Review

Author(s): E. Mackenzie

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Sualtam, Cuchullin's reputed father, was not exactly 'a famous warrior.' The *Táin* is very explicit on that point: 'ór is amlaid ra bóí Sualtam acht nír bo drochlaech é 7 nír do deglaech, acht muadóclach maith ata-caemna-cair' (thus was it with Sualtam: he was neither bad warrior nor good warrior, but a good worthy man was he). Professor Ridgeway repeatedly calls the *Táin* a poem (I have also seen it described as a favourite milking-song). It is a prose tale interspersed with lays. W. J. WATSON.

The Feill Books. Glasgow: Archibald Sinclair.

A brave show they make, different and yet alike—different in colour, shape, and contents, yet in each the essential Celtic touch.

First comes the Cookery Book. As a Cookery Book, nothing could be better nor more comprehensive, and the Gaelic recipes—not to mention Athole Brose—give the necessary old-world flavour. If, however, the *Comunn* were to issue a penny book with simple recipes for the appetising use of vegetables, sea-ware, and shell-fish, also herb-tea such as Betony, we feel sure it would meet with a ready sale. 1s. net.

The *Fairy Tales* contains three tales, reprinted from other sources, it is true, but here they are illustrated beautifully by two gifted ladies, and a literal translation is given on the facing page. The orthography of the first two tales is very correct, and that and the translation will recommend this book as suitable for a Gaelic reading-book so much needed. 2s. net.

The *Celtic Ornament Book* contains some exquisite designs. No doubt the adjudicators had excellent reasons for awarding the first prize; but to us that winning second place, with a different design on either side, seems to recall the Book of Kells in its truly Celtic tracery—almost elusive in delicacy of treatment. 1s. net.

The *Pedlar's Pack*—'Am Bolg Solair'—is a veritable budget. Dr. Magnus Maclean speaks some needed words of wisdom in the 'Gaelic Outlook' and Mr. Maclean Watt's 'Inishail' alone would make it a memorable volume. The illustrations, especially Hugh Cameron's 'Study,' are interesting, and the Pictish sketch quaint. It might have been a little more representative of Scottish Celtic writers, and have only one article from each. 3s. net.

Last, but not least, comes the *Sop as Gach Seid*. The epigram on the front page, 'Man's selection from books composes his selection from life,' we hold in the main to be true. Many and various are the lives here portrayed: from the injunction neither to 'Hurry nor worry' to 'Cha'n eil ceò an tigh na h-uisge,' and from 'Mairidh gaol 'us ceol' to 'O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us' are far cries indeed! Those who are fortunate enough to possess all five books have a Celtic library in miniature.

E. MACKENZIE.

The Irish Æneid. Edited and translated by the Rev. GEORGE CALDER, M.A., B.D. Irish Texts Society, vol. vi. David Nutt. 1907. 10s.

The *Imtheachta Æniasa*, from the sole copy in the Book of Ballymote, is here edited for the first time, with the exception of one episode previously