LITERATURE

THOUGHT-DRIFT.

Dim hour by hour through autumn's wane
The silkweed lets her plumes adrift:
They rove—they sink—and yet again
Upon the wavering breeze they lift.

No count is made of where they roam;
They are not found, they are not lost—
Soft wanderers without a home,
Yet scathless to the sworded frost.

Not otherwise dim hour by hour
I shed white thoughts into the wind,—
Sole drift of my life's vanished flower:
They are not lost—yet noon may find.

Edith M. Thomas, in Octoebr Atlantic.

WORDSWORTH UP TO DATE.

She was a Phantom of a Fright
When first she gleamed upon my sight,
A shapeless shape in scanty dress
To haunt, to startle, to distress.

I saw her upon nearer view:
The things that woman had to do!
She had to breathe a certain way,
And walk and walk for miles each day.

She couldn't eat a thing that's good
For human nature's daily food,
But just some hygienic stuff,
And stop before she'd had enough!

You'd think no one, however thin,
Her sheath-like garments could get in:
Ah if you understood the cult
You'd be surprised at the result!

A perfect woman nobly gowned,
With hips scarce thirty inches round!
A slot-like form, a halting gait,
And something like a angel's weight!

Caralyn Wells in Harper's Magazine.

NOTES

Clyde Squires has a charming full-page drawing in the October number of Success, showing an old couple revisiting their old schoolhouse and seeing by memory's vision a group of children playing at games of hoop and rope, while in foreground walk a boy and girl just budding into man and womanhood. It is done with the delicate and finished art which has brought the young Utah artist into the front ranks.

* * *

Margaret Deland was in the audience on the first night of the stage production in New York of her novel, "The Awakening of Helena Richie." After the enthusiasm of the audience brought Miss Anglin before the footlights at curtain call, Mrs. Deland was unable to persist in her intention not to appear in answer to the cries of "Author!" and was led upon the stage, where she made graceful acknowledgment to a plainly delighted audience. After witnessing a single performance, Mrs. Deland returned to her summer cottage at Kennebunkport, where she is accustomed to prolong the autumnal summer until fairly driven out by the cold.

* * *

No author has ever had such a remarkable reception as Mr. White encountered on his return to Emporia from Europe. The whole town turned out to welcome the author of 'A Certain Rich Man." The characters of the book great seen real to the inhabitants of Emporia, for Mr. Whites creations were personified by several of the orators of the occasion. It is noteworthy, moreover, that although Emporia has a population of less than 10,000, over 2,000 copies of "A Certain Rich Man" have already been sold there—an average of about one copy to a family. What would happen if this average was maintained throughout the entire country is rather staggering to the imagination.

* * *

Elizabeth Robins's new novel, "The Florentine Frame," is said, by a few who have read the copy, to be far the most remarkable thing which has ever come from the pen of this brilliant American novelist. Though her home has been for some years in London she writes of New York and its intellectual and social life with the power and skill of intimate every-day association. The problem around which the story is so wonderfully built is one which, it is predicted, will be the talk of the country before the novel is out a month.

* * *

Those who shook as hard as Santa Claus ever did with laughter last holiday season over "The Hole Book" will more than welcome "The Peter Newell Calendar for 1910." This latest accomplishment of humor on the author's part will be introduced to the public by the Harpers early this month.

* * *

The Princess Troubetzkoy (Amelie Rives), who recently returned with her husband, the Prince Troubetzkoy, from a summer sojourn on the continent, is to have a book, "Tetx and Over-the-Moon," her story of a Virginia horsewoman, published by the Harpers almost immediately.

* * *

Will N. Harben, author of "Gilbert Neal," "Ann Boyd," "Mam Linda" and other novels of Georgia, since his return to New York from the south has been busy upon the final proofs of a new novel which the harpers are bringing out this month. Another edition of Mr. Harben's novel "Ann Boyd" has been announced since the news of its coming production on the stage.

* * *

It is now announced that William Dean Howells's "Boy Life," the book which consists of selections made from Mr. Howells's stories for boys by Mr. Percival Chubb, is the first of a series to be known as Harper's Modern Series of Supplementary Readers for the Elementary Schools, the basis for which is an alleged defect in present-day school literature. The child, it is claimed, leaves school with some knowledge of American things dead and gone—the day of Miles Standish, of Paul Revere, of Rip Van Winkle—but with none of his own time, and this is said to be not only a loss in itself, but to lead to a failure to connect with the forms of literature which he is most likely to read when he has left school. "Boy Life" includes many episodes and incidents from two of Mr. Howells's most popular books for young people "A Boy's Town" and "The Flight of Pony Baker," describing boys' life in an Ohio town some 25 years ago.

* * *

That O. Henry is to have a new book of short stories, which will be published by The Harpers this fall, is one of those pieces of news in which readers take supreme satisfaction. There is always Kipling for the English, Is there any contemporary short-story writer so American as O. Henry?

* * *

S. G. Bayne, who wrote "Quicksteps through Scandinavia" has arranged with his publishers, The Harpers, for the publication of another travel book in the same light and humorous vein. Mr. Bayne's touring this time was along the Mediterranean shore, and his chronicle will be known as "A Fantasy of Mediterranean Travel."

* * *

When I'm kinder queer and blue I says to myself, "Gimme your paw! I'm your friend if the whole world goes back on you!"

It's just as much poor folks' place to treat the rich right as 'tis t'other way.

Life speaks to you through good times and peace and joy as much as it does through poverty and care and trouble.

Providence ain't never give a chap up yit that keeps a-peggin' along trying to do his best.

I dun'no' 's society's worth the tug you have to make to keep up with it.

Sometimes them as ain't got sense enough to do the right thing is protected. I've noticed that right along.

If you've got a home, stay in it, that's my advice, specially evenin's.

And the funny part is I wouldn't have my life different if I could. No matter how heavy it was, it was my burden, fitted for my shoulders, and I'm thankful that, however much I grunted, I never did lay it down a minute, no, nor wanted to.

Bessie R. Hoover in "Pa Flickinger's Folks." (Harpers.,

* * *

The fact that the heroine of "The Silver Horde," Rex Beach's new Alaska novel, just published by the Harpers, is the Cherry Malotte who figured in Mr. Beach's first novel "The Spoilers," is a source of satisfaction to the remembering readers who felt that this name Cherry never got quite what she deserved at Mr. Beach's young but determined hands. The author saw to it then that the man Cherry loved loved another girl, and that's the way it looks as if it were going to be in "The Silver Horde" again—only it isn't. She's just the same old Cherry, and very much, it is to be supposed, Mr. Beach's ideal heroine—all fire and grit and tenderness; strong enough to be to a man his comrade, wise enought to be his helper, woman enought to be his love.

The heroine "Ann Veronica," is H. G. Wells's new novel of that name, published this month by the Harpers, is an attractive, boyish, frank-spoken young English girl who rebels against a prudish father and conventional aunt, and declines to marry for the mere sake of being "settled in life." Love and the domestic life look to her just as they would to a healthy boy; she does not even know what it is she wants until she meets the man she loves—and then, as one reader said, "She can't have him." It is the beauty of this author's English, no less than his story, which may be expected to give popularity to "Ann Veronica." Mr. Wells is one of the few contemporary fiction-writers who possess a style.

BOOKS

"Miss Selina Lue and the Soap-Box Babies," by Marie Thompson Davies. Illustrated by Paul J. Meylan. The Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

The heart-catcher is out again. You might just as well hand over yours, for you can't resist Miss Selina Lue, Spinster, store keeper of River Bluff, and general neighborhood manager, she is a very real, very energetic, very magnetic and delightfully funny character. Her tongue is both sweet and spicy; her heart is a big as all out doors; and her laugh is as big as her heart.

Miss Selina Lue, plays the part of Providence-with-a-Sense-of-Humor in all the comedies and tragedies of the Bluff. Her specialty is a row of soap boxes in which she keeps a free day nursery. The pages are running over with children, always in comical trouble. Not less lively than the character of Miss Selina Lue, nor less piquant than her philosophy are the "doings" recounted. Each incident is at once natural and surprising,—a combination hard to surpass.

Interwoven with the quaint sayings and doings of Miss Selina Lue is the charming love story of Cynthia, from the white pillared house on the hill, and Alan Kent, the artist, whom Miss Selina Lue adopted as a "dear soap-boxer," entertaining thereby a millionaire unaware. The romance itself is tinctured with humor.

Sunshiny as the book is, it does not avoid the pathos of human lives. When times of anxiety descend on Miss Selina Lue, so strong is the sympathy binding the reader to her that he feels the clutch at his own heart. And he is moved with her own great gratitude when the sun shines out again.

If you are susceptible to the charm of genuine, homely fun, of free and natural emotion, of characters rich in simple reality, of wit and kindliness in unison, of wholesomeness and optimism and infectious laughter, "Miss Selina Lue" will put you in love with the world. A right tuned, sweetening, heartening book it is.

* * *

Hamlin Garland made his first impression on the fiction of the day with his stories of the pioneer's Far West. Whether or not his latest novel "The Moccasin Ranch," will repeat the impression made by such of these early books as "Main Traveled Roads," for example, the significant fact is that Mr. Garland has gone back for the scene of it to that solitary waste of country whose stark loneliness and monotony he made memorable. This time he takes a man who has made a failure in Illinois, and sets him and his young wife out on the prairie trail to make a home in a pine cabin, in a country of wild skies and mighty winds, far away from civilization. Their nearest neighbors are two men who share quarters at the postoffice. One of them feels the comfort brought by the wife of his neighbor to the wilderness. He is over there often. They become friends. Finally, with only the slightest indication of it in the story, they are lovers. The revelation is made to the reader when the woman, face to face with a crisis, prepares to go away with the man for love of whom she has ruined herself. His cabin-mate, fighting for his friend's honor, threatens to prevent them. When he resolves to let them go, the climax sets the reader thinking. The story has about it an almost crude directness. Strange indeed are the contradictions of life when it has been freed from the conventions of civilization, yet not from its bonds. New York: Harper & Brothers.

* * *

A new book by Kate Douglas Wiggin, "Susanna and Sue," illustrated by Alice Barber Stephens and N. C. Wyeth.

Mrs. Wiggin has sounded a new note in her latest story. From her full and sympathetic knowledge of the life and customs of the Shakers, she has portrayed these quaint people as few other writers could do; and against this drab background her two leading characters, Susanna and Sue, stand out with all the more brilliant contrast. The captivating personality of little Sue will at once place her among the most delightful of Mrs. Wiggin's immortal children. The story itself has to do with the solution of the problems of married life and duty that wrack Susanna's conscience and drive her from home. The book makes a genuine appeal to the heart of every reader. It is issued in most attractive holiday style, with four exquisite full-page illustrations in color by Alice Barber Stephens, 12 text pictures in pen and ink by N. C. Wyeth, and tinted marginal decorations and cover design by T. B. Hapgood.

* * *

Adams's New Physical Laboratory Manual. By Charles F. Adams, head of department of physics, Detroit High school. American Book company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago.

This new book embodies the results of 12 years' experience in conducting laboratory work in physics. The 78 exercises are all simple, and the directions for manipulation clear. The college entrance requirements and the New York state syllabus are fully covered, and there is enough additional matter to enable any teacher to make out a course of work adapted to his particular needs. The appendix contains general directions for the use of apparatus, and 20 tables of formulas and physical constants.

MAGAZINES

A great project which has for a year attracted the widest attention is begun in Scribner's Magazine for October. Theodore Roosevelt's first article on his African trip more than carries out the promise of unusual entertainment and interest. It pictures a wild and semi-savage region as it strikes Mr. Roosevelt's unusually receptive and acute mind. He is having a wonderful experience and enjoying every minute of it; and in this article the reader is carried with him through the joy of new sensations and the perception of wild and grotesque animal life as it appears from time to time during his journey. The article combines the zest of the born hunter and naturalist with the wide experience of a man of great affairs. He pictures the pioneers of this region and contrasts them with those he knew in his western days. He sees the whole region, from the cowcatcher of a locomotive, roaying by him like a zoological park. This first article of the series, which is to run a year, is the best possible foretaste of what is sure to be one of the greatest narratives of adventure ever published. The illustrations by Kermit Roosevelt and other members of the expedition follow very closely the text and add picturesque realism to Mr. Roosevelt's graphic description. It is announced that the next article in the series will have to do with a lion hunt at Kapiti.

The posthumous poem by George Meredith reveals him in his lighter mood. A volume of the later uncollected poems by Mr. Meredith will, it is announced, be published.

Mrs. Wharton adds to the "Tales of Men" a story of the literary life—the contrast between ambition achieved and failure.

Prof. Paul van Dyke of Princeton raises the interesting question, "Are we sending our boys who have the best chances in life?" In all the eastern universities the bulk of the honors seems to be taken by the boys from the high schools and not from the best fitting-schools. Prof. van Dyke discusses the far-reaching reasons for this.

Frederic C. Howe in "The Lure of the Land" shows how we have reached the end of the period of free land, and how it will change many of our political and social ideas.

Birge Harrison, the artist, speaks with keen judgment about "The True Impressionism in Art."

Walter P. Eaton writes an idyll of boyhood contrasted with the disillusionment of maturity in "The Shrinking of Kingman's Field." The illustrations are of unusual humor.

Walter Wood, an English writer of the sea, new to American audiences, writes of "Drifters Out of Lowestoft" and describes the life of the Herring-fishers. M. J. Burns illustrates the text graphically. Other articles are:

"The Moon of Ramazan," by H. G. Dwight, which describes the Mohammedan religious festival; Mr. Page's serial, "John Marvel, Assistant," which is to be concluded next month; and three short stories by Mary Tappan Wright, Edith Rickert and Juliet Wilbor Thompkins.

* * *

It is possible to get a most amazing amount of interest out of practical articles, when they are handled like those which appear in Woman's Home Companion for October.

Such an article is that containing William Armstrong's advice to the ambitious music student who wants to study abroad. Mr. Armstrong has made a careful special investigation, and his advice is to study at home first.

In "Short Cuts to Health," D. Woods Hutchinson waves a danger flag over many popular old fashioned remedies.

"Why I Left the Ministry" is a startling confession by the country parson, who is anonymous for obvious reasons.

Far from the country parson lies the theater of action of Kellogg Durland's story of Queen Elena.

Marion Harland at Chinon has written her big-hearted woman's story of Joan of Arc.

Besides these, there are 11 special articles in this issue, every one of which ought to be read and preserved.

Mothers will be pleased with two new departments dealing with the bringing up of children, which begin with this issue. These are conducted by Jean Williams, M.D., and Mary Louise Graham.

The Idea club will prove a source of wealth to many church aid society.

But perhaps the best thing in the whole issue is Myra Kelly's "Games in Gardens"—the wonderful humorist never wrote anything funnier than this. There are also good stories by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Katherine Holland Brown, Temple Bailey, Mrs. John Van Vorst and Kate Douglas Wiggin. "Choice Cake Receipts," "The Formal Dinner," "How to Furnish the Boy's Room," the Big Fashion department—each has in it something for every woman.

* * *

The Red Book Magazine for October, by token of its most attractive cover and the original color decorations accompanying the text, is unique among the month's new publications. Moreover the fiction offered in the issue is no less excellent than the artistic effect of the number. The first story "Svenson" by Michael Williams and Kenneth MacNicol is a splendid study of Navajo character and points a significant moral in the problem of educating the Indian. Another story that is deeply human in its appeal is "The Dog" by John Fleming Wilson—a tale of a castaway in Hawaii. A stirring story of the secret service—"An Act of Providence"—is contributed by Mark A. Daly, and every parent will read with smiles and tears Leslie Adams' story of a little girl, "Saratoga." A story of unusual power and insight is "Rieber" by William R. MacHarg and in humorous contrast Rupert Hughes offers a philosophical love story entitled "The Most Interesting Thing in the World." Among other well-known writers whose newest work appears in the issue are Maude Radford Warren, Kenneth Brown, Helene George Norton, Isola Forrester, May K. Warwick, Donald Kennicott, B. J. Duskam and Edward Holwood. The issue opens with an especially beautiful series of art portraits and closes with a timely account of the newest metropolitan plays by Louis V. DeFos.

LEAVES FROM OLD ALBUMS.

GEORGE M. OTTINGER AS A THESPIAN.

Friends of the genial ex-fire chief, pioneer and artist, who did not know that he was once a member of the old stock company which played on the theater boards in the sixties, will view this picture with equal surprise and interest. It requires something of a stretch of the imagination to picture the veteran fire fighter reading the lines of the dastardly king in "Hamlet," the role which he was filling when this protograph was taken years ago, but Mr. Ottinger was a valued member of the old company, and while he never rose to the distinction of a "headliner," he could be relied on to do a Shakesperian king or a plantation darkie with equal facility, and in a style all his own.

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Take a pint of Granulated Sugar, add ½ pint of warm water and stir for 5 minutes. Put 2½ ounces of Pinex in a pint bottle and fill up with the Sugar Syrup. This keeps perfectly and lasts a family a long time. Take a teaspoonful every one, two or three hours. The taste is pleasing.

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