STORIES OF AUTHORS—BOOKS OF FRESH INTEREST—NOTES

ANOTHER BRITISH PROBLEM IS FACED

Question of Illegitimacy Frankly Discussed by Philpotts in "The Green Alleys"

THE GREEN ALLEYS, a comedy. By Kden Philpotts. Macmillan Company. New York. At first glance it is not quite apparent why Eden Philpotta calls. The Green Alleys' a comedy. The book teems with the amail foramas and tragedies of rural life in England. But after all, such things as a broken heart, parents disobeyed and even the thems of the story—the refusal of Great Britain to legitimize by subsequent marriage a child born out of wedlock—are mere passing spisodes on the avenue of life. The author invirays the human comedy of rustle England faithfully, and the bitterness and the sorrow are but incidental to the happier community life.

"The Green Alleys' shows a decided advance over its immediate predecessor, "Old Delabole." In many ways. To begin with, Mr. Philpotta has eliminated the frequent repetitions which made the novel of the slate country tiresome at times. In the mew story of the hop fields of Kent he has Rept his excellent graphic descriptions to their proper proportion, and has added an active dramatic interest which was noticeably absent in the earlier book. These two improvements in style have combined with the more interesting characters presented to give "The Green Alleys" a much wider appeal than "Old Delabole."

The plot, as is the case with most of Mr. Philpotts's stories, is simple, and in so far as the novel itself is concerned, unimportant. The author concerns himself primarily with the daily lives of his people, and has done a great deal to dispel the illusion that rustics are dull folk with no life beyond their own valleys, or apart from their occupations. The story deals with the love of two brothers for each other and for the same girl. The elder, Nathan Pomffet, is a natural child, and is under this additional handicap in the pursuit of his love.

As it happens, this problem of the li-

sult of his love.

suit of his love.

As it happens, this problem of the illegitimate child, aithough occupying many chapters and being much in evidence throughout the book, has nothing to do with the development of the story. Nathan's fine character, and the intelligence of most of his neighbors, spares him from the misfortune against which the author complains so forcibly.

However, the agitation against England's refusal to permit a natural child to be-

However, the agitation against England's refusal to permit a natural child to become legitimate by the marriage of its parents serves to introduce the most delightful character in the book, Martin Fuggles. The aged keeper of "The Hydrangas," is always embarking upon some mission which he knows is foredoomed to failure. First it was the illegitimate child; then it was to agitate for a ban on the and a revival of ale, after which he asked

ably the best after Fuggles. At the closs of the novel the author expresses, through the indomitable Fuggles, his contempt for a government that worships gradition, and, more remarkable, considering the matner in which the British censors are muzzling their literary men, he scores the "strafling" of Germans and Germany because of the mistakes of a few Prussians.

Russian Realism TARAS BULBA. By Nicolai Gogol, Aifred Knopf, New York.

Years ago, when the Consacks ravaged the less-protected frontier towns of Russia, and when hamiets and villages were kept in constant fear of the approach of these robber tribes, no records were kept of all their deeds of cruelty and valor. The founder of the modern wehood of realism in Russia, Nicholai Gogol, puts before us some of the historic facts and winds about them a remance and fantasy to make the fasci-nating tale of "Taras Bulba."

It is true that these robber tribes of Lit-tle Russia made peaceful life quake with their deeds of cruelty. Bogol adheres to these facts as the skeleton of his story, but he brings to them a great deal of romance and imagination. The old, gray-haired hero, Tarks Bulba, takes his young some land Taras Bulba, takes his young sons away from their schooling to learn the wicked-ness of the Kazaka and to share with him from their schooling to learn the wickedness of the Kazaka and to share with him
the plunder and booty. He sees one of
them turn traitor because of a woman and
the other captured by the enemy. The first
because of them turn traitor because of a woman and
the other captured by the enemy. The first
because of the start of the st

Gogol allows his fantasy to roam freely. Gogol allows his fantasy to roam freely. With his vivid imagination he puts his characters through all manner of trials; with his keen appreciation for beauty, he makes backgrounds to his picture stand out as powerful descriptions of the elements of nature, and so unique is his characterization and so pathetically impressive his episodes that, despite its fantastic elements, "Taras Bu.ba" will live in the literature of reality.

Casual Humor

FIRBLE, D. D. By Irvin S. Cobb. George H. Deran Company, New York. Here is comedy by Cobb, but not Cobb's best comedy of cobo, but het cobose best comedy. The book has humor of a soul kind. It seems made to order rather than the inevitable product of inspiration. The text 221 S. Fifth Street, PHILADELPHIA

FROM OUT THE ARABIAN NIGHTS



- ATT HOLES A bit of Araby, as Louis Rhead sees it in one of his many illustrations for Harper's Christmas edition of "The Arabian Nights."

s not unentertaining, and many Cobb fans

About Modern Greece

MAN OF ATHENS By Julia D. Dragoumi Houghton-Mifflin Company, Roston and Ne York. To the teader who completes "A Man of Athens" will agree that Julia D. Dragoumis's latest production is a novel of the first rank. But, unfortunately, the number who read the hook from cover to cover will probably be leimened by the mass of tirename detail and the complexity of foreign names in the first fifty pages. As a whole, the book presents a charming portrayal of present-day Athenian life, with its curious blend of up-to-date cosmopolitanism and regard for tradition.

The story centers about Theodora Douka.

The story centers about Theodora Douka, who has been discovered by her rather, Michael Douka, a direct descendant of the Byzantine family of that name, because she marries a professor, brilliant and dis-tinguished, but of plebian birth, attached to the college at Athens. The thread of the mission which he knows is foredoomed to failure. First it was the illegitimate child: then it was to agitate for a ban on were and a revival of ale, after which he asked a young girl to marry him, when he was convinced she would refuse.

As always, Philpotts has drawn his characters exceedingly well. Nathan Pomfret and his mether, Georgina Crowns, are probably the best after Fuggles. At the close of the author expresses, through confilet.

Dehan Disappoints

A GILDED VANITY. By Richard Dehan. George H. Doran Company George H. Doran Company.
Admirers of "Between Two Thieves" will be disappointed in Richard Dehan's latest work. In addition to being an old, wornout theme, the hollowness of British aristocracy, it is trite and sophomorically stilled in a marked degree. The love scenes are atroclous in commonplaceness and clumsiness. The one redeeming feature is the excellent portrayal of two characters, "Midge" Colquhouns and Pope Dollimore. the first a "scheming little minx" and the latter a victim of Lady Baintree's self-con-stituted matrimonial bureau, who adopted for the benefit of her wards the rather startling motto, "A man must go on marry-ing until he finds the person appointed by Providence in the beginning of things to be his partner and belomate."

the pet victim of this principle.

The story is of a beautiful girl, ill-mated, with the usual suffering and shame resulting from her greed for position and wealth.

Looking Forward

LIVING FOR THE FUTURE, By Dr. John Rothwell Slater, Houghton Mifflin Company,

the other captured by the enemy. The first he punishes with death and the other is tortured before the father's eyes. Bulba, thirsting for revenge, leads another on slaught and finds himself given over to the fames as a punishment for his wick-

sonalities, educate novices and discover new realms of beauty and truth. The best way of preparing for the future life is, therefore, to reconcile the individual evil to God's will and to live intensely, communicatively and belpfully.

The style is rather sermon-like and contains many quotations of poetry. In the back of the book are printed some poems and five excellent prayers, "For the Eternal Life."

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Modern Occulism

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venterdays, there is perhaps a growing arm chained to the rock of faith, "Faith in the Future Life (Foundations)," just issued, should prove of special interest. It is a compilation of the substance of certain parts of six lectures given by Alfred W. Martin on Modern Occultism before the Society for Ethical Culture of New York. The lectures present in an interesting manner the views of many of the world's greatest thinkers, and have been prepared only after a great amount of careful re-search.

PHE STRIAN CHRIST, By Abraham Mitrie Rinhany, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. fithmany. Houghten Miffin Company, Boston.
"The Syrian Christ," by Abraham Mitrie
Ribbany, which originally appeared in the
Atlantic Monthly, is now published for the
first time in book form. The author is a
native of Syria, who has become one of
America's foremost clergymen, being at
present minister of the Chirch of the Disciples, Boston, with which James Freeman,
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