

tail is omitted—but in the sense that it is a fully rounded account of the battle, written in the light of all the vast amount of material that has accumulated. It is, moreover, beautifully printed and illustrated.

THE FUGGER NEWS-LETTERS, 1568-1605. Second Series. Edited by Victor von Klarwill. Translated by L. S. R. Byrne. Late Modern Language Master at Eton College. With 46 illustrations. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

Among the richest treasures of the Vienna State Library are the collection of Philip Edward Fugger, Count of the Holy Roman Empire and citizen of Augsburg, who died in 1618, and the even more valuable Fugger News-Letters, which are contemporary reports of political and commercial events between 1568 and 1605 sent to him by the Count's agents from Europe.

For generations the Fugger family were merchant princes who were also financiers, money-lenders to popes and kings, exploiters of mines and manufactories. Consequently they were as vitally interested in the turn of the political wheel as any international banker of to-day. This selection comprises only items especially referring to Queen Elizabeth and matters relating to England, a small fraction of the entire mass which yet fills 350 pages. Few of the reports in this series emanate from London, a great many from Antwerp, Cologne, Prague, Middelburg, Venice, Rome, and even Constantinople. The general impression is of unceasing warfare and of bitter commercial competition, in which Elizabeth appears as the sturdy protagonist of British trade expansion. Her statecraft and dominance of English policy are tacitly implied by these correspondents, whose sincerity is the more to be believed because they are frequently hostile witnesses.

Whaling

PURSUING THE WHALE: A QUARTER-CENTURY OF WHALING IN THE ARCTIC. By John A. Cook. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$4.

When Melville wrote his epic of Moby Dick, New Bedford, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Provincetown, Sag Harbor, were sending whaling fleets into the seven seas and the United States was the greatest maritime nation. The first chop of deep-sea sailors were the Yankee whale men, who thought nothing of three-year cruises in the uncharted Pacific, venturing even into the Arctic Circle. The fifties saw a decline, or rather, a deflection of the pioneer spirit which propelled commercial enterprise and missionaries into the Orient and opened up Japan to Western civilization. Young men discovered a continent at home—gold in California, rich farm lands in the West. The Civil War dealt the *coup de grâce* to our commercial supremacy, but the price of oil and whalebone for a generation to come made whaling a profitable venture.

When Captain John Cook, a Cape man of Provincetown, descendant of a long line of seafarers, embarked on his first cruise, the surrender at Appomattox was three years past. From this youthful début (he was eleven) until 1916 he was almost continuously at sea. Written in the simple, direct manner of one whose life has been a constant struggle with the elements, this book records the ways of the last of the whalers, but chiefly of those who sought bowheads in the frigid waters of Bering Sea, Point Barrow, and the MacKenzie River region. Once, off the West African coast, out of a sperm whale he took a hundred and fifty pounds of ambergris—a rich haul. The great interest of the narrative is in the way in which men deprived of most of the tools of civilization are able to cope with the implacable forces of nature. Kipling did not tell the whole story of life north of 53°. At Herschel Island, in the Arctic, where the whaling fleet wintered, there were natural deaths, a child was born, the crews and officers played baseball. They gave theatrical perform-

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ances. With the thermometer at 26° below, the captains' wives coasted for sport, gave Leap Year and New Year parties. Major surgical operations were performed by ship captains. But the hazards were not all of nature, for there were mutineers to put in irons, deserters escaped in foreign ports to apprehend by strong-arm methods. Without making any pretension to literary merit, this book will yet prove interesting reading to those who love the sea and ships.

Travel

A STUDENT IN SICILY. By Mrs. Nevill Jackson. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$4.

Mrs. Jackson writes in rather scattered order, but with great enthusiasm, an account of observations and antiquities in the favored island of Sicily, containing as it does Mount Etna and Taormina, the most beautiful place in the world. The favored island has had the best that all but modern civilization could give it, and remains a storehouse of ancient art.

ON THE MANDARIN ROAD. By Roland Dorgelès. The Century Company, New York. \$3.

Roland Dorgelès is more interested in the living present of the peoples of Indo-China than in their thousand-year-old past. Intoxicated by the splendor of the twelfth-century Brahmanic temple at Angkor Wat or the faded beauty of cities such as Hué, his interest is keener in the active dazzling city of Cholon or in the lives of some primitive race like the Mnongs, who pray to their gods for protection from sickness and work.

The book is written in a speculative vein of philosophical humor, and from a viewpoint typically French. A village where the inhabitants are "washing rice, clothes, buffaloes, everything that is washable in the community pond;" the curious ceremony at the start of an elephant hunt; the antics of a native first-night movie audience at Ban Methuot—these things are in amusing contrast to the pitiful spectacle of the leper colony at Kienluang, the lonely home of some pioneer colonial rubber planter, and the wistful pictures of little painted girls singing for piasters. Equally fascinating are the author's descriptions and anecdotes of this little-known country, where the era of the steam-engine is fast superseding that of the palanquin.

HOMES OF FAMOUS AMERICANS. By Chesla C. Sherlock. Vol. I. The Meredith Publications, Des Moines, Iowa.

A firm believer in the influence of environment on our lives, Mr. Sherlock has been confirmed in his opinion by his visits to the homes of great men. The houses in which they lived accurately expressed their characters. Certainly such dignified, four-square houses as Elmwood and Craigie House do no injustice to the memory of Lowell and Longfellow; Monticello was Jefferson's own creation; and no one should be surprised to learn that of the six or seven people claiming title to Benedict Arnold's somewhat rococo Philadelphia mansion, Mount Pleasant, every one has come to an untimely end. Other equally revealing erections are General Grant's Hardscrabble, and Beauvoir, the home of Jefferson Davis.

Evidently not all the good-looking books are manufactured east of the Hudson. The binding of this book is a trifle unfortunate, but the interior is most attractive. The text does well what it sets out to do, none the worse for an unobtrusive strain of didacticism.

Philosophy

THE MEANING OF PSYCHOLOGY. By C. K. Ogden, Magdalene College, Cambridge, Editor of "Psyche." Harper & Brothers, New York. \$3.

Ten years have passed since the reviewer dropped his "Angell and Lickley." Since then waves of Trotter, Coué, Freud, Ber-

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