

# The Bookshelf.

By DELTA.

## FEUILLETON.

### New Publications Received.

FROM Messrs Methuen and Co., "The Quest of Glory," by Marjorie Bowen; "The Halo," by Baroness Von Hutten; and "Under Five Reigns," by Lady Dorothy Nevill. (These two latter works are the latest additions to Methuen's Popular Shilling Library.) "Fire and Stubble," by the Baroness Orczy (Methuen and Co.), and "A Daughter of the Bush," by Ambrose Pratt (Ward, Lock, and Co.), through Messrs. Wildman and Arey. Also copies of "The Do-Little Dialogues" by Mrs. Leo Myers, and the current issue of "Votes for Women," from Lady Stout.

### Of Interest to Sportsmen and Sportswomen.

Mr. Walter Winans, who won the gold medal at the last Olympic Games with the double hunting rifle, has been selected to shoot in the same competition as representative of the U.S.A. at the Olympic Games, which are to take place at Stockholm this autumn. It is interesting to learn that this information was received by Mr. Winans just after he had shot his 2000th head of big game. Mr. Winans is the author of several books on the rifle: "Hints on Revolver Shooting," "The Sporting Rifle," "Practical Rifle Shooting," "The Art of Revolver Shooting," "Shooting for Ladies," all of which are published by the Putnam.

### The March "Bookman."

The current "Bookman" contains as its chief attraction an appreciative article on Lady Thackeray Fitchie, by Mr. Lewis Melville, which is a poetic reading. Mr. Melville's article is profusely and superbly illustrated. Mrs. George Gretton contributes an interesting paper on John Opie, one of the great portrait painters of the Georgian era. An article with an exceedingly alluring title is that of Mr. Coulson Kernahan, entitled "A Woman who Expected the Impossible." This article embodies a review of "Second Fiddle," by the Hon. Mrs. Arthur Henniker. Apropos of this fine novel, we re-echo Mr. Kernahan's "You can't do better than knock at the door marked 'Mr. Evelyn Nash' and ask for 'Second Fiddle,' by Mrs. Arthur Henniker." Other notable reviews are on "William Morris," by May Morris; "Beaumarchais and Lafayette," by A. W. Evans; and "The Life of Sir George Newnes," by Hulda Friederichs (Hodder and Stoughton).

### The Author of "Second Fiddle."

The Hon. Mrs. Arthur Henniker, whose new novel, "Second Fiddle," has just been published by Mr. Evelyn Nash, is the daughter of the first Baron Houghton, who is still better known in the world of letters as Monckton Milnes, and with her father's wonderful charm of manner and genius for friendship she inherits also his capacity for drawing into her social circle, as it was said that he did into his, almost "everybody worth knowing" in literature, in art, and in the public life of the day. She married in 1882 the late Major-General the Hon. Arthur Henniker, and published her first novel, "Sir George," in 1891; following this with "Foiled" in 1893; and "In Scarlet and Grey" in 1906, one story in which volume, "The Spectre of the Real," she wrote in collaboration with Mr. Thomas Hardy; in 1898 she published "Sowing the Land," and in 1903 "Contrasts." Moreover, as a dramatist she has attained success, with "The Courage of Silence," a four-act play, and produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, in 1905, and "Our Fatal Shadows" in 1907. "Second Fiddle" offers the presentation of a commonplace woman. Mrs. Henniker has also written many military stories for various magazines, and it is probable that her next book may be a collection of these.

### Interesting to Irvingites.

A lecture entitled "Some Thoughts on Hamlet," delivered by Mr. H. B. Irving before the Chancellor and Senate of Sydney University some time last year, has been printed in pamphlet form and published by the Australian Book

Company. It is said to be a "brilliant and incisive essay on Shakespeare's dramatic art, arguing subtly against the reality of Hamlet's madness; incidentally it drives a strong nail into the coffin of the theory that Bacon was the author of the plays."

### Some Genuine Examples of Precocious Humour and Wisdom.

In the very heart of the Midlands is a village whose peasantry pride themselves on possessing more intelligence and education in the aggregate than the ordinary run of villagers. And they encourage their children to compete in the competitions that are weekly offered in the children's columns of the local newspapers. A prize offered for the best essay on "How to succeed in business" elicited a number of replies. Here are some extracts from the prize essay:—"When a man wants a watch, you sell him a watch. That's nothing. But when a man wants a pennyworth of oil, and you sell him a watch, that's business." He goes on to say that business now-a-days is not done by sitting at home waiting for custom. That might have been good enough in former days, but it will not do to-day. In business more than anything else, you must keep abreast of the times. Hard work with thrift and punctuality constituted the old method, but the new one means much more. It's no use raking in custom if you don't know how to rake in

## REVIEWS.

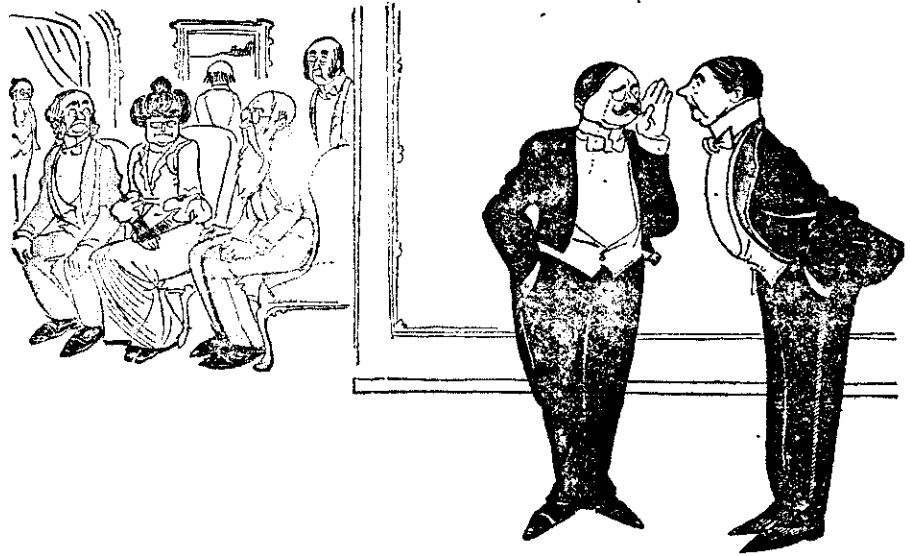
**The Quest of Glory:** By Marjorie Bowen. (London: Methuen and Co. Auckland: Wildman and Arey. 2/6 and 3/6.)

The better acquainted we become with Miss Bowen's work, the more we recognise its superlative qualities. And never have we appreciated it so highly as in this terribly poignant, yet exalting story, which deals with the fortunes of the Marquis de Vauvargues, once a soldier of France, and afterwards one of its finest scholars and philosophic writers. The terribly pathetic and impressive scenes are set, respectively, in the retreat from Prague, in the Rhone province of Aix, and in Paris, in the time of Louis "the Well-beloved, and his master, the Duc de Richelieu. Miss Bowen's book is divided into three parts: "The Quest Joyful," "The Quest Sorrowful," and "The Quest Triumphant." Independent of the superb characterisation of Vauvargues, and the historic, and the human aspect of the story, the book is uncommonly interesting as presenting new portraits of Louis XIII., the Duc de Richelieu, and Voltaire. Whether depicting the court life at Versailles, or describing the simple life of a provincial noble, Miss Bowen is equally correct and felicitous. To those readers who possess that splendid trilogy of novels written by this author, on William of Orange, we strongly recommend that they shall add "The Quest of Glory." Indeed, no lover of historic romance can afford to miss this book, which we have received through Messrs. Methuen and Co.

ruling, because he is very much in love with a lady of fashion, worthless enough in all conscience, as the reader will discover. And, in an evil hour, Lord Stowmaries lends his ear to the suggestion that a profligate cousin of his shall go to Paris as Lord Stowmaries, re-wed Rose-Marie, and thus provide the real Lord Stowmaries with the means to invalidate the union. How this dastardly conspiracy is circumvented, and how the profligate cousin becomes virtuous through love of Rose-Marie, and how eventually she does become Countess of Stowmaries, must be left for readers to discover in the course of the unravelling of a somewhat complex plot. And here we shall leave the reader with just the intimation that some very high personages figure in this fine moving drama, and one high personage—indeed the highest personage in the England of that day in particular. "Fire in Stubble" was published on February 8th of this year, and during that month went into three editions, which speaks volumes for the popularity of this story, which has been received through Wildman and Arey, from Methuen and Co.

**The Guests of Hercules:** By O. N. and A. M. Williamson. (London: Methuen and Co. Auckland: Wildman and Arey. 2/6 and 3/6.)

The principal motive we should imagine, that these talented collaborators have had in mind in the writing of this story of Monte Carlo, has been to expose the evils of speculation as carried on in that gambling Hades. The Williamson's story paints Monte Carlo in much less lurid colours than we ever remember to have seen that place depicted in. But we can say with perfect truth that we have never read anything on the



Brown (to Funnyman, who is going to dine with the Duldrum family): "I say, old man, they're a terribly strait-laced crowd; so, as it's Friday, only tell them your fish stories!"—(London Opinion.)

cash." "Make the most of your time—there is no working to get rich when your wife's a widow."

Extracts from other essays sent in:—"My idea is firstly, be honest, and then make your windows look tempting."—L.C.

"Little children like I can rise quite as much as such men as Tennyson, Shakespeare, etc., by learning the thorough root of all the grammatical expressions."—A.B.

"Business does not consist of arithmetic, but of other things, such as laws, stocks, population of the Empire, English monarchs' history, and grammar."—B.G.

"Always be polite, and look at every coin on both sides in case it's a wrong one."—S.T.

"You have to keep your temper all the time, or people will go somewhere else for what they want."—C.W.

"Never cheat if you can help it. It doesn't pay in the long run."—A.T.

"Honesty is the best policy, because people get to know you in time."—F.A.W.

**Fire in Stubble:** By the Baroness Orczy. (London: Methuen and Co. Auckland: Wildman and Arey. 2/6 and 3/6.)

At last we have a story from the Baroness Orczy's pen which is better than the fascinating "Scarlet Pimpernel." The book's scenes are laid partly in Paris, and partly in London, and the period is that of the Restoration. Here is a brief outline of a singularly fascinating romance, which is, besides, strikingly original in plot, and absolutely satisfactory as to denouement. Monsieur Legros, a wealthy Court tailor, allows his only daughter, as an infant, to be married to an English boy of aristocratic family, believing that he was heir to a title. Years pass, and Rose-Marie, the child wife has grown to young womanhood. Fully expecting that on his majority the husband would come to claim his wife, Rose-Marie is educated in a manner befitting the exalted station she is hoping to fill, and is, indeed, capable of filling. But Lord Stowmaries, the boy husband, not coming to claim his wife, her father, M. Legros, applies to the Archbishop of Paris to ratify the union, and force Lord Stowmaries to consummate the same. But Lord Stowmaries is very averse to the Church's

evil of this great gambling hell that has impressed and moved us so much. Impressed us, indeed, by sheer sincerity and artistry of narrative. Readers of the Williamson's delightful itineraries, in which personal experience of travel, romantic sentiment, scenic description and informative matter is happily blended into a delightful whole, will be forced to confess that in "The Guests of Hercules" there is a degree of literary merit the collaborators have never before reached. The most pitiful characters that can ever walk across life's stages are those outcasts of aristocratic society, who are known as rooks and gamblers. The Lord and Lady Dauntrey of this story are living, breathing types of humanity that infest and render even more sordid the existent gambling haunts of the continent. Mary Grant is at once the most wilful and original of the Williamson heroines, and Della Robbia the most passionate of Williamson lovers.

**The Do-little Dialogues:** By Mrs. Leo Myers. (Auckland: Gordon and Gotch, and all booksellers.)

These Do-little Dialogues are a reprint of three very admirable articles which appeared in the literary columns of a