

MR. T. FISHER UNWIN sends one of Barry Pain's latest productions, *De Omnibus*. This is the sort of book one takes up for half-an-hour's amusement on a railway journey—and gets it. It is published in paper at one shilling. The seven chapters into which it is divided give the sentiments of the conductor on the following subjects: "Woman the Obscure," "Ike," "Ankin," "Queer Fares," "Them Boys," "The Last 'Bus," and "At Home." Few have better opportunities of studying human nature than the London 'bus conductor, and few indeed could put their observations into such typical Cockney 'bus English, making it sparkle with the humour for which it is proverbial, and duly toning down the coarseness, than the author has done in the words he puts into the conductor's mouth. Here is a specimen: . . . "two brothers as I knowed. Bill allus 'ad the best luck that's mide—couldn't do nuthink wrong—if 'e put a shillin' on an artsider that 'orse won. . . . Jim, contrerwise, never 'ad no luck at all. . . . Well, they was both of 'em arter the sime gal. . . . They agreed ter leave it ter the gal to settle it. In course she picked Bill. Jim, 'e took it pretty easy. 'It's Bill's luck,' he said, 'an' theer's no stannin' aginst it.' . . . I met Bill when 'e come back from 'is 'oneymoon. 'Ullo, Bill!' I says, 'ow are yer goin' on?' 'Oh, narcely!' says 'e, but 'e didn't look it. 'So nar you're a merried man?' says I. 'That is so,' says 'e, but nort with no enthoosiasm. 'I understan's, says I, 'as Jim were arter the sime girl, but you cut 'im art. You 'as your luck, Bill!' 'Yuss,' says 'e, 'but speaking in confidence, I wish to 'Eaven I'd 'ad Jim's.'

MESSRS. WILSON AND HORTON have forwarded me the Christmas number of the *Auckland Weekly News*. It is splendidly illustrated with photos of scenes selected specially as being typical of New Zealand life. The letterpress describing these scenes has evidently been the work of a man thoroughly conversant with the different lights and

shades of the life with which he deals. The competition stories are above the average. Regarded simply as a means of advertising the colony, the Christmas number of our large weeklies are invaluable; and the one to hand is the best specimen of its class I have yet seen. It speaks volumes for the vast improvements which have been made in the colonies of late years in the art of reproduction

THE last number of *The Atom Quarterly Magazine*, written and illustrated by the girls of New Zealand, is to hand. It quite keeps up the reputation it has gained for brightly-written storiottes and crisp little articles on matters of interest to its readers. It only requires to be better known throughout the colony so that the benefits which must arise to young ladies of a literary turu of mind from its establishment may be more thoroughly and widely appreciated.

I HAVE had quite a number of lists of three favourite books sent in already, but in order to make the test a more thorough one, I should like to give readers one more chance. One lady kindly sent me a list of a number of her friends' selections as well as her own. If a few more of the readers of these pages would oblige by doing likewise, a very fairly representative total would be obtained, and a most interesting result ascertained and recorded in an early number.

## W O M A N .

BY A WOMAN.

WOMAN, as a rule, comes under one of two headings. She is either a woman's woman or else a man's woman, but it is only occasionally that she can claim to be both.

Most women will agree with me that this is so, but perhaps the majority of men do