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**STORIES FOR CHILDREN THAT STRETCH THE MIND**  
Tales of Wonder From the Classics, From Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Some Newly Invented by Modern Authors

Fairyland is the locale of several new books of the season and youngsters will be delighted to explore these magic realms of witches, wizards, trolls, pixies, gnomes and others of the little people to say nothing of the beautiful princesses and gallant heroes who people this domain. Doubtless older, too, will find treasure trove in these books if on discovery bent.

Katharine Pyle, whose "Wonder Tales Retold" was so fascinating, has again in "Tales of Folk and Fairy" narrated satisfactorily from "Once upon a time" to "and they lived happily ever after" unfamiliar folk tales and fairy legends from many lands. The Serbs, the Cosacks, the Bengalees, the canny Scots and the hardy Viking stock are among the contributors to this admirable collection, which has enchantments, quick wits matched with malevolent guile, good deeds of simple folk duly rewarded and ill deeds condignly punished among the subjects of its attractive stories. Mrs. Pyle has just the proper touch of simplicity of style and artlessness of treatment in her charming narratives.

William Elliot Griffis, who has written so much and well about Holland, is the collector and editor of the stories from the adjoining land gathered in "Belgian Fairy Tales." Some of these stories are familiar from the commonly known anthologies of fairy lore, one of those of which variants are known being "The Swan Maidens and the Silver Knight." But most of them will come with the charm of novelty to American readers who are just now very interested in the story of Belgium. There is also charm in Mr. Griffis's manner of narration.

Another compilation of nationalistic or racial fairy tales is "Czechoslovak Fairy Tales," which have been retold by Parker Fillmore. Some of the noted figures of fairy and legendary lore people these delightful stories out against a different folk background of moods and customs. The Czech variety of the fairy story is rich in humorous touches and less fantastic than those of some other nations. And they have a deal of pretty sentiment in them. The illustrations are handsomely done and originally conceived by Jan Matuska, who works both in color and black and white. In the decorations he has used the traditional art-units used for generations in native hues and embroideries.

Ethel M. Gate has written some original fairy tales in "Tales from the Secret Kingdom." She has a decided faculty of inventiveness with the usual sort of songs and programs of fairyland and a pretty facility in the telling of her fascinating stories. The illustrations are silhouettes by Katharine Buffum.

"The Wishing Ring," by Eleanor Schorer, is a Christmas fairy story. It has a dwarf, a princess, a knight and other personages and paraphernalia of the authentic fairy story, though in substance it is wholly original, dealing as it does with the adventures of Beth and Buddy among strange scenes and people. Miss Schorer, known as "Katharine Eleanor" to the child readers of many newspapers from coast to coast, which have



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**PINK ROSES WITHER**  
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When the war robbed Trevor Matthew of the two friends to whom he was closer than any one else in the world, he felt that life had little left to offer him. His old traditions, like his two friends, had gone smash. It was about this time that he met the lady of the pink roses. And incidentally, "Pink Roses" is the title of this new book which Gilbert Cannan has written with Trevor Matthew as the central figure.

Through the companionship of the lady of the pink roses, pleasant enough young person who adapts her morals to her circumstances, Trevor enters upon an altogether different existence, in which he apparently tries to forget those old traditions, and the manner of his failure is the story.

The pink roses of Trevor's attachment to the unconventional Cora Diamond begin to wither with the first appearance in his life of Ruth Hobday, a girl with a great and steadfast love in her heart, waiting to be awakened, while she battles pluckily with the vicissitudes which beset her and her family. It is by the means of this girl's love for Trevor, and of his love for her, that eventually he wins back his traditions, while the pink roses and all of life's artificiality which they represent go to the dust heap of forgotten things.

"Pink Roses" with its London background is a diverting novel, sure so, perhaps, than others of Mr. Cannan's books, but somewhat lacking in their detail and sense of substance.

Illustrated by Mrs. Gilbert Cannan. New York: George H. Doran Co. \$1.75.

**The Scotch Twins**

The tenth of Lucy Fitch Perkins' stories about twins has appeared in time for the holiday season. The twins this time are Scotch, children of a sheepherder living in a castle on the estate of an absentee laird. It is rumored that he is planning to turn all his tenants out of their homes and make the whole country into a game preserve. Jock and Jean, the twins, and their father—their mother is dead—do not know what will happen to them. A boy comes into the neighborhood and the children discover that he's staying at the castle for his health. He makes friends with Jock and Jean and some other children and they have great sport all summer, fishing, exploring caves and playing that they are members of a great clan. Then news comes that the old laird is dead and that the new laird is going to live in the castle. Jock and Jean are determined to prove to be but the boy who has been making friends for himself all summer. It is just the kind of a story that will fascinate both boys and girls ten or twelve years old.

THE SCOTCH TWINS, by Lucy Fitch Perkins. Illustrated by the author. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. \$1.50.

**Ich Ka Bible**

When the future student of language tries to account for the vogue of the slang expression, "Ich ka bible," or "I should worry," popular a few years ago, he will doubtless conclude that the origin lies in a game preserve. Jock and Jean, the twins, and their father—their mother is dead—do not know what will happen to them. A boy comes into the neighborhood and the children discover that he's staying at the castle for his health. He makes friends with Jock and Jean and some other children and they have great sport all summer, fishing, exploring caves and playing that they are members of a great clan. Then news comes that the old laird is dead and that the new laird is going to live in the castle. Jock and Jean are determined to prove to be but the boy who has been making friends for himself all summer. It is just the kind of a story that will fascinate both boys and girls ten or twelve years old.

WHY WORRY, by George L. Walton. Seeley, Tenenbaum & Co., Philadelphia. \$1.25.

**Pinero's Social Plays**

"Letty" and "His House in Order" are printed together in the third and most recent volume of "The Social Plays" of Arthur Wing Pinero. Clayton Hamilton has written for this volume as for its predecessors a general introduction and a critical preface, as well as text. In both these plays Sir Arthur again reveals his facility as an expert delineator of feminine psychology. "His House in Order" is a remembered one of the most adroitly developed of Pinero's plays from the technical standpoint. "Letty," however, has more fame and life of vitality.

THE SOCIAL PLAYS OF ARTHUR WING PINERO. Edited by Clayton Hamilton. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

**AT THE FREE LIBRARY**

- Books added to the Free Library, Thirtieth and Locust streets, during the week ending November 27.
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