

nent. Be it fact or fiction, many of those eager to understand the setting for this European drama will read the narrative with interest—all the greater because it is one of the few war books which does not seem to be written from any one nation's point of view.

BLANCHE KLANIECKA.



## THE NEWSPAPER A BUSINESS TOOL.

**The Clarion.** By Samuel Hopkins Adams. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

The only trouble with Mr. Adams' story of an unfree press is that it is too true. Such wholly undimmed truths are blinding to the chauffeurs on the other side of the road.

An inexperienced and rich young man acquires a yellow newspaper in a respectably corrupt town. He finds himself to be an editorial writer with a real journalist's nose for news, and proceeds, with much pain to himself, to jam an honest journal into the clenched teeth of the community's business bosses whose advertising is their sceptre and weapon. All this newspaper plot is tangled in with the career of a quack, the hero's father, whose proprietary medicine has made him a millionaire and whose character and fortunes make him the most picturesque figure in a drama full of action from the stab in the first chapter through auto accident, poison-suicide, pestilence and bomb. There's a love-story, too, life-size, life-like.

But the most impressive quality of the book is the reason for its existence—the determined disclosure of how the advertisers own our newspapers. We have all heard of this. Most of us half believe it. But Mr. Adams knows and explains how and to what an exacting extent it rules. He shows you the merchant advertisers united to dictate and to punish. He takes you to watch their orderlies at work behind the scenes in the newspaper office—a place, by the way, which is made very interesting. And the book is four-square to all essential facts.

There is evidence besides one's own conviction that the story is in general very true to life. Good authority tells how the publishers' paid advertisement of the book was at first accepted and then rejected by a journal in the home-town of a famous patent medicine. Other stories are around, of strange, but not unexplainable, refusals to the book of the usual channels of publicity.

As a piece of literature Mr. Adams' novel is noticeable for its unusually bright and natural dialogue, and just as remarkable for its inexcusable "newspaper English." Such phrases as "those biographical compilations which embalm one's fame," and "the cultivation of Morpheus" would

suffocate the story if it had not the power of a live human interest and a strong present appeal.

A. L. G.



## THE HEART OF DEMOCRACY.

**The Gospel of Jesus and the Problems of Democracy.** By Henry C. Vedder. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. 1914. Price, \$1.50 net.

The dedication of Professor Vedder's book, "To the millions who toil without hope that the thousands may enjoy without thought," gives the key to the author's strong argument for the social justice founded on the teachings of the true gospel of democracy. It is claimed that "we need a reconstructed theology"—"a change from the metaphysics of Paul to the ethics of Jesus." In the ten chapters of the book the vexing problems of the day are exhaustively treated. The woman question, the child problem, the problems of the slum, of vice, of crime, of disease, of poverty and lawlessness are effectively solved by the plain rules of the new Gospel—or rather by the new interpretation of the old Gospel which deals with the service of man to man.

To all who are working in the various lines of reform, Professor Vedder's study of the present-day situation is full of suggestions which should not be missed. Nothing less than a thorough perusal of the book can give an adequate conception of its use in dealing with the problems which it presents for general consideration. The fine index and bibliography lend easy reference to the subjects in which the reader is most deeply interested.

A. L. M.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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—**Wealth from the Soil.** By C. C. Bowsfield. Published by Forbes & Co., Chicago. 1914. Price, \$1.00 net.

—**Modern Values and Their Christian Sources.** By Philip C. Walcott. Published by the Pilgrim Press, Boston. 1914. Price, \$1.00; postage, 10 cents.

—**Progressive Men, Women and Movements of the Past Twenty-Five Years.** By B. O. Flower. Published by The New Arena, 5 Park Sq., Boston. 1914. Price, \$2.00, postpaid.

—**The Establishment of Christianity and the Prescription of Paganism.** Number 147, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Longmans, Green & Co., agents, New York. 1914. Price, paper, \$2.00 net.



"There are many well meaning men who do not accomplish as much as they might through not knowing how to go to work."—Richard Cobden.

"All difficulties shall yield to energy."—Richard Cobden.