

the stick in the case of an intractable daughter; but he possesses, despite his impiety towards Whailahay, distinct charm. Describing to the American, who is descanting on the beauty of a certain valley, how his party killed six Navajoes one by one as they emerged from a sweating bath, he observes: "Crack, crack, crack . . . they could not escape. And we took their scalps . . . and brought them home. It was a great triumph. Yes, I do love this valley." And he adds: "We always scored against the Navajoes whenever we had fair play." As we said at the beginning, the hero is of just the right stuff. We like him none the worse because at first it seems as if he were a mere *deus ex machina* to oblige another hero.

Notes on Novels.

[These notes on the week's Fiction are not necessarily final.
Reviews of a selection will follow.]

THE BLACK DOUGLAS.

By S. R. CROCKETT.

Mr. Crockett's new story is a long, thorough-going romance opening in the year 1439, "in the fairest and heartsopest spot in all the Scottish southland." That "Mesopotamian" trick of language is very much in evidence throughout the story. Costume and armoury and local colour are here, and the telling words of eld. It is a stirring story of fighting and loving and vengeance. When Sholto comes to raise Lanark in aid of the Douglasses he finds the watchman sleepy: "Open, varlet of a watchman, or by Saint Bride I will have you swinging in half an hour from the bars of your own portcullis. I who speak am Sholto MacKim, captain of the Earl's guard. Every liegeman in the town must arm, mount, and ride this instant to Edinburgh. I give you fair warning. You hear my words; I will not enter your rascal town. And if so much as one be wanting at the muster, I swear in the name of my master that his house shall be burned with fire and razed to the ground, and his wife be a widow or ever the cock crow on another Sabbath morn!" That will serve, and we ken brawly there's mair o' the like complexion. (Smith, Elder. 6s.)

MADAME IZAN.

By MRS. CAMPBELL PRAED.

Mrs. Praed calls her latest novel a "tourist story." We meet the tourists in a big hotel at Hong Kong, and our curiosity to know more about Madame Izan is at once aroused. Her marital history is peculiar, and a situation is evolved in which the hero, John Windeatt, says to Shirazaka Izan, a Japanese gentleman: "If you don't mind, I think I would prefer not to shake hands. You see, I mean to take your wife from you, if by her own will and any legal possibility I can get hold of her. Though we are rough-and-ready out West, we do things on the square." A bright, bizarre novel, suffused by Eastern colour. (Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

THE GARDEN OF SWORDS.

By MAX PEMBERTON.

A romantic and well-written story of the Franco-German War, by an author whose skill in devising exciting incidents is well known. It is a mixture of straightforward fighting, and the complex nature of beautiful Beatrix Lefort, who contrives to love two men at once. One is her husband, a French officer, the other an Englishman and a Hessian dragon. (Cassell. 6s.)

THE SCARLET CITY.

By "POT" AND "SWEARS."

"Pot" and "Swears" are London journalists, whose popularity has won them these endearing sobriquets. "Pot" is Mr. Pottinger Stephens, "Swears" is Mr. Ernest

Wells. Herein, combining their sportive fancies, they offer a slapdash but not unamusing story of gay London life—the life of gilded youth and stage doors, of race meetings and midnight excitements, of sharps and flats. The book takes the form of the autobiography of John Franklyn, and details, to quote the title, his adventures with Anthony Fuller "in and out and round about the Wicked World in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century." It is, in fact, *Tom and Jerry* to date. (Sands. 6s.)

THE MATERNITY OF HARRIOTT WICKEN.

By MRS. HENRY E. DUDENEY.

This story, by the author of *A Man with a Maid*, is a study in heredity. Opening with a scene of death and drunkenness, it is gloomy and unpleasant throughout, yet it grips the reader, and he is fascinated by the character of the tortured Harriott Wicken. The action is laid almost entirely in London, and the author has drawn Brixton society in no flattering way. (Heinemann. 6s.)

GOD'S GREETING.

By JOHN GARRETT LEIGH.

An earnestly written story of life in a Northern mining and iron-working district. The author's wish is to indicate how the conditions of certain classes of toilers may be raised, and to point out how Nature and human welfare are strangled "with the gold nets of our own weaving." (Smith, Elder. 6s.)

THE GREEN FIELD.

By NEIL WYNN WILLIAMS.

A story, to some extent in dialect, of a Midland parish. In matter melodramatic, but written with terseness and force. In the first chapters the village church is burned out, and the chained Bible rescued by a tramp. Subsequently the tramp becomes the vicar's under gardener, and of the upper gardener makes an enemy for life. Later comes murder. An interesting, if somewhat conventional, tale. (Chapman & Hall. 6s.)

SUNNINGHAM AND THE CURATE.

By EDITH A. BARNETT.

A quiet and well-observed story of English provincial life. Sunningham is a typical village, and the author (who is known by her *Champion in the Seventies*) has subjected the conversation and characters of the little set of persons who form its society to close examination. To some extent the novel is a revival of the Jane Austen method. It should please leisurely readers in the country. (Chapman & Hall. 6s.)

MORALS AND MISTAKES.

By C. GORDON WINTER.

The mistakes are rather more evident than the morals. The preface, which is a sort of theorem, tells us that "Man is a puppet in the hands of Fate; by Fate is often meant woman. . . . Woman never does anything without an object; that object is to further her own ends. She occasionally obeys the voice of conscience," &c., &c. The story appears to have emanated originally from the Roxburghe Press, the title-page being a substitution. (Simpkin, Marshall. 3s. 6d.)

MY INVISIBLE PARTNER.

By T. S. DENISON.

An earnest, purposeful story, with a strong leaning to the supernatural. The scene is New Mexico, and there is no end of adventure and mining camp passions. The invisible partner plays an important part in the clearing up of a murder. The reader must be prepared for incidental pages of fairly stiff reading about mind, and will, and telepathy. (Gay & Bird. 6s.)

MAUREEN MOORE.

By RUPERT ALEXANDER.

Another romance of '98. "Me bould boy!" (Burleigh. 6s.)