

... With ... BOOK and VERSE

Book Notes.

"WINNING THROUGH," by Jesse Templeton (Ward, Lock, & Co.), is a thrilling story of adventure. Dan, who has a ranch in Canada, goes to England in search of his partner, Stockwell, from whom he has heard nothing for months. He finds him in the depths of depression. The girl with whom he is in love turns him down, and developments arise which cause Dan to book his passage back to Canada. The ship is wrecked, and the few survivors are stranded in Labrador. Their privations and attempts to reach civilisation, into which a charming romance is woven, hold the reader's attention throughout.

"TAKING A LIBERTY" is the title of a new story by John Travers—otherwise Mrs. G. H. Bell (Hodder and Stoughton). John Kinsman, one of the principal characters, has a hard time in trying to be loyal to two women at the same time. The book deals with the complications that ensue from a grass widow becoming too closely acquainted with a married couple next door. Situation after situation arises, each more intriguing than before. The characters are well drawn, and though many of the incidents are serious, there is plenty of humour, too.

"EYES OF DESIRE" is Cecil H. Bullivant's latest book (Wright and Brown, London). Two lawyers and a titled vamp combine to upset the destiny of John Masters, the hero. On the eve of his engagement to Joyce he receives the news that he has inherited a fortune. This has been prearranged by the villains of the plot. From that period begin the troubles and trials of the lovers. The story is well written, and moves in leisurely style. The hero rather reminds one of John Ridd in "Lorna Doone"—an amiable individual with good looks and an even temper.

IT is a coincidence that Miss Helen Shipson and "Henry Handel Richardson," another noteworthy Australian woman novelist living in London, should both have contemplated a musical career before they successfully adopted literature. "Henry Handel Richardson" was born in Melbourne and educated at Melba's former school, the Presbyterian Ladies' College. She went to Leipzig to study music, and after having been there three and a half years, she wrote her first novel, "Maurice Guest." In 1910 she wrote "The Getting of Wisdom," the biography of a school-girl, which so irritated the authorities of her old school that they refused to let her revisit it when she returned to Melbourne for a trip.

Prize Poem Competition

THE prize of half a guinea in the current competition is awarded to "Beaumont" for the striking and very beautiful poem entitled "Bells of Remembrance." Our contributor has found inspiration in the Memorial Bells of Wellington Carillon, so soon to ring out their tribute to heroes of an imperishable past. We feel sure the beauty of concept and reverential and felicitous treatment of a great theme will evoke admiration and many long thoughts of those who have "out-soared the shadow of our night."

A.J.R.: Next best in order of merit.
T.T.W.: Your first poem rings true, and is not without poignancy, while the Lost Ship verses have a certain haunting charm.

E.M.R.: "Dusk" is extremely arresting work. In it there is the vision of the poet and a sense of the loveliness and significance of words. We hope space will be found for publication.

"To-day" is an attractive small ballad of the soft strange ways of the sea, this lay of the Lys de l'eau going with plenty of vim.

"Wayfarer": The first of the poems has a tinkling prettiness, without distinction. "Saint Hilda" is a high and beautiful tribute to one who was kind as she was fair.

"Tho' we thank God for many things,
We love Him for one girl like you."

R.B.C. sends outstanding contribution extremely modernistic in expression. A.N.I.C.'s dreaming lines are phrased with this contributor's habitual graceful facility.

"Janet": We like your musical, unusual verselets, and regret that space does not permit of publication. "Treasures" is particularly attractive.

"Chris" has an undoubted aptitude for lifting verses that sound so easy to compose and are nothing of the kind.

"Hinemoa": Your work has some grace of simplicity and an atmosphere of the out-of-doors, but is still some distance from the winning-post.

Winnifred: Too immature for our pages.

E.P.F.: A long way from standard.

Bells of Remembrance

Chime chime!
The music-freighted sound steals out;
The air is heavy-laden with a song,
And pregnant with mysterious melody.
The pealing notes tremble across the hills
And mingle with the murmurs of the sea.

Chime chime!
Trees shiver in the muted air;
A little frightened cloud creeps to the moon;
The shuttered houses of the town grow still;
Hearts dully beat, and eyes long sorrow-spent
Prick swiftly, and with slow insistence fill.

Chime chime!
Scarred spirits of the battlefield—
Those treasured dead—are borne on lyric air
Into the never-ending distance, free
And joyous; never more earth-canopied,
But now immortalised in harmony.
And when at last (Chime! chime)
We lie, long motionless, the bells
Will still awaken, in the hearts of men,
Our sorrow for the past

Chime chime!

—"Beaumont."

SYDNEY PARKMAN'S new book, "The Accidental Adventure" (Hodder and Stoughton), will be welcomed by those who appreciated "East of Singapore." This latest novel maintains the standard set by its predecessor. Dick Trenchard was sent by his firm to the dock, and somehow managed to get aboard the wrong ship. From this mistake things begin to happen. There is enough romance to hold the feminine interest, and everything works out according to plan.

LOVERS of dogs should read C. B. Poultney's stories of his dog in London, published by Methuen and Co., and the title is "My Dog Pompey." Animal lovers will enjoy the conversations between Pompey and his master, and the author's drawings, which reveal his friend as a cross between a Sealyham and a Scottie, add much to the interest of the book.

MR. EDWARD PERCY is the author of the play, "If Four Walls Told," and in "Eastward Drift" gives ample evidence that he can write a good story also. It is the tale of an old merchant of the Victorian era, who retires from the strenuous business life after dividing his money and commercial interests among his sons. Then is shown what they make of the position and fortune their father had acquired. Temperamental wives and extravagant tastes, the gambling habit, resulting in disaster. There is excellent writing, notably the old father's return to the fray at the creditors' meeting, which is a fine piece of dramatic description. The different matrimonial ventures of the brothers, that of the youngest son crashing on a note of tragedy, which is somewhat melodramatic in quality. Somewhat crude, perhaps, here and there, but a novel that grips attention.

THE versatile Mr. Vachell can be depended upon to write vivaciously and entertainingly of the social cosmos. In "The Fifth Commandment," his latest contribution to fiction, he tells the story of Lady Kindred and her delightful daughters. The girls prove entirely dissimilar in character and career, this being explainable by the fact that the father of Chris, the elder of the two, is not her mother's husband, but a distant cousin. The youthful Zoe decides to try her luck on the boards, and makes good in a play written by a certain Dominic, who, after unfortunate philandering with her sister, elects to marry the attractive actress, with whose proclivities for the stage and all that appertains thereto he is entirely in accord. There is much amusing characterisation, and intimate details of life both before and behind the curtain are chronicled with charm and authenticity.