

BOOKS OF THE YEAR

Reviewed by Our Literary Critic, "SQUIFF."

GREYFRIARS continues to hold the reputation of being the most literary school in England. The Head still writes critical essays on Sophocles and other classical johnnies; Mr. Quelch still accumulates data for his monumental "History of Greyfriars"; and Dick Nugent—— But you are all too familiar with his thrilling yarns to need my comments on them!

I have been asked to review the most

recent works of the lesser-known literary lights of the school. Not one of the works in question has been published yet, but the budding authors responsible for them are full of hope.

How to Develop a Graceful Figger.

By W. G. Bunter.

The author of this remarkable pamphlet has some startling and original suggestions to make regarding "figger" development. He pours scorn on the food faddists who advocate a fruit diet as an aid to a beautiful "figger."

"Eat plenty of pork-pies, sosidge-rolls, doe-nuts, and plumcake, and drink plenty of jinjerpop," he remarks. "Then you'll get a graceful figger—like me."

The pamphlet concludes on a somewhat sad note. It seems that, having acquired a graceful "figger," one has to put up with a terrible amount of "jellusy" from the skinny beasts in the same Form. The spelling is somewhat peculiar in places, and we conclude that the author is a member of the Simplified Spelling Society.

How to Run a Public School.

By Horace Coker (Fifth Form).

This illuminating book explains precisely how a public school should be run. Mr. Coker, in his own inimitable style, gives some pointed advice to headmasters, masters, prefects, and common



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or garden schoolboys. Book I. is devoted to "The Dewties of a Master," Book II. deals with "Prefects and their Privileges," and Book III. winds up the programme with "The Treatment of Faggs." Mr. Coker enlarges a great deal on the advantages of having in the Fifth Form of every public school a fine all-round scholar and athlete, who can be the pivot around which the school activities revolve.

This super-schoolboy should be a champion cricketer, footballer, boxer, swimmer, and gymnast, and should possess, in addition, an attractive personality and sterling character. To have made his meaning quite clear, the author should have explained that his super-schoolboy should also wear size ten in boots, have a face like a squashed dough-nut, and possess the name of Coker—then everybody would have understood what he was really getting at!

Big Game Hunting in the Rockies.

By Paul Prout, M.A.

To be quite frank, this massive work bored us to tears. Mr. Prout may have been successful with the big game, but we're afraid he'll never be successful with the writing game! We are even left with a doubt about his success in the realm of hunting. The nearest approach we get to a thrill occurs in the following passage:

"The great grizzly-bear was upon me. I fired—and missed! I felt the savage brute's hot breath on me, and I thought that my last moment had come. To my surprise, however, the monster did not tear me limb from limb. He merely put his great paw in my pocket and abstracted therefrom a bag of currant-buns, which he began to munch with evident relish. It turned out that he had only just escaped from a zoo."

Mr. Prout's book is certainly a disappointment. However, we must grin and bear it, so to speak!

The Esteemed Grammarfulness of the August English Language.

By Hurree Singh.

We are reluctant to offer any criticism on this startling new volume on the English

language. The book is divided into two sections—"The Esteemed Spellfulness" and "The Correctful Construction of a Ridiculous Sentence." The style of the work may be judged by the following extracts:

"A noun is the wordful description of that which contains somethingfulness, e.g., stitch-in-timefulness, or anxiousnessfulness.

"Active verbs are words denoting esteemed and august activity, e.g., to career runfully, to leap jumpfully, or to chuckle laughfully."

Might we suggest that the book be dedicated to the esteemed and ludicrous Moonshoe at whose feet Inky imbibed the knowledgefulness that enabled him to compose writefully this august and terrific volume!

The Life of a Fly.

By Alonzo Theophilus Todd.

This bulky tome of six hundred pages has taken the author three years to write; it has taken his reviewers exactly three minutes to scan, using the word in its modern sense. For sheer boredom we strongly recommend this book, which deals, with uncommon sympathy, with the life of a fly from the time it spots a tasty bit of jam or a succulent knob of sugar to the time it settles on a harmless mortal's nose, and eventually gets "swatted." The author is convinced that the fly is very badly done by. He urges mankind to suffer the fly gladly—to make a real pal of the beastly thing, in fact. (There are still many lunatics outside asylums.) Sprinkled throughout this volume are pathetic little verses, of which the following is an example:

"Oh, little fly that homeward wends its way,
Weary and worn at close of summer's day;

We wonder what the morrow holds in store.

Will you escape the fate you did before,
Or will some brutal mortal lift his knife
And ruthlessly destroy your simple life?"

'Sawful, isn't it? Space does not permit of our dwelling any longer on the merits—if any—of this charming work, but we honestly think it should share the same fate as the fly that got "swatted."