BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

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lightful description of his meeting with that so same a view Stevenson when the latter was as yet that so saled before 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. Gilder. In the realm of the negro 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 beleve that under the Reed rules the Speaker amounts to very little more than an ornamental megaphone. Arthur E. P. Weignil makes some very ancient history live again in "A New Egyptian Discovery: The Tomb of Horemheb," the genleman mentioned being a Pharach who flourished some thirteen hundred years

The current Scribner's contains two special articles and two short stories which should by no means be overlooked For the more serious students of contemperary affairs, Prof. J. Laurence Laugh-"The Abolition of Poverty" will fu nish much material for thought. One great historian's estimate of another is always valuable and James Ford Rhodes has written a most charming essay on the greatest of them all, Edward Gib-Gibbon stands head and shoulders would above all other narrators of history save Thucydides and Tacitus, remarks Professor Rhodes; and while the former wrete of but a single generation and the latter of a scant three, the Englishman covered thirteen centuries in his magnum opus, and did the work in such wise that is most recent commentators, a hundred and thirty years after the publication of his first volume, are still astounded at his accuracy and insight

> Mrs. Edith Wharton's "His Father's skill and keenness in the analysis and dibited to great advantage, while the the dramatic confession of Gordon story demands somewhat less concentration of mind than most of her work lesse Lonch Williams' "The Carroll's delightful bit of comedy to make the reader so yividly as to cause its actual three articles just mentioned sit well upon one's mental stomach.

McClure's seems to be eternally muck-

aking, and there is some danger that the reading public may become callous to overmuch material concerning the moral and civic corruption of American municipalities. If this has gotten to be he case, a reading of George Kibbe Turner's "Tammany's Control of New York" is recommended as an antidute to such indifference. Even the most laded will sit up and take notice of the bald statements of very much balder and facts therein set down If a fourth part of the statements be true. Florence under its mediaeval tyrants was both free and moral in comparison. George F. Parker's articles dealing with Cleveland's career have reached the point at which he became a trustee of the Equitable. Cleveland's tremendous sense appeared over his name. of his duty, and his unusual carefulness. in its discharge are the most impressive specimen of the bookmaking and points in this chapter of his life. Presi- to pographical arts. dent Taft in an article prepared before grey, with two charming vignettes on however; a more intimate, more perhis inauguration, discusses some of his the front cover, it has the decided adown 'Judicial Decisions as an Issue in Vantage over the ordinary popular Politics" in vigorous clear-cut English, novel in its smaller size. E. T. Brewster in "The Animal Mind reader Kets into the story the wide From the Inside" upsets some of notions we had instilled into us as children. He declares (and cites experiments to sustain his declaration; that animals never by any possibility perform an act of reason and that instinct plays very lother one thing outside of the story much smaller part in their daily lives itself, contributes to make the book than might be supposed. In fact, man. the head and lord of creation, guesses impossible to find better pictures in and moves by intuition a thousand times where he reasons once. "Sergeant Mc-Carty, Man-Handler," by P. C. Macfar- the realm of book illustration lane, and "The Home-Coming" by Elsie Singmaster are the best of the issue's fiction offerings.

possesses a lively interest. Among the and that best is undeniably very incidents related are those describing good. The story is slight, as its com-Lange, Chicago's two-hundred pass necessitates but it is pound centre fielder, crashed clear rapid, and plausible. If one gaves through centre-field fence on one occa- the book its due, and reads it at one sion, but in so doing spoiled a home run sitting, it can hardly fail to entertain and saved a game, and how Clark Grif- highly for the space of a couple of fith, now manager of the Cincinnati Reds, hours, and leave a good taste in the caused the mighty Selbach to fall prone mouth at the end. on his face in a vain endeavor to reach a boy could have landed on it. "Mr. to character outlining than the rush Dooley's" article on "Woman's Suffrage" of adventures usually leaves this auis as witty as ever, and contains the thor space for. Possibly the most usual amount of food for serious thought, delictous tid-bit in it is the descriptupert Hughes contributes an extravation of the older Van Pycke who has ganza in fiction called "The Adventures changed his trousers and boots in his Congo region for adventures in vain, and without matches in ing imaginable in his mother's front yard chagrin, not to say wrath, is some-in Oscawana, New York. The Great what tempestuous when he discovers Fear" by James Oppenheim is a very that the aforesaid belongings have able piece of work dealing with the laboring man out of a job.

On the more serious side, the American The is rather fuller than usual Ray Stan-Maxine nard Baker in "The Godlessness of New York" has at once painted a startling picture and drawn a terrible indictment of inefficiency against the Protestant churches of the metropolis. Ida M Tar-The bell in "Where the Shoe Is Pinched" discusses at some length some rather grave nconsistencies in the placing of a tariff on leather. Prof. W. I. Thomas, whose previous articles have been noted from time to time in this column, has for his subject this month. "Eugenics." learned professor makes a few of his ideas clear, but the majority of them are so enwrapped in techincal, though elegant, verbiage that their grasping is a matter of some difficulty.

The most striking article in the current Van Norden's is Robert W. Wooley's 'Big Men at Play.' which is accompanied by quite delicious caricatures from General the pen of J. S. Anderson. Taft, Root, Knox, all the men now prominent in the the and a nation's life, are described from the the fight standpoint of their favorite recreations. 18 Robert and if the story leans somewhat strenuously to cleek and brassy, it must be remembered that golf is quite as ancient and honorable a sport as tennis ever dared to be, beside somewhat more restful to the perturbed spirits of a President's official family.

> Another article in this periodical has an interest just at this time which could scarcely have been foreseen when it was prepared. Josephine Tighe discusses Rogers and His Railroad," and the sud-"Rogers and His Railroad," and the sud-den death of its human subject casts a doing wrong for his selfish ends, he halo of sentiment around the daring pro- calculates that, in effect, he is simply ject which it describes. The Virginian Railroad has a mileage of 442 miles and Deity.

Which it will be considered, time alone school book. Power, wealth, social lic summer passed by Katrine and

The Mohammedan world has been in Morocco, India, Persia, the Balkain prinself, each in turn has attracted the anxsome ways of looking at this phenommomentous question it evokes, which is 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 Patin May wheat, and the cool, long-headed student of conditions who saw it through. fore Van Norgen's is consigned to a dusty shelf, and that is Read Gordon's "The Other Side of Bengoate 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 ame possible short of "rank poison." t is rather refreshing to have the endgels aken hotly up in its defense.

It is not probable that such a picure 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 one of not a few youthful readers. n the great artists mentioned above, the evil is the same, but the good is there, too, and must be taken into ed Dice" has falled to reveal the good sundry expeditions to Bradfield's gambling house, where the women of better things to come. Particularly the red-light district are brought into the lime-light, as it were. In regard to the scene between Palmer Rose on the island, it is bare truth to say, that but two or three scenes in the fiction of the last fifteen years an match it in unadulterated vile-The postoffice officials often barred material less prurient from the mails.

The story as a story is very well instructed and told with a skill that sterests us from beginning to end. The nature of the plot requires a cer-Son" is probably the best short story of tain leaning to melodrama in a few of he month. The author's well-known the episodes but this will scarcely be onsidered an unpardonable crime in delineation of human nature are ex- this year of grace. It may be that upon his deathbed that he has lost his great wager, would have been bet-Millionaire Tenant" will furnish a most ence was already in the mind of the expression to weaken the effect-

THE ALTERNATIVE. By George Barr McCutcheon, With illustrations by Harrison Fisher and decorations by Theodore B. Hapgood. Dood, Mead & Co., New York. (Stone & Barringer, \$1.25.)

A very dainty story, bound most at tractively, illustrated most beautifulnecerated quite artistically-such. brief, is the volume before us. must be confessed that we opened it somewhat dubiously. beautiful pictures on the tops and McCutcheon has done some very poor work in his time, as well as some that ranks with the first class. this case, he has narrowly

Imprimis, the book is a delightful Bound in pearl comes to Fisher's four illustrations in color, too much cannot be said in approval of what, more than any eminently satisfactory. all this artist's portfolio, and no easy

So much for the habiliments in which the tale is presented. with such advantages, it would be quite possible for the story to be so For lovers of the national game Hugh pale as not to merit serious atten-fullerton's "Decisive Moments of tion, McCutcheon, however, as has Great Games" in the June American, been intimated, is at his best here,

The scene is laid ball tossed so gently that a five-year-old clubdom, and more attention is given of a Book-keeper," describing how inamorita's house in order to avoid Horace Wadhams searched all over the pneumonia, hunting vainly around returned to find the finest big game hunt- strange room for his belongings; his been sent to the kitchen to be pressed and shined respectively.

Then, too, the entrance of the heroine upon the scene is far from bad. She pushes uside the drawing room curtains to discover three worthy and respected gentlemen glued chairs, for fear of a pet buildog of uncertain temper, but far from uncertain biting powers. The word picture of the scene is ludicrous beyond all description.

We think McCatcheon's host of admirers will be pleased with this little sketch. We feel no hesitancy saying that it is worth all the "Nedras" and "Daughters of Ander-son Crow" he could write between now and judgment day.

LOADED DICE. By Ellery H. Clark. With illustrations by F. Graham Bobbs-Merrill Company Cootes. Indianapolis. (Stone & Barringer, \$1.50).

'Loaded Dice" is not exactly pleasing story. There is something too cold-blooded about the hero who commits at least five deliberate murders in his short career, to permit of his being an attractive personality. Yet the book is undenlably strong and carries with it a -very sound

Its name comes from a rather original source. The hero plans his ca-reer as a great gambling proposition. He figures that there may be a God. and again there may not be. If the latter proposition be correct, he is perfectly safe in disregarding all morality and even common humanity in attaining his ends. If there should chance to exist an Eternal Being. then his career of evil will have to be gambling on the non-existence o

was built at a cost of \$42,000,000. It was The contrast between the worldly either a gigantic blunder, or a stroke of success of the man, and his absolute genius which will one day give its pro- lack of any success really worth moter a foremost place among the great while, is brought out with all the emmains a de- pioneers of American development phasis of a specially written Sunday

between the lines his discontent, Such cipalities, and at last Constantinople it- would carp at their being emphasized again and again. We venture to belous gaze of the civilized world. Wallace lieve that such homilies serve useful Hirst in "When Islam Calts" suggests purposes, and assist in forming corenon, and hints at an answer to the readers (provided the readers be young enough to have ideals still

capable of being shaped).

With all its moral, and with all its sound philosophy, however, the book is bad-hopelessly bad-and cannot in conscience be recommended to the general public. It is the belief of this reviewer that there is sound reason in the dissection of the undercrust of modern society, in that realm is to be perfection the display of certain traits and passions, elemental and common to the race, which may and Balzar are great artists and so truly do they hold the mirror up to nature that one swallows the disagree able odors of the operating room for the sake of watching the skilled surgeon at work. But we cannot but deplore the deliberate selection of the demi-mondaine type for a heroine The more attractive she is made, the more pitiable her treatment is portrayed, the worse is it.

KATHINE By Elinor McCartney Lane Harper Bros. New York. (For sale by Stone & Parringer

"Katrine" has a melancholy interest to all the readers of "Nancy Stair" and "Mills of God." Its auwhich balances the evil incidental to thoress had done some work which. brilliant in itself, gave promise of far in her story of the winsome, loyal Scotch lass, was there indication that, when the crudity inseparable from all "first work" had passed, would come forth a polished jewel to ornament the world of contemporary fiction. But such hopes were destined to disappoint. not off the press, when the literary world was shocked by a brief telegram from Lynchburg, Virginia, bearing the information that Mrs. Lane which place she had been taken from railroad train in a dying condition.

The present story produces a culous mixture of impressions in the mind of the reader. sages the hearty and appeal of which points in connection with it that irresistibly remind one of Laura Libby and Mary J. Holmes at their luridest and worst. Yet in spite of the imperfections one would not willingly give up the book; the pages tle of the charm and fragramcy which clung to 'Nancy.'

"Katrine" herself is incomparably the best thing in it, not only the character best depicted, but the finest part of the tout ensemble. dawns on us first, as a daughter, struggling against that heaviest of weakness. He who should have been the fountain of all respect in modern proverh which warns one to soul, is obviously unworthy of any heware of cigars put up in boxes with since she cannot render him this, she him with an intensity that is very

It is his his service to this father that Francis Ravenel first attracts her attention. Her temperment is too. of gratitude and freely does she pour it out at the feet of her father's hence factor. This lasts only for a while sonal emotion succeeds, and she sur-

The pages which describe the idyl- the fair heroine calls most strenuously his lair. The door is broken down,

position, luxuries of every sort are Ravenel in each other's company are his, and yet one cannot fail to read the best of the book. The selfishness of the man is realized only indirectly; unparalleled foment for months back themes are by no means new, but it the unselfishness of the woman is obwould be a most optimistic critic who vious in every act and word. It has been many a day since a prettier concelt was framed than that of the Irish Lass "Own Land" inhabited by Newcomb, Alan Brek, Jean Valjean, rect deals in the minds of their and their compeers, to which she readers (provided the readers be flies when things go ill in the workpassages themselves are very tender, and one misses the stillted, hackneyed phrases which so often mar the pages of the modern novel, when such crises possible that in this part of the book. Mrs Lane has left the very best work she did.

mod, having entered upon the acuaintance in anything but a serious mood, finds that he cannot bring him-self to look upon the girl as he had regarded her predecessors in his affections, and blurts out to her the ason why things must be at an end between them. Katrine accepts his tatement with less spirit than we believe a flesh-and-blood damsel would exhibit, and meekly withdraws to

It must be confessed that the man's

awakening to the fact that he has cast away a pearl "richer than all his tribe, is not described as one could wish. We are told of his attitude in further on we are informed that he has discovered himself to be a cad of the first water. But the mental processes by which he traveled from the but scantily sketched. This lack of finish relegates Ravenel's character as a point of interest to a negligible thor has a delicious command of upposition. It would take many careful readings to discover just why and how was accomplished the change which found him a cad, and left him worthy of the love of a Katrine.

ferent stors. From the first glimpse we have of him, until his last supreme foregoing of his revenge and rescue of his deadly foe, his character is a consistent whele, and a far from unattractive one at that. If there is sibly one may be permitted to wonder how Francis Ravenel ever girl's heart for which he had so fas cinating a rival. To explain this one must needs fall back on that most ancient of all pieces of philosophy the feminine heart.

So much for the good points. From descanting at any great length upon the weaknesses of the book we are ex-It will be sufficient to say that Mrs. has allowed certain tendence to melodrama, observable in the details of the murder and trial in judgment in the construction of riage of the elder Ravenel, and his too threadbare a woof wherein to weave so excellent a design as such

THE MAN IN LOWER TEN. BY Mary Boberts Rinebart. With Illustrations by Howard Chandle Christs. The Bobbs-Merrill Co pany, Indianapolis, (Stone & Ba ringer Company, \$1.50).

er on his way to Pittsburg bearing important documents in connection been retained and ends with the same gentleman regretting exceedingly that one of his arms has been smashed in renders her heart's devotion in the a railroad wreck, inasmuch as his absolute certainty that then occupation on a dark porch with

for the use of both. Between lie adand deadly imminent preeches to sat-

isfy the taste of almost anyone. Since Anna Katherine Green published "The Leavenworth Case, great, and oftentimes rank luxuriance. Every conceivable complication murder may give rise to, has been worked and reworked. About twenty years ago, Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, thus giving his brethren who write this style of a yarn a brand new idea which they have not been slow to adapt. Were one called upon to classify the present volume it would not be far amiss to place it in the Doyle-Green category, it bears marked family resemblances to both its prototypes, yet possesses well-defined characteristics of its own.

The variation on the great sleuth of Baker street is little short of genius. His representative in this book is an inoffensive looking little government clerk, "a patch on the seat of government," he describes himself, whose deductive powers very often lead him into very uncomfortable predicaments, and yet whose labors have an important bearing upon the development of the story, Holmes has given rise to a host of imitations, but Hotchkiss is the cleverest adaptation of the character that has yet come to our attention.

The tale is told with the same humorous turn, which made 'ircular Staircase" so readable, One difficulty about most of stories bearing a relationship to Mrs. Green's there is necessary such a deal of explanation as often becomes wearisome. Not so in this case. The auto-date slang, and an equally delictous knack of using it. She could probably take an agricultural report and transform it into fairly interesting reading; and her subject matter is not of itself the quietest kind in the world.

Of course one looks neither for character drawing nor fine plot construction in a work of this kind. The heroes and heroines are too busy pursuing or being pursued by the mystery to have time to lonf and invite their Episode follows episode in pell-mell fashion until the reader wonders with intense curinsity how order out of such chaos. A few pages later on, however, order evolved, only to be plunged into still wilder confusion by some unlooked-In these particu for development. lars "The Man in Lower Ten" cels the ordinary book of its class with respect to them. At a critical stage, for instance, the principal characters attend a moving picture show; their eyes they not only see the train on which the murder was committed, but even the supposed murderer making his escape after the commission of the crime Match the bizarreness of that episode if you can! Again, there are flashes of genuine

homor all through the course of the story. On one occasion, the hero and Hotchkiss, the near Holmes, enter by night a lonely country house in which object of their search has been quite They make themselves combriable before the fire in the library; the wee sma' hours of the morning This story starts with a young law- they hear a noise upstairs; arming themselves with pokers they trace the demand admittance: the answer comes in the shape of five revolver shots through the holted door. By this time the reader is worked up to a state of sought Sullivan has been traced to

and there is discovered a trembli ventures galore, hairbreadth 'scapes | maid-servant, left in charge of the house, who knows of no valid reason why her rest should be violently disturned at 1 a. m. rapid retreat of the bold invaders nearly a generation ago, the detective who spend a large part of the early fix things with the startled servant.

No notice of "The Man in Lower Ten" would be complete without reference to Christy's magnificent illustrations, which add greatly to the inerest and value of the book.

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