

BOSTON LETTER

A Continuous Issue of Books Planned by Its Publishers

BOSTON, April 26, 1912.—Boston publishers are preparing to heed the call for an almost continuous issue of new books. By leaps and bounds is the public demand increasing, and if a census were possible to show by contrast the present and the ten-years-ago reading constituency, the figures would, no doubt, be startling. The old plan of Fall, holiday and Spring publication seasons now has to be ignored, and with the stream of new books almost incessant it becomes merely a matter of a little more or a little less busy for the literary producer. Not long ago the publisher could depend upon issuing enough fresh Spring fiction to carry the readers through the Summer vacation. But now May and June are full months, and in August again there are manuscripts in plenty demanding attention.

May publications by Small, Maynard & Co. will include "Playmaking, a Manual of Craftsmanship," by William Archer, the English author and critic. The book is dedicated to Brander Matthews, and it is expected to be a real contribution to the literature of the playwright's art. That it is still not too late to write something new of Gettysburg is indicated by the announcement from the same publishing house of "The Campaign of Gettysburg." The author is an English army officer whose name is not disclosed but whose pen name is "Miles." Other promising May books in a full list from the Small, Maynard house are "White Mountain Trails," by Winthrop Packard, a growing naturalist and traveler; "In Forbidden China," by Vincent D'Oillone, leader of the French exploration party of 1909; "The Isle of Strife," by George C. Shedd, and "Wilhelmina Changes Her Mind," by Florence Morse Kingsley.

The Houghton, Mifflin Company is not surprised by the large demand for the

Mary Antin book, "The Promised Land," which comes from the press to-day. A short novel, entitled "Alexander's Eridge," by another new woman writer, Willa S. Cather, deserves and will receive close attention for its original treatment of a somewhat unusual relationship between an American bridge builder of talent almost approaching genius and a charming young girl of the London stage who rules in social circles by something more than her histrionic power and her influence over men. Miss Cather has lived in Pittsburgh and New York, is a native of Virginia, and was reared in Nebraska—a fairly wide American experience. Other books of the week now ending are "The Jonathan Papers," a collection of outdoor essays by Elisabeth Woodbridge; "Scum o' the Earth, and Other Poems," by Robert Haven Schauffler; "The Life and Work of William Pryor Letchworth," by J. N. Larned; "The Gray Stocking, and Other Plays," by Maurice Baring, and "Children's Classics in Dramatic Form, Book V.," by Augusta Stevenson.

Prominent in this week's announcements by Little, Brown & Co. is the work of two leaders of fiction by women, Edith Macvane and Anna Alice Chapin. "Her Word of Honor" is Miss Macvane's book, and her heroine is a young French girl who runs away to this country to escape unattractive suitors. Her experiences in the land of the free under the tutelage of a rich American woman who wants to use her for social advancement and her finding of the right man, in spite of obstacles, go to make up a well-told story. Miss Chapin's novel, "The Under Trail," tells of the Virginia mountains, and the people involved are the natives and the fashionable land owners seeking relaxation.

The house of L. C. Page & Co. is issuing its favorite "Little Cousin Series," of which there are now forty-five volumes, in a special binding for the needs of schools and libraries. New volumes this year are devoted to the cousins Danish and Polish. Novelized plays from the works of the late Robert N. Stephens are also included in the Page lists, the latest being "The Sword of Bussy." The following books of the Spring list have gone to second printing: "Mayton, A Backwoods Mystery," by Theodore G.

Roberts, "The Dominant Chord" by Edward Kimball, and "Naomi of the Island" by Lucy Thurston Abbott.

Ginn & Co. continue to help along the growing sentiment in this country in favor of peace and arbitration. They have just published "The Friendship of Nations" by Lucille Gulliver, a book designed for younger readers. Setting forth the achievements of the world in art, science, commerce, and industry the writer aims to show how much each country is indebted to the others. Special attention is given to the story of The Hague Tribunal.

Doubtless many New York people interested in education have failed to have their attention called to a remarkable exhibit of textbooks that has been on view in the New York Public Library. The collection belongs to the largest library of rare and interesting textbooks in the world, and is owned by Mr. George A. Plimpton of the firm of Ginn & Co. It includes manuscript treatises of the eleventh, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. A copy of the first printed arithmetic, published in Treviso, is included, and a manuscript of the first European algebra, dating from 1400.

H. S. K.

BAHAISM

A very good exposition of a religion that is receiving considerable attention from Americans just now is given in a little book entitled "Baháism, the Religion of Brotherhood, and Its Place in the Evolution of Creeds." The author is Francis Henry Skrine, a retired officer of the British Indian Civil Service. The book is based on a series of articles published last year in an English periodical which attracted the notice of Abdul Baha and won his approval. (Longmans, Green & Co., 65 cents.)

SCIENTIFIC CHURCHES

In this little book, ("Scientific Management of Churches," by Dean Mathews. Fleming, Revell & Co.) which consists of a single essay, Dean Mathews shows that the Church need not be an abstraction or "a mob of well-intentioned anarchists." It has something to do besides making converts. It has spiritual and social functions, and may develop real efficiency by the adoption of general principles of scientific management.