

BOOK NEWS OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7.—Next Monday has been fixed for the issue by the J. B. Lippincott Co. of a sumptuous edition of "The Romance of Tristram and Iseult," translated from the French of Joseph Bedier by Florence Simmonds. This promises to be one of the most beautiful of the gift books of the season, the distinguishing characteristic of this edition being the thirty-two remarkable colored illustrations by Maurice Lalau. The book is printed on heavy paper, in large, clear type, and the plates are mounted on heavy grey paper, the effect of the drawings being thereby much enhanced.

Another exceptionally interesting publication of the coming week, from the same house, will be Miss Laura Clifford Barney's Persian drama, "God's Heroes," the setting of which will be only less interesting than the drama itself. Miss Barney, whose name is identified with the modern literature of Babism—that new religion which has attracted wide attention all over the world since the martyrdom of the Bab at Tabriz, Persia, in 1850—has taken this cult as the background and basis of her play. The characters are drawn from actual life, the central figure being Quratu'l Ain, the ardent disciple of the Prophet, and the Eastern Joan of Arc, who was killed while performing her stupendous work of social reform and the emancipation of her sex. The author humanizes her heroine and gives a living picture of a great personage who laid the foundations of a great movement. The book itself is an artistic production of great beauty, its Persian decorations and traceries being especially noteworthy.

The Lippincotts have brought out this week a fourth edition, revised and enlarged, of Prof. Henry Kreamer's standard "Text-Book of Botany and Pharmacognosy," and next week will publish two more volumes of their Wonder Library, "The Wonders of the Insect World," by Edmund Selous, and "The Wonders of the Modern Railway," by Archibald Williams; "Mars via the Moon," a story by Mark Wicks, in which much serious scientific information is conveyed in a popular way to young readers; "Heroes of Elizabethan England," tales with a true historical flavor, by the Rev. Edward Gilliat; "Missionary Heroes in Oceania," stories based upon actual adventures in the Fiji and other islands of the South Seas, told by John C. Lambert; "Sarah's School Friend," a new tale for girls by May Baldwin; "Coo-ee!" another story of peril and adventure in the South Seas, by Robert Leighton; and finally, "Strong-Hand Saxon," a tale of an English boy's adventures in Canada, by Christopher Beck.

A SOLDIERS' HOME

A VERY pleasing picture is presented by E. L. Cobb in his "Optic Views and Impressions of the National Soldiers' Home, D. V. S., Virginia." The author, a veteran of the Civil War, is one of several hundred disabled volunteer soldiers who are spending their declining years at the home. His descriptions and the photographic illustrations that go with it show that the old heroes are well cared for, and pass their days in comfort and happiness.

STORIES FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

A NUMBER of well-written stories designed primarily for the instruction of young Catholics are contained in Cathryn Wallace's "One Christmas Eve at Roxbury Crossing, and Other Christmas Tales." (Frederick Pustel & Co., 75 cts.) The author aims especially to interest her readers in the "Virgin-Mother" and her immaculate conception.

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