

and Vernon Kerstevan, an ardent lover of animals, whose pet black spaniel has been seized and put to death by vivisectionists. The third character, who relates the story, is a friend both of Deeming and Kerstevan and introduces them to each other. An antagonism due to the opposite views they hold concerning animals is at once apparent. It comes out casually that the doctor has a black spaniel. As he speaks of the dog something in his look convinces Vernon that the animal is brutally treated by his master. The first part of the story deals with Vernon's attempt to ascertain whether this is true and thus prove the true character of the doctor. So far we have nothing extraordinary. Then the doctor dies and later, Vernon contrary to the vow taken when his own dog was killed, buys a black spaniel. From this moment the horror of the tale steadily increases. It is so subtly dealt with that nothing is stated in plain words, but the facts are given and the reader left to make his own interpretation and draw his own conclusion.

The other tales in the volume are short and of minor importance.

Mrs. Tree's Will.

All who delight in character sketches will enjoy "Mrs. Tree's Will" by Laura E. Richards (Dana Estes & Co.) Mrs. Tree is an old friend and we sympathize heartily with the sense of loss felt by Quahaug at her death.

Miss Bethiah's memorial to "Her we honor," the gentle minister's attempt to buy two pounds of Saxe-Coburg worsted for baby's jacket, Mr. Homer's suffering from the kind gifts of ladies, "gifts all tending to overtax the digestive powers," Mr. Pindar's successful attempt to frighten away Cousin Maria, Seth Weaver's tale of Old Man Butters appearance at prayer meeting,—all these breathe of New England, the New England of the country Village, unspoiled by the rush of the twentieth century to get somewhere.

Salem Rock's sea stories which explain to Aunie Lizzie the residence of "The Captain" and "The White Lady" in his back yard are first rate with their mingled humor and pathos.

Seth Warner's account of the trouble that comes to a man from being a "Jack of all trades" is very amusing and we quite agree with him in approving of his father's method of work. "Two days he'd paint, two days he'd odd-job, and two days he'd carpenter."

The thread that holds the story together is the curious condition in Mrs. Tree's will regarding the bequest of a museum to the town. Personally we are sorry the "Processional Festival Jubilee" had to be given up. We should have enjoyed the nymphs and Roman Matrons.

Nature Study.

"How Nature Study Should Be Taught" by Edward F. Bigelow (Hinds, Noble and Eldredge) is another contribution to the popular fad in education. If the quotations and stories were omitted, it would be a very small book indeed, but perhaps none the worse. Even an

ardent nature lover may be pardoned a sensation of weariness on reading for the twentieth time the same selection on birds and beasts and flowers, to say nothing of anecdotes familiar to him from childhood's hour. We fancy that Dr. Bigelow would be an interesting companion in a walk, we do not doubt his love for children, nor his interest in his work, but we question whether teachers will gain anything more practical from his volume than the advice to study nature face to face, use common sense and love the work rather than the system.

Loser's Luck.

Among extraordinary tales of hair-breadth escapes and impossible adventures, "Loser's Luck" by Charles Tenny Jackson (Henry Holt & Co.) would stand a chance of taking first prize. The following list of characters and incidents contained in it suggest excellent material for a comic opera.

CHARACTERS.

DOLORES—Decendant of Montezuma, last Inca of Mexico.

STEVENSON—Power of stolen yacht. (In love with Dolores.)

LAMENT—Captured officer of U. S. Navy. (In love with Dolores.)

ELDRED—Teller of the story. (In love with Dolores.)

SANDOVAL—Leader of revolutionists. (In love with Dolores.)

DE RIZEL—Prisoner of the revolutionists. (In love with Dolores.)

INCIDENTS.

Stealing of an American yacht from San Francisco, by Dolores.

March through Mexico by the revolutionists.

Interview with and Indian priest at the temple of everburning fire.

Storm and capture of a town.

Defeat and imprisonment of all the chief characters.

Opportune arrival of a U. S. gunboat.

Unexpected release of Dolores and her accepted lover.

Departure of the yacht with the happy couple on board.

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