

**In the Heart of a Fool.** By William Allen White, Author of "In Our Form", "A Certain Rich Man", "The Martial Adventures of Henry and Me", etc. New York, 1918, The Macmillan Co. 615 pp. \$1.60.

Our "Middle West" is at once the most progressive, free and representative section of the United States. From 1865 to 1915 the spirit of America in this section passed through the various stages of childhood, adolescence and maturing self-discovery and realization. Mr. White has wonderfully portrayed this experience of a national spirit in a richly dramatic group of characters. Here we see the follies and the ideals, the weaknesses and the sins, conscious and unconscious, the personal and the social generousities and the injustices of America. The rising social consciousness is outlined and interpreted with unusual force and clarity. The many phases of our life are made very real. Politics, commerce, social ambition, religion, vice and virtue all appear and stand before a judgment seat. The theme of the book is the shallowness and futility of seeking to build a life, of man or people, out of material things and the essential worth of the spiritual. The wealth of material which Mr. White has wrought into this story is nothing short of marvelous. It stands easily among the foremost novels one has ever read.

W. O. CARVER.

**After Death—A Personal Narrative.** New and Enlarged Edition of "Letters from Julia". By Amanuensis W. T. Stead. New York, George H. Doran Company. xl-|-204 pp. \$1.25.

There is something very compelling of sympathy in the extensive efforts of eminently honorable men and women of our time toward establishing definite and certain communication between this world of ours and that world into which the spirits of men go when they quit these human bodies. "Psychic phenomena" are now very numerous and many volumes record them.

Of the entire sincerity and high ideals of W. T. Stead there has never been any question among good people who know men. He saw very clearly the dangers of spirit communications—the danger of deception, the danger of wrong use of such communications if they were real. Yet he believed with absolute conviction that he received such communications. Some of them are set down in the two series of "letters" which "Julia" wrote using his hand but with no voluntary direction on his part. The letters are of a very high order ethically and religiously and for the most part are such as any intelligent Christian might well believe a spirit in the presence of God might send to friends here if permitted to do so.