

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES



lightful description of his meeting with Stevenson when the latter was yet comparatively unknown. Dr. Grenfell writes of his "Experiences on the Labrador," which paper is accompanied by an account of "Dr. Grenfell in Labrador" by Joseph B. Glider. In the realm of contemporary politics William G. Brown discusses "President Taft's Opportunity," and Speaker Cannon writes from inside information as to "The Power of the Speaker." "Uncle Joe" will not lose any of his well-earned reputation for sagacity by this article, a cursory perusal of which would lead the unsuspecting to believe that under the Reed rules, the Speaker amounts to very little more than a mere figurehead. The author, P. Weigall, makes some very ancient history live again in "A New Egyptian Discovery: The Tomb of Horemheb," the gentleman mentioned being a Pharaoh who flourished some thirteen hundred years before our era.

Which it will be considered, time alone can tell. The Mohammedan world has been in unparalleled ferment for months back. In India, Persia, the Balkans, the Philippines, and at last Constantinople itself, each in turn has attracted the anxious gaze of the civilized world. Wallace Hirst in "When Islam Calls" suggests some ways of looking at this phenomenon, and hints at an answer to the momentous question, "What is to be?" "Can Constitutional Government and the Koran Go Together?" An article which will probably catch the eye of many readers and will be quite worth the while of all is William A. Orr's "The Real Patriot," which describes the famous deal in May wheat, and the cool, long-headed student of conditions who saw it through. Still another paper should be perused before Van Norden's is assigned to a dusty shelf, and that is Read Gordon's "The Other Side of Benozate of Soda," which its author describes as "a little journey into food legislation and chemical preservation." Most of us have heard that much berated substance called every bad name possible short of "rank poison," it is rather refreshing to have the edgels taken hotly up in its defense.

It is not probable that such a picture will do the least amount of good in the world, and it is absolutely certain that the presentation of such topics is detrimental to the healthy tone of not a few youthful readers. In the great artist mentioned above, the evil is the same, but the good is there, too, and must be taken into account. A careful reading of "Loaded Dice" has failed to reveal the good which balances the evil incident in the author's expedition to a gambling house, where the women of the red-light district are brought into the lime-light, as it were. In regard to the scene between Palmer and Rose on the island, it is bare to say that but two or three scenes in the fiction of the last fifteen years can match it in unadulterated villainy. The postoffice officials have often barred material less purulent from the mails.

THE ALTERNATIVE. By George Barr McCutcheon. With illustrations by Harrison Fisher and decorations by Theodore B. Haggood. Doubleday, Mead & Co., New York. (Stone & Barringer, \$1.25.) A very dainty story, bound most attractively, illustrated most beautifully, decorated quite artistically—such a book is the volume before us. It must be confessed that it opened its modern proverb which warns one to beware of cigars put up in boxes with too beautiful pictures on the tops, and McCutcheon does some very clever work in his time, as well as some that ranks with the best in the class. In this case, he has narrowly missed equaling the best thing that has yet appeared over his name.

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