

## Announcement

For some time back the House of Putnam has devoted much attention to beautiful books on Travel, Natural History and Science. The rule has been to secure writers of authority and importance and bring out their works in editions notable for the quality of bindings, format and illustrations. Each book is worthy of preservation upon the shelves of the home library, to be taken down and read again and again. Each book is a gateway into a glamorous world, an escape from the dust and heat of every-day city life.

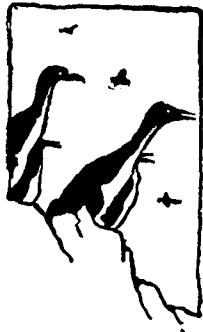
Among the books of this sort which bear the Putnam imprint are THE OUTLINE OF SCIENCE, THE WONDERS OF THE PAST and THE WORLD OF TODAY, each in four volumes, beautifully illustrated. Then there is William Beebe's famous GALAPAGOS: WORLD'S END, with its beautiful prose, its elevated philosophy and its wealth of detail. Rockwell Kent has contributed two of the most beautiful books in the series—WILDERNESS and VOYAGING, books of rare distinction illustrated by the author himself. Each publishing season brings a new contribution to the list.



The latest volume of this category is BIRD ISLANDS OF PERU by Robert Cushman Murphy, member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History and one of the foremost scientists of these times.

BIRD ISLANDS OF PERU is the record of scientific discovery and adventures in the barren islands and along the sea coast of western South America. And it is more than this because Mr. Murphy, like Mr. Beebe, is interested in all the universe as well as in a small corner of it. He has written several fascinating chapters on the records and archaeological discoveries concerning the primitive peoples who inhabited the western parts of South America in the days before the coming of Pizarro.

The bird-smothered islands are, of course, the source of one of the world's greatest industries—the production and transportation of guano. Flights of birds which darken the face of the sun have left deposits on these islands which bring life and fertility to worn-out acres in all parts of the world.



The Humboldt current and the life which is carried on in its bosom are also dealt with in detail by the brilliant pen of the scientist.

Aside from these things, the book is notable for its beautiful binding and the great number of fine illustrations. It is large octavo in size and sells for five dollars.

While discussing books of travel it is well not to overlook FAR HARBORS and THE MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE, two books of unusual interest to globe trotters. Both are well illustrated and lack the obnoxious features of guide books.

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## The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

### Belles Lettres

A HUDSON ANTHOLOGY. Arranged by EDWARD GARNETT. Dutton. 1924. \$3.

A sampler, in the tobacco or confectionery sense; a well-directed dipping into Hudson. Its object is "to open peoples' eyes and whet their appetites." It may be a question how many people with suitable eyes and appetites are likelier to find him in this than in the ordinary way. The selections are good. The arrangement is, within classes, chronological, except that "Far Away and Long Ago" is wisely displaced to the beginning. The representation of the fiction comes at the end, and that seems less wise, especially as the preceding division, representing the "English nature and bird books," makes up almost half the bulk of the anthology; those, to a general public, are Hudson's less enticing works; they are for lovers of a sort of greatly magnified John Burroughs. They all contain wonderful passages, but some of them are so uneven that such passages as samples do them more than justice.

LITERARY GENIUS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. By P. C. Sands. Oxford. \$1.50.

POP GOES THE WEASEL. By T. W. H. Crosland. London: Fortune & Merriman.

THE MEN WHO MAKE OUR NOVELS. By Charles C. Baldwin. Third Edition. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

CHARLES DICKENS. By George Gissing. Dodd, Mead. \$3.

### Fiction

BLUE TIGER. By HARRY R. CALDWELL. Abingdon Press. 1924. \$2.50.

Mr. Caldwell, born and raised in the Tennessee mountains, is or till recently was a missionary in Fukien province, China, which is infested with man-eating tigers and overrun with warring hordes of bandits and soldiery. He has had the riskiest sorts of personal dealings with them both. Yet in spite of his simplicity and modesty, which leave it to readers to realize how much of a man and even how much of a game shot is addressing them, he himself shows through as the most interesting thing he writes about.

He appears to have gone to the heathen in youth with a touch of the consuming and sometimes fanatical religiousness that is common in the region of his birth. His idea was to bring souls to Christ with all his might and do nothing else. A year of such endeavor broke him down. Then a sensible bishop advised him to resume his boyhood hobbies, hunting and natural history. The results were that the intense young Tennessean became human, that his prowess with his rifle made his missionary labors as effective as he had dreamed, and that his holidays yielded a rich by-product of service to zoology.

We hear a good deal about "he men." This is one. As an author he is warmly introduced by Roy Chapman Andrews.

THE ENCHANTED WANDERER. By NICOLAI LYESKOV. Translated by A. G. PASCHKOFF. Edited with an Introduction by MAXIM GORKY. McBride. 1924. \$2.50.

One needs no great powers of penetration to be aware that the translated version of "The Enchanted Wanderer," by Nicolai Lyeskov, represents little more than the wreck of what was presumably an outstanding bit of literature. It is with the brightest expectations that one first delves into the pages of this book, for one cannot but credit Maxim Gorky's introductory remark that, "As a literary artist, Lyeskov is assuredly worthy of being placed on a level with such masters of Russian literature as Tolstoy, Gogol, Turgeniev, and Goncharov." Subsequently, Gorky speaks of the "beauty and power" of Lyeskov's talent, of "the large way in which he handled life," of "his profound understanding of the common riddles," and of "his subtle knowledge of Russian speech;" and, indeed, one finds evidence of all these qualities except the last; but always they seem somewhat dimmed and attenuated, always they are seen as through a haze dully, always they strike one as the indication of attainment rather than as the embodiment of that attainment itself. One finds it impossible to believe that the style of the original was not more spirited, powerful, and graceful than that of the translation; one can

hardly imagine that Lyeskov himself could have perpetrated sentences such as the following, which is only typical: "Having settled in my mind to play with the lancer, I began to think of the best way of getting a rise out of him and making him go for me."

But despite all the losses of translation, the book retains a certain narrative fascination as well as the charm of its highly exotic setting. The story itself concerns a man doomed to wander for years and to "perish" many times as the penalty for having unintentionally slain an old monk; and in the unfolding of the picaresque plot we obtain many a valuable insight into the workings of the Russian mind, into its weird superstitions, its odd imaginings, its kindness and its trickery, its child-like simplicity and its calculating shrewdness. One would hardly call the tale realistic, since it is not without elements of the eerie and the supernatural; yet it provides one with a realistic insight into the life of the Russian peasant, and even through a maze of fantastic events one may divine something of customs and habits of thought as remote from our own as are those of King Arthur or of Beowulf.

THE HOUNDED MAN. By Francis Carco. Seltzer. \$2.

AT THE SIGN OF THE SILVER SHIP. By Stanley Hart Cauffman. Penn.

THE BEST SHORT STORIES OF 1924 AND THE YEARBOOK OF THE AMERICAN SHORT STORY. Edited by Edward J. O'Brien. Small, Maynard.

THE RED LACQUER CASE. By Patricia Wentworth. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

THE THUNDERING HERD. By Zane Grey. Harpers. \$2.

### Juvenile

RECITATIONS OLD AND NEW FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. By GRACE GAIGE. Appleton. 1924. \$3.

"Audiences," as Christopher Morley says in his delightfully keen foreword to this attractive collection, "don't want to be improved, they want to be amused, or thrilled, or frightened." This is a book to help all those who have anything to do with Recitation Days, whether they sit in front or stand with shaking knees behind the footlights. Of course all the old favorites are to be found here from "Marco Bozzaris" to "I Love Little Pussy" and "Jest 'Fore Christmas." There has been an effort to classify them under such appropriate headings as: "Patriotism," "Flowers and Seasons"; "Humor," etc., but the section labeled "Miscellaneous" is by far the most appealing. Here one may find Shelley's "Invitation" between Longfellow's "Village Blacksmith" and Thackeray's "Cane Bottomed Chair," or Keat's "Endymion" with "Hiawatha" for a next door neighbor, which is thoroughly in keeping with Recitation Day programs and only goes to prove Mr. Morley's point.

AMERICAN HISTORY STORIES. For Very Young Readers. By EVA MARCH TAPPAN. Houghton, Mifflin. 1924. \$1.75.

STORIES OF PEOPLE WORTH WHILE. By KITTY PARSONS. Revell. 1924. \$1.25.

These two books, similar in size and make-up except that only the first is illustrated, differ both in the angle from which they are written and the age for which they are designed. Miss Tappan's collection of little historical stories is for young children, another in her long list of similar instructive books; it is drawn entirely from American history and is cast distinctly in story form—successfully so except that some of the separate units are almost too brief. The subjects are good, however, especially in several of the more modern ones; for example, the histories of the three patriotic hymns.

In "Stories of People Worth While," Miss Parsons has chosen, as she herself says, "people who have done great things rather than people who are widely famous," and this is an interesting point of departure. She writes supposedly for children "from eight upwards," but I should add two or three years to this for she uses a true biographical mould rather than the story form of our other volume, and even with much simplification both in language and in selection of incidents this involves a good deal of "was born at—studied at—was married to—"

(Continued on next page)

## Dutton's

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(Continued from preceding page)

etc., to which a young child pays little or no attention. In some chapters there is enough dramatic material to carry this too-concise information, but not always; the book is in this way rather uneven. Most of the selection of topics, however, is excellent, especially so in several cases, and the narratives are interesting.

One comment applies to both these books. It is difficult in such collections of unconnected stories or events to secure in the child's mind any orientation of the person or happening in relation to a given country or a given period in history; in other words, to place the story in a background. It is probably impossible to do this completely in small compass, but to keep the attempt in mind, would, I think, be of advantage to both these authors—and to many others. The chronological and geographical confusion in children's minds, in regard to stories familiar and complete in themselves would amaze many a grown-up if fully realized.

**Miscellaneous****A KNIGHT'S LIFE IN THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY.** By WALTER CLIFFORD MELLER. New York: Greenberg. 1924. \$8.This is an exhaustive work limited to 250 copies, put forth by a new publisher who is swiftly making a name for himself through the production of books of unusual value in *belles lettres*. Dr. Meller's work which reveals long and thorough research, is a colorful canvas of the age of chivalry full of fascinating detail regarding armour, knight-errantry, jousts and tournaments, the chase, the crusades, military religious orders and so on. One can follow the training of a knight from his boyhood, and gain a vivid idea of his daily existence against the tapestried background of the Middle Ages. Scholars will find the volume excellent in learning while through it the layman may enter an enchanted realm. "A very great portion of the material," says

the author in his preface, "is drawn from books difficult to obtain in the usual libraries, and also, when found, in old and difficult French. Many of the ballads quoted are from a French author less known than our English Chaucer." These ballads are given both in the original and in translation. The author is a noted scholar of St. John's College, Oxford.

**DR. LITTLE'S DOG BOOK.** By George Watson Little. McBride.**PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICES.** By Shelby M. Harrison. Russell Sage Foundation. \$3.50 net.**RICE.** By C. E. Douglas. Pitman. \$1.**NORTH STAR NAVIGATION.** By L. M. Berkeley. New York: White Book & Supply Co., 36 West 91st St.**VOLUME TWO.** By Grant Hyde Code.**THE BOOK OF THE RANKS AND DIGNITIES OF BRITISH SOCIETY.** Lately attributed to Charles Lamb. Scribners. \$1.75.**SKILL IN WORK AND PLAY.** By T. H. Pear. Dutton. \$2.**MAINE FORTS.** By Henry E. Dunnack. Augusta, Me. Chas. E. Nash.**FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS.** By Antoinette Felesky. New York: Pioneer Publishing Co. \$3.50 net.**RHYMING DICTIONARY.** By P. R. Bennett. Dutton. 70 cents.**ASTROLOGY OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.** By Karma. Stokes.**Science****A HANDBOOK OF SOLAR ECLIPSES.** By ISABEL M. LEWIS. Duffield. 1924. \$1.

From time immemorial man has been strangely impressed with the total eclipse of the sun. Among the early tribes and races of men, and down to the later Middle Ages the feeling excited by the gradual blotting out of the sun was one of abject terror. In modern times, however, the cause of eclipses is generally understood, and keen scientific enthusiasm has displaced the fear inspired in past ages. On the twenty-fourth of January, 1925, we are to have a total solar eclipse which may be seen in Michigan, New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, thus covering the most densely populated part of the country; the first to visit New York and New England since 1806, and the last to be seen in this region for many decades. Realizing the great interest to be aroused over such a rare event, Miss Lewis, of the Nautical Almanac office of the U. S. Naval Observatory, has prepared this study of solar eclipses. Though she deals with a highly technical subject, she has succeeded not only in giving a most readable and entertaining account of the phenomena connected with eclipses, but also manages to spread the contagion of her very evident enthusiasm to her readers. The chapter on How to View the Eclipse will appeal to many amateur astronomers, who will wish to know what are the most interesting features to be seen. Miss Lewis is known already to many readers from her previous books, "Astronomy for Young Folks," and "Splendors of the Skies."

**X-RAYS AND CRYSTAL STRUCTURE.** By W. H. BRAGG and W. L. BRAGG. Harcourt, Brace. New Edition. 1923.

When V. Laue made the discovery in 1912 that X-rays could be diffracted by means of the internal structure of crystals, he not only definitely proved that the X-ray was an electro-magnetic form of radiation belonging to the same series as light waves, but his work also furnished an entirely new method for the investigation of the structure of crystals. Now instead of theorizing concerning the internal arrangement of the atoms of a crystal, we find ourselves able not only definitely to determine in many cases the structure, but even to measure the actual distances between the atoms. In the last decade an enormous amount of work has been accomplished along these lines, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the results already obtained are among the most important contributions that the science of physics has made during this period.

The English physicists, W. H. and W. L. Bragg, father and son, were pioneer workers in this field. They first published this book in 1915 and it was reprinted in 1916 and 1918. The present edition has been considerably enlarged in order to give an account of the subject up to 1923. While the matter treated is highly technical, the authors have succeeded in giving such a simple and clear treatment of it that a layman will find much of interest in its reading.

**Speaking of Books****LATIN SONGS**ranging from such classics as *Gaudeamus Igitur* to *Mica, Mica Parva Stella* are included in Roy C. Flickinger's new selection of songs for Latin classes and clubs. The Star-Spangled Banner, America, and others of our own well-known songs have been done into Latin, and there are a number of old familiar rounds, more or less recognizable in their new guise. All of the songs are accompanied by musical scores. *Songs for the Latin Club* is a real contribution to the promotion of Latin as a living tongue. 75 cents, postpaid 78 cents.**THE FALL OF TROY**and the story of Dido, the Phœnician Queen, are dramatic incidents in themselves and need only minor alterations and additions to bring out their qualities as stage pieces. Frank Justus Miller has made two very effective plays from these excerpts from the Aeneid. His explicit stage directions will be of great value to the Latin clubs and classes that should be able to use this material to best advantage. *Two Dramatizations from Vergil.* \$1.50, postpaid \$1.60.**THE  
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