reading in the field of English administration, his

sound training under Professor Graham Wallas, one of the greatest masters of political science in our time, his mastery of his material, his realism, entitle him to a wide hearing. His masculine and sometimes caustic pen, his flashes of satirical humour, as well as his quotations from Gilbert and Sullivan, should serve to "sugar-coat" the pill for a subject on which no author can hope to write a "best-seller". It is to be hoped that he will embark upon studies of the provincial and even municipal Civil Services, which are in much worse condition than that of the Dominion, and where the first step towards reform, viz., removing the Service from party politics, remains in many cases still to be taken. Meantime, it is profoundly to be hoped that public-spirited citizens will see to it that their representatives, not only in Ottawa, but in the provincial legislatures, get a copy of the book, and are induced to read it.

ROBERT A. MACKAY.

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THE NEW WORD. By Charles Hall Grandgent. Harvard University Press. 1929.

This is a collection of ten essays, of which the eponymous one comes last. The titles, as usual with Professor Grandgent's essays, do not very much matter. They are all slices of Grandgent. There are some pleasing reminiscences of his father, and the final essay is largely devoted to President Eliot, but the best things merely drop out by the way. Perhaps the book suffers a little by comparison with *Getting a Laugh*, or *Prunes and Prisms*, but an author need not fear to be sometimes inferior to himself. It is what happens to most who do much writing. Yet when one looks at some of the reflections and anecdotes, one forgets to criticize, even if at least two of the anecdotes appeared in one of the earlier volumes. There are other things new and good. "The tea-drinker gets all the wages of sin without any of the fun. Of course, some people are simply driven to sinfulness. I mean the English, whose coffee is so peculiar that they have to drink tea for breakfast." But Professor Grandgent is not a narrow Nationalist. "Does the Glorious Fourth stand for anything historical in the minds of the celebrants? Not a bit of it. It is simply a day when everyone may with impunity be a thug. And not only with impunity; with a certain aroma of sanctity. It is a quasi-religious thuggery." The story of Mr. Isaac Fiedelheimer and the Dean has probably been told several times before, but perhaps never quite so well. After all, it is easy to wish the book longer; and what more need be said?

E. W. NICHOLS.

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SHORT STORIES OUT OF SOVIET RUSSIA. Compiled and translated by John Cournos. J. M. Dent and Sons. 1929.

This is a collection of sixteen stories by eleven writers, of whom eight were born later than 1890. As the translator says, "there is

nothing astonishing in the fact that Russian fiction of the past decade should be so obsessed with cruelty, violence, and horror." It may be, too, that the relative youth of the writers makes the world as they describe it seem natural to them. They are, at any rate, not unnecessarily optimistic. The translator provides a foreword, and a very useful biographical and critical note for each author. All of the tales are readable, and some of them are powerful. One, "A Tale about Ak and Humanity," by Efim Zozulya, is a little masterpiece of satire. So far as one may judge in entire ignorance of Russian, the translation seems to be well done. There is perhaps no remedy for Russian names in translation.

E. W. NICHOLS.

ELIZABETHAN AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Sir Sidney Lee. The Clarendon Press. Oxford. 1929.

Sir Sidney Lee won distinction in the fields of Shakespeare scholarship and English biography. His labours on the Shakespeare folios and his *Life of Shakespeare* are familiar to all students of Elizabethan literature. As joint editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography* with Leslie Stephen, he shares the renown of producing that monumental work. Now his papers, chiefly in these departments of study, have been brought together in one volume by Professor F. S. Boas. It is hardly possible that they could fail in interest and value.

Arnold of Rugby once expressed the wish that he could take his sixth form through an English masterpiece line by line as carefully as through a Greek play. And yet Sir Sidney Lee has still to contend that English literature is a proper subject for study in an English university. He also argues in behalf of studies in comparative literature, and points to English achievements in philology which compare favorably with the best efforts of the Germans. The two lectures on biography are rather like a park of artillery brought up to force an open door. It seems hardly necessary to argue that Plutarch is a sound model for writers of "Lives", that biographies should not be too long or too idolatrous, nor edifying, nor written by a relative. Surely these principles might be admitted as first axioms. These are Leslie Stephen's principles in the D. N. B. articles. At the end of every one might be printed "No flowers".

"Shakespeare's Art" is an argument against Dowden and similar commentators, who hold that Shakespeare's "tragic period" is caused by tragedy in his private life. Shakespeare's debt to Ovid is the theme of a more technical paper. The influence of Golding's translation of the *Metamorphoses* on the thought and phrasing of the Sonnets is traced with great care. Evidence of Shakespeare's popularity with his own countrymen is proved by the presence of a Second Folio in the English College of Valladolid, which had been censored by an official of the Inquisition. This paper is illustrated by the facsimile of the last page of *Henry VIII*, showing the lines blacked out by the Censor.

Not least in interest are the selections from Sir Sidney Lee's Lowell lectures on America and Elizabethan England. "The Example

of Spain" will illuminate those whose ideas about that country have been formed by Froude and *Westward Ho!* Lee proves the enlightenment and the humanity of the Spanish colonial policy. Raleigh's relations with his Spanish prisoner Sarmiento, and his tribute to Spanish achievement in his *History of the World*, will be new to most readers; and Canadians will be surprised to learn that "Rabelais's Thalasse is Cartier's St. Malo"; that "Rabelais's Captain Brayer is the hero himself", and that "Many grotesque sounds and sights which afflict Pantagruel distort very slightly the records of Cartier's experience off Newfoundland or Labrador."

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

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GREEK MEDICINE. By Arthur J. Brock, M. D. London and Toronto: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. Inc.

Of late years it has been the fashion to write books about the "Thought of the Ancient World". Inasmuch as most of our modern ideas have been derived from the Ancients, and especially from the Greeks, it is very fitting that we should have so many of these books.

This volume is one of a series entitled the "Library of Greek Thought". Some of the other volumes of the same series, to mention a few, are *Greek Religious Thought*, *Greek Historical Thought*, and *Greek Literary Criticism*, all written by distinguished scholars. The author of this book is very favorably known by his excellent translation of Galen *On the Natural Faculties*, which was published in the Loeb Classical Library. There are two ways in which an author might deal with such a subject. He might write a thesis, giving references and quoting authorities for his opinions, or he might write a general introduction and illustrate his views by lengthy quotations from the various writers whom he has discussed. Dr. Brock has chosen the second alternative. The book consists of a general introduction, with translations from the Greek writers who have discussed medical questions.

The introduction gives an outline of Greek medicine from the earliest times, discusses Hippocrates at greater length, and concludes with a still longer consideration of Galen. The bulk of the translations are from Galen. This is probably fitting; for although Hippocrates is called the "Father of Medicine", yet the fine flower of Greek medical thought reached its full development in Galen. Translations are also appropriately made from Plato and Aristotle; from Plato, because his teaching greatly influenced Galen, and from Aristotle because he was the founder of the science of biology. A translation is also given of Thucydides's very interesting account of the plague which raged in Athens during the second year of the Peloponnesian war, and which is considered by medical authorities to have been a variety of typhus fever.

One of the most interesting parts of the introduction is a discussion of the term "physis", from which in association with "logos" comes our modern term physiology. The author is of the opinion that few modern scientists would admit that there is such a thing as

"physis". He translates the word as "organism", and suggests that it has in it something truly mysterious and must be accepted as axiomatic in biology and medicine. There is no doubt that it is a difficult word to understand, and still more difficult to translate. The term "physis" was, however, used by some Greeks to signify the primary substance which they were all in search of, and meant the real thing underlying the world with its changes and different appearances. As Burnet has said, ultimate reality and the world of common experience were both regarded as corporeal, especially in the earlier stages of philosophy; but as the idea of "physis" was more thoroughly developed, it tended to become something rather remote from common experience. If, however, the term be restricted to its medical significance, might it not be translated by the word "Constitution"?

The selections from Hippocrates and Galen seem to have been admirably chosen, and it is very interesting that they have been prefaced by the first aphorism of Hippocrates of which Sir Wm. Osler was so fond, and which deserves to be quoted even in a review. "Life is short, the art long, occasions sudden, experience fallible and judgment fallacious. Not only must the physician show himself prepared to do what is needed; he must make the patient, the attendants and the surrounding circumstances co-operate with him".

One of the most significant things about Greek medicine which Dr. Brock has done so well in pointing out was its sound clinical insistence that no disease could affect any part of the body without affecting it as a whole. Plato himself recognizes the importance of this when he says in the *Charmides* 156. B.—"If anyone with a disease of the eyes should consult a wise physician, he would be told that the eyes cannot be treated without a consideration of the head, and that it would be great folly to treat the head without considering the whole body". These are wise words, which this present generation of over specialism would do well to heed. This book should prove very interesting to all physicians, and especially to those who are concerned with the history of medicine; while to the classical scholar who has no knowledge of medicine it should be very valuable.

One cannot help feeling that Dr. Brock has made, in an admirable way, a very fine contribution to a great subject.

S. J. MACLENNAN.

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THE DISCOVERY OF CANADA. By Lawrence J. Burpee. The Graphic Publishers. Ottawa.

Within this very small book Mr. Burpee has packed a great mass of interesting and valuable information, much of which has not been easily accessible to the average reader. The Canada of which he writes is not limited to New France, nor is his story confined to discoveries on the Atlantic sea-board; his survey includes the northern and central parts of the Dominion and the Pacific slope. They are picturesque and heroic figures that play their parts on this wide stage,—Leif Ericson, Cabot, Cartier, Champlain, La Vérendrie, Mackenzie,

Hudson, Vancouver and their fellow-adventurers; and though told here but briefly, the story of their hardships and dangers, and the courage and skill with which they were faced, never loses its interest.

Well-chosen illustrations, reproductions of old maps, and an excellent bibliography add to the value of the book, which seems admirably adapted for use as an introduction to the study of Canadian history.

E. R.

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THE LEAGUE COUNCIL IN ACTION. By T. P. Conwell-Evans, Oxford Univ. Press. London. 1929. 291 pp.

The maxim that political institutions are not made but grow finds ample support in the history of the League of Nations. Some of its founders and many early protagonists saw in it essentially a method of securing peace by force. Article X, which obliges members "to preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League", seemed to President Wilson the very heart of the Covenant, and Article XVI, which provides for the application of "sanctions" against an offending state, seemed scarcely less important. Yet in actual practice both Articles have been of little more than academic interest; they have never yet been called into play. The League to enforce peace has, in fact, become a League for the settlement of disputes by pacific means. In the pacific settlement of disputes the Council has been the active organ of the League. Mr. Conwell-Evans's *The League Council in Action* is a technical study of the Council acting in this capacity.

The Covenant wisely contents itself with general rather than detailed provisions for the settlement of disputes by the Council. Procedure has thus been determined largely by the experimental method. Further, the absence of rigid regulations has made for elasticity in procedure, and for alternative methods. Disputes obviously differ in character, and in the emotional atmosphere in which they occur. Alternative means of procedure are thus of great importance. Thus the Council may make use of its power to issue a unanimous resolution, or to appeal to the Permanent Court of International Justice for an advisory opinion, or to appoint an international Commission of Enquiry with power to recommend a solution, or it may adopt the less arbitrary methods of mediation. In general, its methods have been those of persuasion rather than dictation.

Ten years of history, and the experience gained from some twenty-four important international disputes, have served both to develop a technique and to establish a criterion by which the value of the League methods may be judged. Not all solutions reached have been satisfactory, but in no instance has dissatisfaction led to war, though in certain cases hostilities had already commenced before the Council was seized of the dispute. Nor have all disputes been settled on the basis of law or objective rules of justice, for the simple reason that since some disputes looked to future arrangements (*e.g.* Upper Silesia) rather than to past rights, there were no rules of law or objective



principles of justice applicable. On the other hand, in many instances the Council has gone farther than merely stopping hostilities and settling the disputes in question; it has secured by the consent of the parties an alteration of conditions to prevent disputes in the future (e.g. the Upper Silesian, the Graeco-Bulgarian, and the Aaland Islands disputes).

In view of the unsettled post-war conditions out of which most disputes have arisen, and the post-war state of mind, the success of the Council has been remarkable. The elasticity of its procedure, its moral authority both as representing the Great Powers and as the concrete embodiment of the League ideals, its organic nature due to continuity of personnel and frequency of meetings, have made the Council an entirely different body from the *ad hoc* tribunals and Commissions of Enquiry of pre-League days. Above all, the "Geneva habit" of settling disputes by "round table" methods, by persuasion and discussion rather than force or dictation, is slowly altering the state of mind of international society. Whether taken individually or in groups, man is largely a creature of emotions more or less controlled by habit and intelligence. The future of the League in the settlement of international disputes largely depends upon inculcating new habits and on controlling blind emotion by intelligence. Some successes of the Council mark a great advance in this direction.

Within the limits of a review for a non-technical journal, it is impossible to do justice to a work of this character; suffice it to say that a student of the League cannot afford to overlook this book, indeed can scarcely omit it from his library. It is the first comprehensive legal study of the subject in English. It is thoroughly scholarly and sound, unusually objective for a book on the League, analytical rather than historical in its treatment, and carefully documented throughout. Mr. Conwell-Evans is to be congratulated on making a real contribution both to our knowledge of the League and to international jurisprudence.

ROBERT A. MACKAY.

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THE ROOSEVELT AND THE ANTINOE. By E. J. Pratt. The Macmillan Company. New York. 1930.

This is certainly the most noteworthy poem that any resident of Canada has produced for many years. Vigour, originality, and a thorough mastery of the technique of poetic expression are characteristic of this striking story of heroism on the high seas. The gallant readiness of the ocean liner *Roeweltos* to hasten to the help of the foundering freighter *Antinoe* through a tremendous gale, the difficult search for her, the long struggle, renewed again and again not without loss of life, to rescue her exhausted and despairing crew, and the final victory over that dread protagonist, the North Atlantic hurricane,—all this is told with the accuracy of a seaman and the imagination of a poet. It is not easy to give an impression of the work by quotation, for there are no "purple patches"; the versification runs on a high level; but the passage descriptive of the first attempt to send a life-

boat to the Antioe may give a fair notion of Mr. Pratt's manner and matter:

The oars and boat-hooks kept her free,  
 With painters taut at fore and aft, she hung  
 For her sixty feet of journey to the sea.  
 Below, like creatures of a fabled past,  
 From their deep hidings in unlighted caves,  
 The long procession of deep-bellied waves  
 Cast forth their monstrous births which with gray fang  
 Appeared upon the leeward side, ran fast  
 Along the broken crests, then coiled and sprang  
 For the boat, impatient of its slow descent  
 Into their own inviolate element.  
 A shout or instant gesture of the hand  
 Was answered by the double roar of winches,  
 The ropes ran through the iron cleats by inches,  
 Straining, checking, running on demand  
 Of the fore and after levels. "Lower away!"  
 A steady longer roar, then a moment clear  
 Of the side. "Avast! Let go releasing gear!"  
 The blocks shot from the slip-links evenly,  
 And number one had settled on the sea.

This story of the chivalry, resourcefulness and undaunted courage of men who go down to the sea in ships was worth the telling, and it has been worthily told.

E. R.

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WYCLIF: SELECT ENGLISH WRITINGS. Edited by Herbert E. Winn, M. A. Oxford University Press. 1929.

Wyclif, the contemporary of Chaucer, is important not only as a Reformer before the Reformation, but as an influence in the development of English prose. His works are all practically inaccessible, and, to meet the needs of students, Mr. Winn has prepared this scholarly book of the selections. It is difficult to see how the *apparatus criticus* could be improved. The introduction gives the ascertained facts of Wyclif's life and sketches his world, which was also the world of Piers Plowman. There is a list of the English writings, of MSS., and of abbreviations. Appendices treat of Wyclif's English, dialectical peculiarities, and the translators of the Bible, Hereford and Purvey. A chronological table, a body of helpful notes, and a glossary complete this valuable text-book. Wyclif was an early pacifist; he taught that men who go to war cannot rightly use the Paternoster.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

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NAVAL DISARMAMENT. By Hugh Latimer. Royal Institute of International Affairs. London. 1930. pp. 112, VIII.

This excellent little monograph is a chronicle of events from the Washington Conference, 1922, to the opening of the London Confer-

ence in January last, together with relevant appendices and a brief, well-selected bibliography. The author contents himself with an objective statement of fact; he bestows neither praise nor blame on individuals or nations. Interpretation is left to Mr. Philip Kerr, who writes an illuminating preface. "Disarmament", contends Mr. Kerr, "is fundamentally a political problem". Armaments will continue and perhaps increase so long as war is regarded as lawful or inevitable. "The alternative, the only alternative is the policy of the Peace Pact and the Covenant, that is to say, the policy of renouncing war as a method of settling disputes in favour of pacific methods, and of using armaments as the instruments of international as well as of national security and peace". For such statements there would appear to be ample warrant in Mr. Latimer's narrative and the difficulties of the London Conference.

The reviewer has discovered no better short chronological survey of the efforts for limitation of naval arms.

ROBERT A. MACKAY.

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PASCAL'S PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. By C. C. J. Webb. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press. 1929. pp. 118.

This admirable little book repeats the success of the author's *Kant's Philosophy of Religion*. While Pascal was a distinguished mathematician, it might be thought that the appeal of his writings, unlike those of Kant, is rather to religious feeling than to disciplined and systematic thought, and that any attempt to approach Pascal through philosophy must incur an initial disadvantage. As a matter of fact, Professor Webb frequently compares Pascal and Kant to the disadvantage of the former, chiefly because Pascal failed to achieve a reconciliation between the claims of religion and those of morality. It is not to be concluded that he was incapable of exact and sustained thought, but merely that the profound religious experience which constituted the most striking feature of Pascal's life was of the "prophetic" rather than the "philosophical" type. Even had he lived longer, he would probably not have altered the expression: "Dieu d'Abraham, Dieu d'Isaac, Dieu de Jacob, non des philosophes et des savans."

Yet Pascal undoubtedly aspired to construct a reasoned defence of the Christian religion. But when he attacked the arguments of the Jesuits in the *Lettres Provinciales*, his aim was not to oppose sophistry with sophistry. Rather, as Professor Webb points out, "It was less, I think, the Jesuitic championship of the freedom of the will, than their readiness to contemplate the possibility of a Christianity from which the love of God was absent, that roused Pascal's indignation." (pp. 103-4). And in the *Pensees*, which contain the fragments of his intended apology for Christianity, Pascal is never blind to the fact that the intellect does not move men to religion. "Le coeur a ses raisons que la raison ne connaît pas", which may be taken to mean not only that we act by instinct and habit rather than by reasons which we consciously propose to ourselves, but also that reason does not set its own first principles. Pascal's celebrated

"Wager" is to be regarded as an argument intended to arrest the attention of the worldly, and not as a factor determining the religious faith of its author himself.

If Professor Webb's little volume does not increase our respect for Pascal as a philosopher, it certainly adds to our understanding of the man by shewing him in his true light as one to whom religion was the absorbing passion of his all too few mature years. Pascal was, above all, marked out as a seeker and a searcher after God, and he wrote himself a fitting epitaph in the words: "Console-toi, tu ne me chercherais pas si tu ne m'avais trouvé."

F. H. PAGE

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DUMB-BELL. By Anna B. Montreuil. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston. pp. 264.

This book contains many of the elements of a good story. The element of pathos is supplied by the privations and sufferings, both mental and physical, of the neglected orphan, Jerry; the element of mystery by the problem of his origin; the element of romance by the discovery of his aunt, and by the love story of Miss Keith and Doctor Durant. Unfortunately, the author has not made the best use of her materials. The effect of the pathos is lost in the quite incredible development of Jerry's artistic ability. It is impossible to believe that an untaught boy could produce a masterpiece of sculpture in the course of a single night, even though he were working under the influence of the spirit of his dead father. The mystery and the romance are in like manner robbed of all value by the way in which they are set forth.

The style in which the book is written is also very faulty. The short, staccato sentences are awkward and tiresome to read, and they are disfigured by the constant use of such ugly words as *sensed*. The liberal use of capitals is another defect. They make the pages look as if taken from a child's primer, or from a collection of the late Mr. George Ade's *Modern Fables*. A true and delicate feeling for nature is a redeeming feature of the story, and atones in some measure for the crudity of the dialogue, with its modern jargon of "vibrations" and the "sub-conscious." On the whole, however, this first novel of the author can hardly be said to hold out much promise for the future.

M. JOSEPHINE SHANNON

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SHRIEKS AND CRASHES: Being Memories of Canada's Corps, 1917.  
By Wilfred Brenton Kerr, M.A. (Oxon.), Ph.D. (Toronto).  
The Hunter Rose Co., Ltd., Toronto. 1929. \$3.10.

This interpretative record of a Canadian artilleryman's experiences in the France of 1917 is distinguished by clarity of vision and honesty of report. It is the contribution not of a mere observer, but of an historian, and is quick with the vividness of knowledge. An

extract from Mr. Kerr's foreword contain his promise: "I do not write to glorify war, to hide its dreadfulness, nor do I write to shock readers by descriptions of horrors of a length and intensity disproportionate to the actual place these filled in the minds of the soldiers. Still less do I write to gratify the cravings of certain alleged intellectuals, who revel in stories of human depravity and seek to brand anyone a 'prude' who prefers to discuss the more elevated side of human nature. I have tried to project myself into the past, to recover as accurately as possible the thoughts, the mental attitudes, the reactions, the experiences of my comrades and myself of twelve years ago, in order that Canadians of the coming generation may have a representation, however imperfect, of the manner of life of their compatriots at the front in 1917."

To this promise, Mr. Kerr is faithful. It remains to thank him, and to recommend his little book. May its sequel be not long delayed.

M. M. MACODRUM.