BOSTON NOTES.

The Consolidation of Lothrop Company and Lee & Shepard—Some New Books—Juveniles.

THE consolidation of the houses of Lee & Shepard and the Lothrop Company has been expected ever since the company chose Mr. W. F. Gregory, the manager of the firm, as it assignee, but the announcement that the two are to be incorporated as the Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company causes mild surprise in the trade. For a time at least both of the present imprints will be retained, and, as far as outsiders are concerned, the two houses will be distinct until January, 1905, but in November the new company will establish itself in large offices in Federal Street, half way between the present offices of its constituent parts. Mr. Hoyt, who was one of Mr. Lothrop's most efficient assistants, and has been manager, but not President, of the Lothrop Company, will remain in charge of its publications; Mr. Gregory will be Treasurer and General Manager of the new corporation. No unnecessary changes will be made anywhere. United, the two lists are very strong in children's books, and if the number of its novels be small, its proportion of uniformly successful names is large, and might be much larger if the company had chosen to accept a small fraction of the manuscripts offered to it after the success of "Eben Holden."

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Messrs. Lee & Shepard are bringing out Mr. Edward Stratemeyer's "Boy's Life of Theodore Roosevelt" this week, and a most enthusiastic little book it is, with a preface as glowing as the text. Like the author's "Boy's Life of William McKinley," it is much better than his stories.

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With this book comes "The Boy Courier of Napoleon," by Mr. W. C. Sprague, the editor of "The American Boy." It is chiefly valuable for its glimpse of the negro in authority as seen in San Domingo, and for its plain account of the early history of Louisiana. The author's premature bestowal of the style and titles of the Emperor upon the First Consul must confuse young readers, and his account of Hohenlinden is more picturesque than accurate, although he is to be commended for introducing boys to Richepanse, forgotten in the school histories.

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Somewhere in her incomparably discreet autobiography Mrs. Herbert D. Ward says that she does not look at what is written in regard to her books, unless it is recommended to her attention by some one whom she can trust, and it is probable, therefore, that she has only a very general knowledge of the persistency with which journalists and booksellers misjudged "Loveliness," classifying it as a child's book, and then condemning it as unfit for the reading of the immature. Still, if she had known of this misunderstanding, she could not have been more sagacious in so constructing her coming novel, "Trixy," that not even the Christmas saleswoman can mistake it for nursery literature.

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"Yours with All My Heart," by Mrs. Esther M. Baxendale, issued by Messrs. L. C. Page & Co., although its pictures and binding make it a suitable gift for any dog lover, suffers from its author's entire lack of humor. Even a human being's autobiography cannot very safely be carried to the point of his last sigh, and to make a dead dog write "I folded my meek little forepaws over my snow-white breast" is to blur the impression left by the pleasant story of "Fairy's" thirteen loving years.

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Mrs. Ward was so very young when she began writing of "Gypsy Breynton" and "Gypsy's Cousin Joyce" that one thinks of "Faith Gartney's Girlhood," published forty-one years ago, as the work of one of her juniors, but in reality Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney is her senior by a score of years, and completes her own fourth score this month. She has twenty-seven books on the list of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., chiefly novels, but she has also published five volumes of poetry; "Just How," a cook book, and at the same time, a key to cook books; an interesting little volume of Scriptural exegesis, and a book on Christian Science, covering the whole question. The heroine of her new book, "Biddy's Episodes," is neither Bedelia nor Bridget, but Belinda, and the eccentricities of which she is guilty before she settles into the right groove are of the "Belinda" order, those of a girl whose efforts to break away from established tradition indicate superfluous strength, not viciousness.

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"Bits of Gossip," by Rebecca Harding Davis, is announced by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Wife of a journalist, mother of a novelist, and herself a novelist, journalist, and magazine writer, Mrs. Davis has nearly all her life been in touch with the literary and political life of more than one large city, and is almost equally well acquainted with Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Washington, and her gossip touches abolitionist and actor, poet, philosopher, soldier, scarcely omitting a name in all the long roll. Like Mrs. Whitney, she did not attain to success until she was of mature years, for she was born in 1831.

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"Where Does the Sky Begin?" the volume of discourses by the Rev. Washington Gladden, to be published by this house this month, is entirely religious in its scope, although, in accordance with the doubt suggested by its title, any of his ethical essays might almost be classed as religious, but in these papers the aim is to bring religion into the daily living, thinking, and wishing.

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Dean Briggs's "Routine and Ideals," to come next month, will be composed of seven essays, the most important among those written since 1901. The Phi Beta Kappa poem of 1903, a tribute to Harvard, "Mater Fortissima," will accompany the essays. The Emerson address, delivered at Concord for the school children; the Wellesley "Commencement Address," a paper on "The Mistakes of College Life," first read at the Belmont School, and an article on "Routine and Ideals," as related in college life, are chief among the articles in the book.

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This year Dr. William Everett's "Thine, Not Mine," Miss Edith Robinson's "The Captain of the School," Miss A. G. Plympton's "Wanolasset," Mrs. Lucy M. Thruston's "Jack and His Island," and Miss Evelyn Raymond's "The Mushroom Cave" are chosen by Messrs. Little & Brown for places in their low-priced series, "The Boys' and Girls' Bookshelf," and it is noteworthy that all five are more serious than the average book written for children, and yet they have been more successful than those meant merely to please. This ought to console those rendered despondent by the frivolity of the schools, and so should the new illustrated editions of Dr. Edward Everett Hale's "Stories of Discovery Told by Discoverers" and "Stories of Adventure Told by Adventurers."

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Illustrated editions of Miss Alcott's stories "Eight Cousins" and "Rose in Bloom" will appear this Winter, and each is to have eight full-page pictures by Miss Harriet Roosevelt Richards.

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Mrs. Eliot, otherwise Maud Howe, has collected her magazine sketches of Rome and other places in Italy, and they are to be published in a volume entitled "Roma Beata," and illustrated by photographs. Many of the papers are taken with but slight alteration from diaries and journals, and, although undeniably superficial, are so frank and spontaneous as to convey a much stronger impression than is derived from many a work more carefully prepared.

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Mr. Arthur Morrison's "The Green Diamond," published this week by Messrs. L. C. Page & Co., is a complete story, and yet it leaves any clear-sighted reader as uncertain as any of the classical unsolved enigmas, for the lost diamond is not found and the chances for finding it are almost as good at the end as in the beginning, and yet one has had some excellent adventures, grave and humorous.

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A new series agreeable to all readers of criticism is announced by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., but as yet has no distinctive name. It will be edited by Prof. W. A. Neilson of Columbia, and will be composed of monographs, dealing with the growth of one species of literature. Prof. F. B. Gummere of Haverford College, Penn., author of the "Handbook of Poetics," will discuss "The Ballad." "The Novel" will be written by Dr. Bliss Perry, who has been forestalled by Mr. Crawford; "The Lyric," by Prof. F. E. Schelling of the University of Pennsylvania; "Tragedy," by Prof. Thorndakes of the Northwestern University; "The Essay," by Mr. Ferris Greenslet of The Atlantic staff; "The Pastoral," by Prof. J. B. Fletcher of Columbia; "Character Writing," by Mr. C. N. Greenough of Harvard; "Legends," by Dr. G. H. Gerould of Bryn Mawr; "Literary Criticism," by Prof. Irving Babbitt, who will come after not only Matthew Arnold, but many minor lights of the art; "The Short Story," by Prof. W. M. Hart of the University of California, and "Allegory," by the general editor of the series. As instructors of youth at the age addicted to literary production, all of the authors but one have had opportunities to study their subject in the individual, and are qualified to make some original deductions as to its development in the race, in addition to formulating the results of their general studies, but all the books will be provided with a bibliography, so that each will be a complete guide to the study of its subject and convenient for reference.

STEPHENSON BROWNE.

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