

V. MISCELLANEOUS.

How to Dress a Doll.

By Mary Morgan. Henry Altemus Co., Philadelphia. 1908. Price, 50 cents.

There is not much theology in this book, but it is good theology to brighten a child's life as this little book will do.

ELLA B. ROBERTSON.

Five Months on a Derelict.

By Edwin J. Houston. Griffith & Rowland Press, Philadelphia.

A very good story of the sea with sailors' yarns and much interesting information concerning derelicts, ocean currents and winds. It will specially interest and instruct boys.

W. J. M.

The Nun (*L'Iolee*)

Fourth Edition. \$1.00 net cloth.

Redemption (*De Fonte Son Ame*).

From the French of René Bazin. \$1.25 net. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1908.

Much is being said now about the function of the modern novel. Well, the important thought to keep in mind is that, while as a literary form fiction is steadily moving forward toward a goal that at present is still too remote to be more than dimly seen, there is no need to trouble ourselves greatly about either its theoretical or actual function. The thing to do is to judge each separate novel on its own merits. If it is written solely to amuse and worthily fulfils its purpose, then it is a good book after its kind. If it is what Mr. Marion Crawford calls "that odious thing, a purpose novel", and also accomplishes its mission—in a triumphant way—then it also is a good book, after its kind.

These books of René Bazin are distinctly "purpose novels". *The Nun* (*L'Isolea*), now in its fourth edition, is said to have been the most-talked-of novel in France; and now *Redemption* (*De Fonte Son Ame*) takes its place along side of it for popularity. Both are sincerely pro-Catholic. *The Nun* sets forth the tragedy, the pathos and the injustice (from the Catholic point of view) of the workings of the new law of the Separation of Church and State in France. *Redemption* is the delineation