

BOOKS and AUTHORS.

A LITERARY CAUSERIE FOR COLONIAL BOOKBUYERS AND BORROWERS.

BOOKS marked thus (*) have arrived in the colony, and could at the time of writing be purchased in the principal colonial bookshops, and borrowed at the libraries.

For the convenience of country cousins who find difficulty in procuring the latest books and new editions, the 'BOOKMAN' will send to any New Zealand address any book which can be obtained. No notice will, of course, be taken of requests unaccompanied by remittance to cover postage as well as published price of book.

It is requested that only those who find it impossible to procure books through the ordinary channels, should take advantage of this offer.

The labour involved will be heavy and entirely unremunerative, no fees or commission being taken.

Queries and Correspondence on Literary Matters Invited.

All Communications and Commissions must be addressed

THE BOOKMAN, Graphic Office, Auckland.

New Music. 'When I am Dead,' 'My Fairest Child,' 'Wilt Thou be my Dearie?' By Alfred Hill: Frederick Jones and Co., Lambton Quay, Wellington, New Zealand. 'When I am Dead' is published both in the key of F. and of D. Mr Hill has here succeeded in giving a very true and effective setting to some well-known lines of Christina Rossetti's, which are so much the more pathetic because of the subdued accent of life-weariness that runs through them. He has been not less happy in the way he has made music for Charles Kingsley's often quoted verses, beginning 'My Fairest Child.' The setting betokens the skill of one who thoroughly understands the art of music. 'My Fairest Child' is also published in two keys—C and D. The music of 'Wilt Thou be My Dearie?' (key of C) has a light, tripping effect, which consorts admirably with Robert Burns' charming little love lilt. In these three songs, Mr Hill is to be congratulated on his choice of the verses which he has set to music. They may be old and well-known, but they have that freshness which makes a thing of beauty a joy for ever, and are infinitely preferable to the erotic twaddle on which good music is so often wasted.

'The Palotta March,' 'The Valerie Valse,' by Harvy Barnett: Gordon and Gotch, Sydney. 'The Palotta' is a fairly well-written march, and the air is decidedly pleasing. 'The Valerie Valse' has nothing strikingly original about it, but the time is well marked, and the melody smooth and vivacious enough to win approval in the ballroom. It has also the merit of being simple, and within easy compass of youthful players.

'Katoomba Waltz,' by Mary McCarron-Maguire: Gordon and Gotch, Sydney. This waltz is likely to become very popular. Its bright, tuneful notes catch the ear at once, and if played at a seasonable time in a seasonable place, is sure to prove to all lads and lasses an irresistible invitation to the waltz.

The author of that wonderful romance, 'She,' is not heard of quite so much now as some years ago when he began to work the literary mine he had discovered. Still, although he has not added to his popularity by any of his latter work, his early still command shoals of eager readers. The recent complications in the Transvaal will, no doubt, lead to some of his books dealing



MR. RIDER HAGGARD.

with Boer life being more widely read than ever. Mr Haggard has not a very high opinion of the Boers, and his pictures of their ways have done a good deal to prejudice

English readers against them. It has been said that he has dealt very unjustly with the Boer in his romances, in representing him as unreliable, cruel, and revengeful. Mr Haggard is about forty years of age.

Mr Zangwill and Mr Gissing are two novelists of quite recent appearance in the literary firmament. The former has given us some masterly pictures of modern



MR. ZANGWILL.



MR. GISSING.

Jewish life, and the latter is well known for his vivid, though occasionally depressing, delineations of the meaner and more sordid aspects of civilisation in our crowded centres.

THE LOST ART OF LETTER-WRITING.

LETTER-WRITING, as understood by our forefathers, is rapidly becoming a lost art. We write letters still, it is true—though in the immediate future typewriting will probably entirely supersede the use of the pen, as it is already said to have done in America, even for private correspondence—but we write them curtailed as much as possible, in the style of a postcard or telegram, and generally because we are obliged to communicate some information, not because we take pleasure in exchanging ideas with our correspondent. The days when people sat down leisurely to impart the news of the day to a distant friend, turning their sentences carefully, and expressing as many fine sentiments as could be got into the allotted space, are for ever gone by. Nobody has time for writing or reading fine sentiments nowadays; our very handwriting has undergone a remarkable change, and the delicate 'Italian hand' once in fashion has given place to the bold, dashing caligraphy characteristic of modern bustle, for among the many advantages of our time one privilege enjoyed by former generations has been hopelessly lost. The privilege of leisure hours have disappeared with travelling by coach and making fire by means of a tinder box. Our very amusements partake of the restless spirit of this crowded century; we live in an atmosphere suggestive of perpetual attempts to catch a fast train, and in such an atmosphere it would be impossible to compose one of the long-winded epistles dear to a bygone generation.

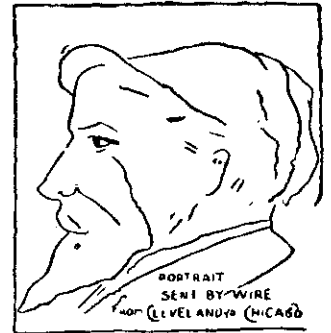
ONE BOX OF CLARK'S B L PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex. Gravel, and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in boxes, 4/6 each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors. Sole Proprietors, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND CONTINENTAL DRUG Co., Lincoln, England.

WRITING BY WIRE.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GRAY'S TELETYPE GRAPH.

SEVEN years have been spent in perfecting the telautograph so that it would transmit and receive messages written by the sender and bearing his signature. The method of transmitting telautograms is quite simple. The average speed of a writer is thirty words a minute but many write faster than this. The telautograph can easily send forty-five words a minute. Probably the most difficult test of the efficiency of the telautograph for long distance service was conducted recently by the Chicago Times-Herald between Cleveland and Chicago, a distance of 431 miles.

The writer sat down at the transmitter and found a self-feeding pencil case waiting for him. The lead used is like that one finds in an ordinary pencil, and is preferred to ink because it is cleaner. The transmitter is a neat little machine, but is as full of small delicate wheels as a watch. The pencil is attached to two thin rolls of



steel which meet at an angle of ninety degrees. The contrivance is somewhat like the pantograph. Taking the pencil the statesman wrote on a strip of paper four inches wide, which was drawn up from a feeder below and stretched tight along the writing pad. As he began to write the upward and downward strokes, the curves, the punctuation marks and the flourishes acted on the two steel rods.

At the end of each rod a piece of thin cord was attached, giving it the appearance of a violin bow. The cord was fastened around the drum, which regulated the interrupter wheel below. The movements of the pencil were thus chronicled and the electrical impulse was sent along the wires running to Chicago. Even when the pencil was drawn back to dot an 'i' or cross a 't' the movement was transmitted and repeated by the receiving machine at the other end of the wire, the bow making a pleasant murmur as it rubbed against the drum. When the writer got to the end of a line he had simply to turn a crank with his left hand and the paper shot upward and onward about an inch.

At the Chicago end the receiver bore out the pantograph idea more plainly. Two rods similar to those on the transmitter repeated the movements of the pencil in Cleveland, the mechanism being identical. The receiver, however, writes the message in ink, the pen being a hollow glass tube with a fine point. The pen occupies the same position at the angle of the shaft as the pencil, and moves rapidly across the paper. A small rubber tube—attached to the glass pen—carries the ink from a well at the side of the machine. Line sketches were also reproduced, the pen zigzagging from side to side until the pictures were completed. The paper on the receiver was moved automatically when the pen reached the end of a line. The telautograph is the latest invention of Professor Elisha Gray. It was first exhibited experimentally in 1890, but the instrument did not give satisfaction, and a corps of experts was set to work to perfect and develop the invention.

NEW VERSION OF THE PARABLE.

SOUTHERN PREACHER REHEARSES THE ADVENTURES OF THE PRODIGAL SON.

A PREACHER, a simple old countryman preaching on the subject of the prodigal son, told the story in this wise— 'I am going to take this text, my brethren, because it is just as applicable now as it was in the old days gone by. Here to-day, as of yore, the prodigal, anxious to see the world and enjoy himself, goes to his old father, who has loved him for many, many years, and asks him that he be given his portion that he has been saving for many, many years. And the old father who has loved him for many, many years, gives him a portion, and he goes away and spends it in riotous living. He has a 'Delmonico at Six' time of it, my brethren, and that prodigal was glad enough to eat with the swine he herded. Then the prodigal repents, as many of us are apt to do on an empty stomach, and he went back to the old home, where he had lived for many, many years. And he saw the blue smoke curling out of the chimney, as it had done for many, many years, and his old father, who had loved him for many, many years, and he fell upon his father's shoulder and wept and begged to be taken back to his heart. Then the father loved him again, as he had done for many, many years, and went out and killed the fatted calf that had been on the old farm for many, many years.