



A Welcome Collection.

Messrs. J. M. Dent & Sons, Limited still further enhance their already high reputation by giving us "An Anthology" of W. H. Hudson's Works, by his friend and admirer, Edward Garnett. It contains an ample selection from the great naturalist's beautiful pages and illustrates his unrivalled gifts as an observer of nature, the charm and fertility of his spirit, his literary craft, and the power of his creative imagination.

A Life of Chopin.

Marjorie Strachey, in "The Nightingale" published by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., attempts to give reality to the life of Chopin by treating it as if it were fiction. Much of the detail is invented, but there is authority for nearly every incident, and often what Chopin is made to say occurs in one of his letters, or is reported by a friend. Chopin's letters, which were supposed to have been destroyed, have recently come to light again and have been used for the present work, and the latest revelations of Solange Clesinger's dealings with George Sand have also been taken into account.

The Axe is Laid

This is another work published by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., in which John Mackworth endeavours to show what would happen in England if everyone in authority, from cabinet ministers to police constables, was suddenly infected with a deadly germ. The Bolsheviks thought that the moment would be ripe for the red revolution. How the crime was frustrated and the murderous scientist and his secret destroyed by a courageous girl typist and her lover, is related by the author of this thrilling story.

The Religion of the Manichees.

The main object of this book by F. C. Burkitt and published by The Cambridge University Press is to bring the wonderful discoveries of Manichee Literature before a wider public than at present seems to know of them, and at the same time to suggest that the Christian ele-

ment in the Religion of the Manichees is larger and more fundamental than the scholars of the last generation were inclined to allow.

Messrs. William Rider & Sons, Ltd.

Messrs. William Rider & Sons, Ltd., published three new works of a serious yet interesting nature. The first is Elliott O'Donnell's "Ghosts, Helpful and Harmful." The author of this book has written many treatises upon this subject and in the present work gives us a very exhaustive account of the ghosts that are helpful and those that are harmful. To better illustrate his views he gives a number of stories of people who have seen ghosts.

The second book is entitled "Esoteric Philosophy of Love and Marriage" by Dion Fortune. This treatise deals with the question of love and marriage and of sex relationship from the standpoint of esoteric teaching. It is addressed primarily to those who have no special occult knowledge of the subject, but who are seeking information which may help them to solve the problems of life.

Lastly, there is "The Problem of Atlantis" by Lewis Spence. The purpose of this work is not so much to demonstrate the former existence of an Atlantean continent as to place the study of the whole problem upon a more accurate basis than has yet been attempted in recent times. The author puts forward a number of very fine arguments and, certainly, one has to agree that he knows his subject and explains it in a manner which will be read with interest.

Messrs. Heinemann, Ltd.

Four new publications by Messrs. Heinemann, Ltd., to have recently are of an interesting character. The first is "Harvest in Poland" by Geoffrey Dennis. In the form of a novel, the author gives us an account of his experiences in Poland. Unlike the average work of this kind, Mr. Dennis's book is a strange one and should make a deep impression on all who read it, for he reveals undoubtedly genius which is well nigh unforgettable.

The second is "The Battle to the Weak" by Hilda Vaughan. A really good novel that publishers have learned to recognise and value, and when triumphantly real and living people rise from its pages it is with every confidence that they offer that novel to the public. "The Battle to the Weak" should fully justify the feeling of its sponsors, for

there are few readers insensible to the appeal of a finely constructed story about a woman who is too desperately human for a ruthless grasp at happiness.

The third work "The Cook and the Captain Bold" by Arthur Mason, is of a lighter kind. It deals with sea adventures and consists of ten stories, the people in them being of the cheeriest kind. Kitt McCane, capable of handling anything from a pilot to a broken leg; Tim, gallant preserver of the pig; the donkeyman who raced Christmas; the haughty ginger cat; and many others crowd Mr. Mason's decks. The writer is no landlubber; he knows the sea, smooth and "lumpy"; he has sailed before the mast, as mate, and as captain of sailing vessels; and his stories are those one sailor might tell another.

Lastly there is Edward Noble's "The Mandarin's Bell," consisting of three stories of the sea. No living author possesses a greater knowledge of the sea, and he adds to this knowledge a rare gift for telling a story. The tale which gives the book its title is a finely emotional writing, from the clang of the "Mandarin's" ball to the last words of the skipper's story of the shipwreck.

Messrs Herbert Jenkins, Ltd.

Each addition to Messrs. Herbert Jenkins's Green Label Series is undoubtedly a welcome one and, I have just been reading three new works published in this series. The first is Commander H. G. Stoker's "Straws in the Wind." The gallant officer was one of the first to volunteer for submarine service and had an adventurous career. During the war he was captured by the Turks in an endeavour to enter the Dardanelles. Unlike most books of this character one finds the breezy side prevalent and the Navy touch is there throughout.

Then there is a very fine light story by Henry J. Thompson entitled "The House of Finny." The House of Finny and Finny comprises the whole universe to Robert Finny, its head, with Robert Finny the creator, omnipotent, omniscient. When he offers a partnership in the business to his nephew, George, the latter at first scorns the idea, but then accepts it. George is a painter of modern tendencies, with the usual artistic temperament. Like a tornado he immediately begins to turn the business upside down by new schemes and innovations, much to the disgust of the level-headed manager, Hendry. But George