THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

Something About Ibsen.

That the study or pretended study of the writings of the Norwegian writer, Henrik Ibsen, has become so popular on both sides of the water is a strong evidence of the tendency of the age toward a better knowledge of social topics. That Ibsen has become a "Boston fad," means something more than the term often implies. It is a more healthy symptom than was the Browning fad, because it leads to the formation of ideas which apply to the conditions of life as we find it, and does not leave the mind unsatisfied with a vain attempt to soar into the infinite, or search into the unfathomable. Ibsen is no idealist. He deals with practical and often bitter truths. He dissects, or rather vivisects society, and lays bare the shams of the state, the church and the household. He is not a creator, but a demonstrator of what exists, even though the majority of those in whom it exists do not realize its presence until it is shown them.

Ibsen is an Anarchist. Thousands of those who are trying to become familiar with his plays do not realize this, nor do they realize that what they applaud is anarchism pure and simple. With Herr Most and dynamite in their minds, they are probably not aware the true principles of anarchism, as taught by Prudhom and preached by the Boston school of which Benjamin R. Tucker is the exponent, may be found in Ibsen's plays, and give them their virility.

Take, for instance, An Enemy of Society, in which Dr. Stockmann is the rather un fortunate hero. It is a satire on the right or ability of the majority to rule, yet shows clearly that it does rule with an iron hand, under the name of democracy. For instance:

Dr. Stockmann. Yes, but isn't it a citizen's duty, whenever he has a new idea, to communicate it to

Burgomaster. Pshaw! The public doesn't need any new ideas. The public is best served by the good old recognized ideas that they have already. . . You have no conception how much you injure yourself by your rashness. You complain of the authorities, ay, of the government itself-you even revile them, and maintain you've been slighted, persecuted. But what else can you expect, fire. | terest. Prof. N. S. Shaler, of Harvard brand that you are?

mann is trying to do, as an individual, what | writes about "Delphi: The Locality and he considers for the best interests of his its Legends." Miss Hope Notnor has a fellows in sanitary matters The doctor second paper on the romantic lives of the subsequently attempts to convince his fel- "Nieces of Mazarin;" and "Latin and low-citizens of the justice of his cause, but Saxon America" forms the subject of a is continually interrupted. One of the dis- paper by Albert G. Browne. Mr. James' turbers is a drunken man, who insists on "Tragic Muse" is continued, and there is his right to his opinion because he is "a an installment of Mr. Bynner's serial, duly qualified rate-payer." Finally, the "The Begum's Daughter." Thomas Bailey doctor gets a partial hearing. Among Aldrich's "Two Lyrics"-"A Dedication." other things, he says:

Dr. Stockmann. I have said I should speak of the great discovery I have made within the last few work. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. days-the discovery that all our spiritual sources of life are poisoned, and that our whole bourgeois society rests on a soil teeming with the pestilence

men, "these old remnants of a decaying world of thought," are not the most serious than Scribner's. The articles on railroads danger of society,

Dr. Stockmann. . . . It is not they who are the most effective in poisoning our spiritual life or making pestilential the ground beneath our feet; it is not they who are the most dangerous enemies in our society.

"How the Other Half Lives" gives one a good idea of tenement life in New York.

Cries from all sides. Who then? Who is it?

name them! For this is the great discovery I made yesterday! [In a louder tone.] The most dangerous enemies of truth and freedom in our midst are the compact majority. Yes, the d-d, compact, liberal majority-they it is. Now you know it.

this assertion and the doctor is asked to withdraw his remarks. He refuses. They argue with him and assert that right is always on the side of the majority.

Dr. Stockmann. The majority is never right. Never, I say. That is one of those conventional lies against which a free thoughtful man must rebel. Who are they that make up a majority of a country? Is it the wise men or the foolish? I think we must agree that the foolish folk are, at present, in a terrible overwhelming majority all around and about us the wide world over. But, devil take it, it can surely never be right that the foolish should rule

And again:

be got rid of. For you see, a party-leader is just all that we need—and they are indeed all like a wolf-like a starving wolf; if he is to exist at all he needs so many small beasts a year.

the author's views are recorded in a speech made by him to a club of working men, in 1885, in which he declared that he would work with all his life and strength in the 25 cents. Subscription \$3 per anumn. social revolution which concerned the future of the workers and the women.

A Doll's House, now being played in the United States, is a social drama which deals with "the tragedy of marriage," while Ghosts is "the tragedy of heredity." It is a play which one is apt to finish with a shudder, so strong is the picture. The Pillars of Society, with its keen satire, will

probably be found of interest to all readers. How long the Ibsen fad may last is uncertain and unimportant. It will be at least the means of introducing the mature writer to many who are thinkers, and can appreciate the crystalized truths which are brought to them from the bleak regions of

Among the first of illustrated holiday books to reach Progress was Europe Illustrated from the well stocked store of Mr. Alfred Morrisey. Good descriptions of country scenes and buildings is always interesting to Canadians, especially when accompanied by good illustrations. Celebrated structures and scenes in each country of Europe are found in this illustrated edition. Among the most notable under France are the Chateau of Maison, New Opera House, Paris, and the Tower of Joan of Arc, Ronan. In Spain, the Rock of Gibralter, General View of the Alhambra and the Inquisition, Barcelona, are among the most interesting. The Palace in Berlin, the National Gallery and the Grand Ducal Castle, chain the reader's attention to Germany. The Lazaretto in Norway and the Coliseum arena, the Temple of Minerva and the Forum in Rome are not less interesting than the score of illustrations of well known places in old England. The letter press, while not exhaustive, is interesting and instructive. The book is handsomely bound and the average purchaser of holiday books will be surprised to learn that it is marked at \$1.50.

The Magazines. The Atlantic Monthly is so well known as a magazine of solid value that the mere announcement that it is out is quite sufficient to make a demand for each number as it appears. Depending on literary merit without pictorial attractions, and in the face of so much that trenches more or less upon its field it holds its own in the popular heart as of yore. Whatever is in it is worth reading. In the December number, everyone who knows anything of old-time Boston, and every intelligent man who has sojourned in the æsthetic city, ought to be included in the list, will be interested in Edwin Lassetter Bynner's article on "The Old Bunch of Grape's Tavern" around which cling so many historic memories. In addition to this very attractive beginning, Henry Van Brunt's paper on "Architecture in the West" tells about the new school of architecture which is arising to solve the problem of making art keep step with progress. All architects will read it with incollege, contributes a paper on "School It should be explained that Dr. Stock- Vacations," and William Cranston Lawton and "Pillar'd Arch and Sculptured Tower" -have the grace which distinguishes his The sixth volume of Scribner's closes

with its December number. The ending is worthy of a successful year. It is quite A little later he asserts that the leading safe to say that no magazine has in that period increased in popular favor more and electricity have attracted the attention of thoughtful people throughout the world. These admirable series are not yet finished, and will form a feature of the next volume. The article is fully illustrated, and loses none of its interest under the realistic pen Dr. Stockmann. Yes, you may be sure I will of Jacob A. Riis. "Contemporary Americame them! For this is the great discovery I made can Caricature" is the history of the successful illustrated humorous papers of the present day and their artists. To Thomas Nast and Harper's Weekly belong the credit of beginning the work which has Naturally there is great disturbance at been carried to such a popular and successful point. To the ridiculing pencil, the author claims, is due the downfall of Tweed and bossism in New York, and many of the very important reforms since that time. There can be no doubt that in many cases the clever artist is more effective than the ablest writer—one appeals to thousands, while the other reaches hundreds. It is easier and pleasanter to "take in" a ridiculous, but effective, cartoon on some timely topic than to read a labored editorial on the subject. American journalism knows little of the success which the timely and artistic treatment of the pencil must bring it, but the day cannot be far distant when "the deadly cartoon" will make its influence felt in the best of Dr. Stockmann. It is the party-leaders who must our newspapers. We have the subjects; -are artists and engravers. Scribner's fiction is always good. This month there It may be added that in Dr. Stockmann,
Ibsen is believed to have given a glimpse of himself and his experiences. Some of Dream." To be abreast of the best thought of the day it is essential that one

> Published monthly with illustrations by Charles Scribners Sons, New York. Price

should read Scribner's.

The Forum for December treats of a wide range of topics of live interest. As each is dealt with by some one who is well qualified to write on his particular subject, it may be certain that each is treated with ability and vigor. The list of contents is: "Divorce in the United States," by Edward J. Phelps, ex-minister to England; "Can the Race Problem be Solved?" by Prot. Henry A. Scomp, of Emery college, Georgia; "Religious Teachings in Schools," by Bishop B. J. McQuaid, of Rochester, N. Y.; "The Possibilities of Electricity," by Park Benjamin; "Do We Want Industrial Peace?" by Prof. William G. Sumner, of Yale; "Is Medicine a Science?" by Dr. George M. Gould, of Philadelphia; "Immigration and Crime," by William M. F. Round; "The Natural History of Norway. It will help in the great work of making others think. It will aid in what Ibsen says is the "only one thing that avails—to revolutionize people's minds."

Dogma," by Prof. Charles C. Everett, of Harvard; "Experiences with Spiritualism," by Rev. M. J. Savage; "The Farmers' by William A. Peffer, of Topeka, Kas. The Forum Publishing Company, 253 Fifth ave., New York. Price, 50 cents.

Mrs. Chandler, widow of the late Roll. In the Misses Backhouse, who have been visiting friends in Boston and New York for some length of time, returned home on Saturday.

Mrs. Phebe Chandler spent Sunday in Amherst, visiting friends, and returned Monday.

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS SEE FIFTH AND EIGHTH PAGES.]

SUSSEX.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Sussex by R. D. Boal and

Nov. 27.—A very pretty wedding took place on Monday afternoon in Trinity church between Mr. Frank M. Rowan, of the firm of McLellan & Rowan, of St. John, and Miss Mary H. Kay of this place. The bride was attired in a pretty travelling costume of brown, with white hat and feathers, and looked charming. Miss Mary Shaw, of St. John, acted as bridesmaid, and Mr. Charles Drury as groomsman. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Wm. Eaton. After the service the newly wedded pair left by the evening train for their home in St. John, amid a shower of rice. Miss Kay will be much missed in society circles here.

Miss Wright, of St. John, is visiting at Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Damel's. Mr. Joseph Higgins has moved bis family from his place to Bear River, N. S.

Mrs. March, of St. John, North End, was in this dlage on Monday.

A dancing assembly is to be held in Odd Fellows

hall every alternate Thursday, and the young folks are looking forward to enjoyable times. An event in which therr is no little interest centred will take place at the handsome residence of M. and Mrs. Geo. H. White this evening, when their daughter Laura will be united in marriage to r. John H. Morrison. I am glad to say Sussex

ill retain this young couple in its midst. Mr. G. R. Pugsley, of St. John, spent Sunday in Miss Mabel Shives, of St. John, has been spending a few days here, the guest of her uncle, Mr. Nelson

Mr. A. A. Stockton, of St. John, has been visiting his father, Mr. William A. Stockton. Mr. Peter Snider, of Moncton, spent Saturday Rev. Mr. Gray and bride have returned from their

wedding tour. Mr. R. Whiteside spent Sunday with his family Mr. W. .C Matthews, of Montreal, spent Sunday Mr. Walter Scovil is visiting his parents in this

Miss Schofield, of St. John, is here, the guest of Mrs. Medley.

Miss Dodge, of the W. U. T. office here, is visiting

Her place is filled by Mr. Fred Stevens, of St. John.

Mr. Sproule, of Campbellton, has moved his family into the house lately occupied by Mr. Jas. Titus.

Mr. Frank White, of St. John, is visiting at Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Culbert's. Mr. M. A. Ferguerson, of Martin's Head, was in Mr. Ernest Smith, of Port Elgin, has been spending a few days with his mother, at Sussex Corner. PATRICE.

HAMPTON.

[PROGRESS is for sale at Hampton station by T.G. Barnes, and Geo. E. Frost, and at Hampton village by Messrs. A. & W. Hicks.

Nov. 27 .- Sheriff Harding and Mrs. Harding, of St. John, spent Sunday at the village, the guests of Miss Maggie K. Barnes spent Wednesday and

Thursday of last week in the city, visiting friends.

Ex-Mayor Thorne, Mr. C. A. Everett and Mr. W.
C. Whittaker were among the visitors in town last Mr. E. G. Evans, manager of the St. Martins and Upham railway, who had been confined to his room at the Vendome for several days, is able to be at

Miss Kate R. Bartlett, of St. John, spent Saturday and Sunday here, visiting her sister.

Mr. A. H. Demill was in town on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Palmer paid Hampton a fly

ing visit on Saturday.
Mr. James Trueman spent a few days in the city last week, visiting Mrs. H. D. McLeod. The young ladies of Hampton are practicing for the concert to be given at the Agricultural hall, in the village, on Monday evening next. It will be the first of a series of musical and literary entertainments know as the "Hampton Sidewalk Lecture govers". The programme appraces nine lectures course." The programme embraces nine lectures, which will be given during the winter, alternately at the above mentioned place and Smith's hall at the station. The "Peake sisters" will be produced on

Monday evening.

Ald. Frederick Blackadar, of St. John, was among

Ald. Frederick Blackadar, of St. John, was among the visitors in town last week.

Miss Wedderburn, Miss Fannie Barnes and Miss Minnie Travis spent Monday in the city.

Mr. William R. Avery was in town on Monday.

Miss Minnie Hammond, who has been visiting relatives in the city for the past two weeks, went to Rothesay yesterday, to spend a few days with her friends there before returning home.

Miss Maggie K. Barnes left for the city today, in Miss Maggie K. Barnes left for the city today, in order to attend a large party to be given by one of the leading citizens of the North End, this evening.

SACKVILLE.

[Progress is for sale in Sackville at C. H. Moore's

Nov. 27.—The professors of Mount Allison college gave a reception Saturday evening in the Memorial hall. The president, Dr. Inch, and his wife received the guests, who consisted of all the students and teachers from both institutions, with a fair sprinkling of the residents of Sackvi.le. Promenading was the principal amusement in which nearly all participated he exception being chiefly small boys who sat in the seat of the scornful and made comments on the passers by. These, be it understood, were those who wanted to but couldn't. The college glee club sang several choruses in very hearty style, and one of their members, Mr. Anderson, gave a very accept-able cornet solo. There were no refreshments served, "the feast of reason and flow of soul" being considered sufficient. This was a matter of small amount to the villagers, but the hungry students, with the consciousness that the "pantry" corner of their trunks contained nothing more substantial than a fig of tobacco or a few lonely gum-drops,

would have liked it otherwise.

Mrs. Josiah Wood is spending a few days in St.

Miss Milner spent Saturday in Amherst. Mrs. Ernest Anderson has returned from her visit to St. John. The friends of Dr. P. R. Moore will be glad to hear that he is comfortably settled in Los Angeles, Cal. Although that city is swarming with M. D's., Dr. Moore has already commanded sufficient practice to warrant the purchase of a large house. The family are extremely pleased with their surroundings, but the doctor thinks their are no friends like old triends, and sighs for a confaburation with his old cronies.

Mrs. Siddall, wife of Frank Siddall, of Westcock, s so ill that little hope is entertained other recovery.

is so ill that little hope is entertained other recovery.

Mrs. Arthur Dixon still continues very ill.

Miss Smith, en roule for Boston, is staying a week
with her sister, Mrs. W. C. Milner.

Mr. Alfred Dixon, who left for the Northwest a
few weeks ago on account of his health, is now in
New Westminster, B. C. He is much pleased with
the place, and has some idea of settling there if the
worther suits him.

Mr. Herbert Archibald has returned from the U. S., and is to take charge of the C. P. R. telegraph Miss Scurr has returned from Dorchester, where he has been visiting friends.

Mrs. Cahill has returned from her visit to St.

Mr. Josiah Wood, M. P., Dr. Inch and Mr. Fred Ryan were in Moncton on Wednesday.

Miss O'Neil is visiting friends in town.

Mr. Fulton Macdougall went to Dorchester on

Friday.

Miss Mamie Bell has returned from St. John where she has been attending the art school.

Hon. D. L. Hanington and Mr. C. E. Knapp, of
Dorchester, were in town last week.

The many friends here of Mrs. Edward Chandler will here with regret that she lies dangerously ill at her home in Dorchester.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Parson and Mr. Herbert
Crosskill arrived safely in New York last Wednes

day.
California seems to be the fashionable resort of many of the Sackvillians this winter. The friends of Mrs. Mariner Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Trueman, and Mr. Albert Fawcett, will hear with pleasure of their safe arrival, last Tuesday.

MITTEN.

DORCHESTER.

[PROGRESS is for sale in Dorchester at George M, Fairweather's store.]

Nov. 27 .- The many friends of Dr. Teed, who has been so long ill, were pleased to see him out, for the first time, Monday morning.

Mr. William Cochran, who has been to New Yosk on business for some time, arrived home Friday.

Mr. W. J. Robinson, of Moneton, and Mr. A. W. Bennett, of Sackville, were in town on Thursday.

Mr. F. W. McDougall, of Sackville, spent Friday

in town, on business.

Mr. W. W. Wells went to Newcastle on Tuesday Mrs. Chandler, widow of the late Hon. E. B.

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> estry Carpets contains all the best makes, at all prices, from 30c. to 90c. per yard.

THAT you can buy at HAROLD GILBERT'S all Wool two-ply Carpeting at 75c. per yard, and the very best extra super. imported Wool Carpet at \$1.10 per yard.

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