

The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

tricks of style incompletely mastered. Many of the stories are told with tortuous windings back and forth in the time sequence. That is all very well for Conrad, but dangerous for Sir Coleridge Kennard. He has a habit of putting indirect quotation into quotation marks—a device which has its uses, but which loses its effect and becomes irritating in sustained dialogue.

Nevertheless some of these stories leave pictures finely true. In widely different settings (Sweden, Switzerland, England, Russia) we see tragic bits of life—tragedies of misunderstanding, of dullness, of struggle against inevitable decay and change. Sometimes the pictures are brighter, but always tragedy is in the background, always there is the sense of mystery and fate. Unfortunately, however, some of the poorer stories provoke the disconcerting suspicion that the sense of mystery is due less to the quality of the matter than to the obscurity of the manner.

Among the better stories are "Luck," "In the Shallows" and "Two People in Love." These have the very savor of life. They justify the book and make us hope for more and better.

THE MONARCH. By PIERRE MILLE. Translated by FAITH CHIPPERFIELD. Greenberg. 1925. \$2.

This agreeable collection of stories deals with a Frenchman of the Midi named Bonnafoux, who is known to his townspeople as "the Monarch." Though he has hardly a cent in the world, he manages to live on the generosity of his neighbors through his wit, good-humor, and originality. He is, indeed, the pride of the little town of Espelunne, a worthy descendant of Tartarin, as vivacious as he is sometimes improbable, and as amusing to his friends as he is to the reader.

Several of the Monarch's escapades make first-rate entertainment. With lies tripping off his tongue almost without his being aware that they are lies, he gets himself into difficulties which require all his ingenuity and charm to get him out. Take, for example, his courtship of Madame Emma with her four hundred francs a year, who marries him in the belief that he is a rich landowner, and is led as a bride to a ramshackle home. And then the follow-up: the visit of Madame Emma's relatives, which necessitates keeping up the pretense of wealth, an undertaking which the Monarch copes with successfully. But beyond doubt his most hilarious adventure, as well as his greatest coup, was the wager with the naval lieutenant that he could ride a horse a hundred kilometres a day for two successive days. This story is told with remarkable gusto, and is genuinely funny. And this gusto, if not everywhere so strongly, runs through the whole book, along with the winsome qualities of the Monarch, and some charming pictures of the portion of the Midi which is his kingdom.

A BRIDGEMAN OF THE CROSSWAYS. By JUSTIN HERESFORD, JR. Marshall Jones. 1925.

"A Bridgeman of the Crossways" is a garrulous discussion of the revolt from orthodox religion of first and second generation Yankee immigrants to Nebraska. Nine-tenths of this biographical novel is monologue, trite, prone to the most wretched of puns, and endlessly discursive. Who but a Yankee could chew for one hundred and fifty pages over the inconsistencies of the Episcopalian Prayer Book?

With a wealth of excellent local color material apparently at his elbow, Mr. Heresford chooses the sterile way of petty controversy. At its best, there is in the book a hint of "David Harum" and of the unjustly forgotten Ironquill of Kansas.

THE VALLEY OF STRIFE. By MARSHALL R. HALL. Small, Maynard. 1925. \$2.

There are enough gun-fights in this yarn of the wild and woolly to provide the shooting spectacles for at least three productions of the same type. In fact, when the fire-arms are temporarily inactive, one is bored and held to the puerile course of the narrative only by a knowledge that fresh slaughter is brewing and will not be long in being let loose. The hero is Clive Morgan, upstanding he-man, ex-Ranger, cowboy extraordinary, who wanders into Arizona from Texas looking for a job of ranching work. He encounters Forest Glade, (a girl, not a picnic park) owner of the Swinging J Ranch, which has been deserted by all of its male help after half of her herds have been rustled off her land by

her thieving cattlemen neighbors. Clive appoints himself foreman of Forest's declining property, sends for thirty of his Texas buddies to act as his crew of punchers, and when they arrive peace departs from the valley for many miles around. The reader who likes "Westerns" will find in Mr. Hall's romance one of the best we have recently read.

DESTINY. By RUPERT HUGHES. Harpers. 1925. \$2.

"Destiny" is preceded by a solemn prologue in which one is allowed to hear the Angels of Heaven pompously discussing the lowly life of earth. God Himself looks in to caution his celestial assistants against the fallacy of believing that existence down here is simple or easy. The Angel of Derision courageously volunteers to temporarily occupy the body of a girl called Niobe, in order to gather information for the heavenly records. The Angel of Scorn likewise undertakes a similar mission by entering the soul of an illiterate hill-billy, Joel Kimlin.

The story proper then commences and, insofar as we could see, proceeds without the prefatory rumble-bumble having any bearing whatever upon its development. Mr. Hughes permits his heavenly spectators to comment occasionally upon the show they are watching, but their speeches and the device of the prologue are entirely extraneous and unessential to the tale itself. The latter is a serio-comic romance, singularly labored and long winded, whose arid dullness is relieved at rare intervals by an oasis of graceful and first rate writing.

Of course the mundane paths of Niobe and Joel cross and conflict continuously, which supplies the slowly unwinding threads of action. Joel gets religion of the Holy Jumper denomination, deserts the backwoods bent upon salvaging souls, Niobe's in particular, wanders to the city and essays the role of a slum Messiah. He struggles with the devils of his flesh, succumbs, fights them some more, and has a generally terrible time without showing any perceptible improvement. Niobe too, has her troubles, but they are of a genteel, scented kind, for she is a lady, born to wealth, beauty, charm, culture, and the high places. Joel, the sly dog, nearly ruins her, but she escapes the fires of seduction to wed a bloated financier. Except for the bright spots mentioned, "Destiny" is pretty tame reading.

THE SONS OF THE SHEIK. By E. M. HULL. Small, Maynard. 1925. \$2.

The author of that sweet and succulent masterpiece, "The Sheik," has given us, in the present volume, an epic sequel worthy of a place beside that shining marvel of yesterday. Here we meet again old friends, the lovely Diana Mayo, scarcely touched by the passing of over twenty years; that splendid and inscrutable personage, Sheik Ahmed ben Hassan, her lord and spouse; the devoted and gallant comrade of the family, Raoul St. Hubert. But best of all are the two newcomers who have joined the circle, Ahmed's and Diana's sons, now entering upon early manhood and the inherited responsibilities of their widely different positions.

Caryll, the elder, has been reared carefully in England under the guidance of his grandfather, the old Earl of Glencaryll, whom he has now succeeded as head of the house. Ahmed Jr., has been kept at home to thrive upon the desert sand, and has become the living image of his indomitable and fiery sire. Indeed he follows the example of the old man's once goatish ways to perfection, committing rape, and abducting his victim with a zeal and flourish fit to warm the heart.

Caryll comes to Algeria, for the first time since his childhood, to visit the picturesque traveling circus of which his father is boss and ring-master. No effort or expense is spared to give the youth a rousing welcome, and consequently he is treated to the most exciting time of his life. Somehow or other we don't care for it, but "—God forgive us, who are we to judge!"

SUNKEN GOLD. By ANDRÉ SAVIGNON. Translated from the French by EDGAR JEPSON. Appleton. 1925. \$1.75.

Yo-Ho-Ho-Hum! This pirate story has a wooden leg, or, perhaps, clay feet. It is a pity, for there is nothing wooden about the characters. M. Savignon's knowledge of the English Channel is excellent, and so is his understanding of the French fishermen and wreck robbers. He draws his characters well, and apparently without effort. A few words of description, an unconscious, self-revealing remark—and there is a character, living, individual. A writer who can do it

for it, and treat his characters with respect. Unfortunately, Savignon obliges his people to do what is stupid and improbable. This is particularly true at night, when they adjourn outside to spy on one another. Often, the over-taxed landscape cannot afford enough places of concealment, and we have the effect of each character hiding behind the other, the last one hiding behind himself.

M. Savignon's best touches are reminiscent of the work of Master Loti, though more cluttered with incidents and less eloquent in style. While his philosophy seems shallow for notable work, his sense of characters and locality is too good, or at least the wrong kind, for treasure-mysteries. He might do well to hang his harp on a willow. It was not made for jazz.

THE HAIRY ARM. By Edgar Wallace. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

MARSH LIGHTS. By Rachel Sevete Macnamara. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

THE GOOSE WOMAN. By Rex Beach. Harpers. \$2.

THE LUNATIC AT LARGE. By J. Storer Clouston. Dutton. \$2.

CONFIDENT MORNING. By Arthur Stanwood Pier. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

Miscellaneous

CODED LIMERICKS. By S. B. DICKSON. Simon & Schuster. 1925. \$1.50.

The publishers of the above are following up their success with the Cross Word Puzzle books by presenting another exercise for your ingenuity. A red band, running diagonally across the jacket of this Limerick book informs one that "This Code Book is for the Confidential Use of Members of the Secret Service," but smaller type declares this a spoof. Poe's "Gold Bug" is printed in the front of the book, together with a foreword by the author on how to decode the limericks. The jacket bears further information.

We tried one out, and, after what seemed like fifteen minutes of hopeless struggle found the hidden limerick actually emerge. The hints in the "Gold Bug" and certain additional hints by the author as to the prevalence of certain vowels and consonants and what key letter combinations to look for do really help. Certainly a long winter evening would pass like a flash while one set about decoding a couple of these limericks. The only trouble with the pastime is that it is likely to become too absorbing!

CHATS ON FEATURE WRITING. By H. F. HARRINGTON. Harpers. 1925. \$2.75.

The writing of special feature articles is an art entirely distinct from that of everyday newspaper reporting, and is treated with this point in mind by the members of the Blue Pencil Club of Professional Writers, whose advice, comment, interpretative articles, in fact, everything a prospective young feature writer should know, are collected and edited by Mr. Harrington. The various types of feature stories are presented, looked into, and analyzed for the benefit of the neophyte; the building of the story, revision, and marketing are dwelt upon at some detail. Over thirty well-known feature writers—among them Will Irwin, James B. Connolly, Kenneth Roberts, Irvin S. Cobb, Fred Kelly—lend a helping hand in this business of putting the essentials of special article writing on a practical basis for the beginner. This book should prove useful to those desirous of entering this particular division of journalism.

BARBER SHOP BALLADS. Edited by Sigmund Spaeth. Simon & Schuster. \$2.

COMB MAKING IN AMERICA. Compiled and privately printed by Bernard W. Doyle.

Pamphlets

WHAT IS AMERICANISM? By William M. Salter. New York: American Ethical Union. 15 cents.

DRYDEN'S CRITICAL TEMPER. By John Harrington Smith. Washington University Studies.

THE EVOLUTION OF MARRIAGE. By Duren J. H. Ward. Denver: Up the Divide.

WASTED. By Kathryn Peck.

HOSPITAL HYPOS. By Willie Live. U. R. Weil Co., 809 Lexington Ave., New York.

THE LAWS OF MAH-JONGG. Revised and standardized by Joseph Park Babcock. New York: Parker Bros.

ROBERT BURNS: A REVELATION. By Otto Heller. Washington University Studies.

A REVIEW AND AN OUTLOOK. New York Labor News Co. 5 cents.

GRAVITY. By Charles F. Johnson, LL.D. Hartford, Conn.: Edwin Valentine Mitchell.

WAR-TIME ADDRESSES 1917-1921. By J. L. Magnes. Seltzer. 50c.

THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE MINNESOTA WAR RECORDS COMMISSION. Saint Paul.

THE SECTARIAN INVASION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. By Dr. Louis I. Newman. San Francisco.

THE QUEST FOR TRUTH. An Account of Research. Published by the Committee on Development, University of Chicago.

BERNARD BOSQUQUET, 1848-1923. (From the Proceedings of the British Academy. Vol. XI.) London: Oxford University Press. One shilling, net.

THE PROMOTION LITERATURE OF GEORGIA. By Verner W. Crane. Cambridge, Mass.

Poetry

A POETRY RECITAL. By James Stephens. Macmillan. \$1.50.

SONNETS AND VERSES. By Enid Clay. Golden Cockerel Press.

PICTOR IGNOTUS, FRA LIPPO LIPPI; ANDREA DEL SARTO. By Robert Browning. Golden Cockerel Press.

A BOOKFELLOW ANTHOLOGY, 1925.

WINDOWS OF NIGHT. By Charles Williams. Oxford University Press. \$2.25.

HILL FRAGMENTS. By Madeline Mason-Manheim. London: Cecil Palmer. 6s. net.

COLLECTED POEMS OF H. D. Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.

Religion

THE NEW ORTHODOXY. By Edward Scribner Ames. University of Chicago. \$1.50.

THE WONDER OF LIFE. By Joel Blau. Macmillan. \$2.

SURVIVAL. Edited by Sir James Marchant. Putnam. \$2.

MEASUREMENTS AND STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. Edited by Walter S. Athearn. Doran. \$5 net.

CURRENT WEEK-DAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. By Philip Henry Lotz. Abingdon Press.

THE RELIGION OF THIRTY GREAT THINKERS. By Albert Gehring. Marshall Jones.

Science

CHEMISTRY TO THE TIME OF DALTON. By E. J. HOLMYARD. Oxford University Press. 1925. \$1.

A brief account of the development of chemistry as a science from the gropings of earliest speculation down to the establishment of the Atomic Theory by John Dalton (1766-1844), this little book avoids weighty theory without becoming superficial. There are many evidences of careful study based, the author states, as far as possible on original sources. For the person with an intelligent interest in the subject, or for the student who wishes a point of view slightly apart from the classroom and laboratory, this will make helpful reading.

THE CASE AGAINST EVOLUTION. By George Barry O'Toole. Macmillan. \$3.50.

THE EARTH SPEAKS TO BRYAN. By Henry Fairfield Osborn. Scribners. \$1.

THE LIFE OF THE CATERPILLAR. By Jean Henri Fabre. Boni & Liveright. 95 cents.

Travel

WE VISIT OLD INNS. By MARY HARROD NORTHEND. Small, Maynard. 1925. \$3.

Were we able to spend a summer's vacation exactly as we pleased there could be nothing more delightful for us than to follow Miss Northend's pilgrimage through the quiet villages of New England, and to visit the picturesque old taverns still to be found scattered here and there through the quiet countryside.

In a gossipy, entertaining style the author tells us of the popular legends and historic incidents clustering about each of these old "ordinaries," some of which have never closed their doors since receiving their first license in the seventeenth century. She carries the reader back to the days of the early Puritan, who found warmth here on a winter Sabbath after the two-hour sermon in the unheated meeting-house: to the stirring days of the Revolution when men like Washington and Lafayette found shelter and entertainment within their hospitable walls: and to the early nineteenth century when the village inn became the haunt of such literary and political celebrities as Longfellow, Rufus Choate, and Daniel Webster.

In nearly every inn visited Miss Northend noted something of distinctive interest in furniture, china, or glassware that gives to each particular hostelry an added interest and charm. In the Wayside Inn, immortalized by Longfellow, she was attracted by the number and variety of antique lanterns: in the Wayland Inn by the rare types of old amplifiers, some dating back to Elizabethan times: in the Berry Inn by its fine collection of exquisite Bohemian glassware: and so one through an extensive list.

To one who loves the quiet attraction of an old New England village, and to one who finds interest and delight in antiques of all kinds, this book will afford much pleasure.

The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Inquiries in regard to the selection of books and questions of like nature should be addressed to Mrs. Becker, c/o *The Saturday Review*.

A BALANCED RATION

PRAIRIE FIRES. By LORNA DOONE BEERS (Dutton).

JUNGLE DAYS. By WILLIAM BEEBE (Putnam).

ANCIENT AND MODERN ROME. By RODOLFO LANCIANI (Marshall Jones).

A. K. M., Quincy, Ill., asked for advice on preparing a paper on "Greek Myths in Art," for a club, to be illustrated with slides.

MY advice was sent by mail, and because the reply comes that it was successful, here it is for the use of others: Use Gayley's "Classic Myths" (Ginn) as a base of operations: this not only gives the outlines of Greek mythology but many of the references to it in modern literature, especially English poetry. A good book to help one choose stories of popular appeal, for an audience to whom entertainment counts at least as much as information, is the familiar "Myths of Greece and Rome," by H. A. Guerber (American Book Co.), for this has many pictures, all or almost all of paintings by moderns, in illustration of the stories told. The speaker in this case, as the slides were shown, either told the story or read appropriate passages from Morris's "Earthly Paradise," Shelley, Keats, Byron, and so on. These slides were secured through the Art Institute at Chicago and were satisfactory; there are a number of places in this part of the country in which clubs may be fitted out.

Speaking of clubs, as the program-making season is still on, let me remind committees studying poetry that the April Number of the *Southwest Review*, formerly the *Texas Review*, Dallas, Texas, has articles by poets on how poetry is produced that would be well worth bringing to their clubs, especially "The Primary Inspiration," by Marguerite Wilkinson, and "The Creative Process," by Mary Austin. Also there are some noteworthy poems. It is fifty cents a copy.

F. W. L., Pittsburgh, Pa., asks for books about present-day Arabs and desert life: "not sheik novels but the real thing."

ROSITA FORBES'S adventures in "The Secret of Sahara: Kufara" (Doran) may have started the rush—they were certainly thrilling enough—but anyway there have been books enough about Arabs in the last few months to fill a shelf. The most romantic is "The Lost Oases" (Century), the story of explorations in the remotest regions of the Libyan desert, by A. M. Hassanein Bey, which opens with the reasons why men go back to that land once safely free of its hardships. Of desert night he says: "It is as though a man were deeply in love with a very fascinating but cruel woman. She treats him badly, and the world crumbles in his hand; at night she smiles on him and the whole world is a paradise. The desert smiles, and there is no place on earth worth living in but the desert." (Well, Mr. Stefansson would have something to say to that. He prefers the smile on the face of the North Pole. If he can still find this section attractive after setting down his story of the "Adventure of Wrangel Island," published this spring by Macmillan, there must be something in it.)

"The Arab at Home" is by Paul W. Harrison (Crowell), a medical missionary: it is detailed and sympathetic, an excellent book for clubs, and with an especially understanding chapter on the Arab and Christianity. "Arabs in Tent and Town" (Putnam) is an intimate account, bubbling with stories, of the family life, hospitality, and psychology of the Arabs of Syria, by a British traveller, A. Goodrich-Freer, F.R.S.G.S., whose name is Mrs. H. H. Spoer. This again would be good for clubs, it has much about the life and status of women. "With Lawrence in Arabia," by Lowell Thomas (Century), is the story of the most romantic figure in modern military history, Col. T. E. Lawrence, creator of an Arabian army, scholar, dreamer, and adventurer to the edge of belief. This, too, is full of stories of Arab life and customs. All in all I don't see how one could get more varied entertainment than from these four books. Why go to the trouble to invent sheiks when real ones are so readily reached?

IT was curious that the first letter to reach me in Paris, headquarters of the Guide for the month of May, should be from O. G., Buffalo, N. Y., adding to the list of books on French travel one just published by Ulbrich, Buffalo, "A Summer in France," by Louis Wright Simpson, which he calls "an unconventional guide-book, from Carcassonne to Mont St. Michel," and that the second should be from G. E. R., Lexington, Mass., asking for a book on Carcassonne. She asked for a novel about this city, but the only one I know about is "The Most Famous Loba," by Nellie Blisset, in the form of a chronicle of 1226, published by Appleton but out of print. I may as well add, on my own account, to that French travel collection, two books just published, "Regarding the French," by Mona Clarke (McBride), called in the English edition "French Cameos," and "Collector's Luck in France," by Alice Van Leer Carrick (Little, Brown). The first is a set of brief sketches that anyone intending to spend more than a week in Paris will find singularly illuminating on aspects of French life—the ones on French women and their ways are especially sensible—and the second has the addresses of any number of antique stores. But Mrs. Carrick's book has more than that—it has the right spirit in which to approach this city. "It is the only city I have ever known where I could be so poor—and happy," says she. "I love the quickly changing crowds, friendly, yet quite oblivious if you want to be ignored."

W. H. W., Jamaica, N. Y., is going to Europe this summer and asks for one or two good phrase-books in French and in German, with a compact dictionary for each language.

I HOPE she will not have sailed before the news reaches her that "All You Want in France," published by Hugo, 103 Newgate St., London, and the corresponding volume for Germany, make excellent aids to the traveller. The same firm publishes a grammar for each language. Another handy series is "What you want to say and how to say it," "in French," "in German," and so on down the line; this has dictionaries that may be purchased with the phrase-book, and is published by Heman, 326 Broadway, N. Y.

According to my mail, all America is travelling; I have been answering questions on travel-books all this week. M. P., New York, is going on an automobile tour through the Cape Cod country, and Nova Scotia to Labrador.

FOR the first, "Cape Cod and the Old Colony," by Arthur Brigham (Putnam), a view of the country and a review of its past; other books that would add greatly to such a tour are M. R. Bangs's "Old Cape Cod" (Houghton Mifflin), and "Cape Cod, New and Old," by A. E. Rothery (Houghton Mifflin). For Nova Scotia there is the friendly and informing "Ambling Through Arcadia," by Charles Hansen Towne (Century), and though I can't pretend to advise on travel-plans, there is of course the Automobile Green Book, "Main Touring Routes in Nova Scotia," recently published by the Scarborough Co., Boston. As for Labrador, all I know about it is that an acquaintance of mine dropped into the edge of it from a balloon once and found it so far from crowded that he walked for a week before he found where he was. But if I had read "Labrador: The Country and the People," by Wilbur Grenfell and others (Macmillan), no doubt I should have a mental image less bleak. Besides this there are of course the books of Dr. Grenfell, "Labrador Days," "Northern Neighbors," and the famous "Labrador Doctor," all from Houghton Mifflin, and W. B. Cabot's "Labrador" (Small, Maynard).

YOU ARE A WRITER. Don't you ever need help in marketing your work? I am a literary adviser. For years I read for Macmillan, then for Doran, and then I became consulting specialist to them and to Holt, Stokes, Lippincott, and others, for most of whom I have also done expert editing, helping authors to make their work saleable. Send for my circular. I am closely in touch with the market for books, short stories, articles and verses, and I have a special department for plays and motion pictures. **The Writers' Workshop, Inc.** 135 East 58th Street New York 6

Speaking of Books

Early MSS.

dating so far back as the fourteenth century, figure in this interesting edition of *Spanish Grail Fragments* edited from the unique manuscript. Volume I contains, besides the actual Spanish texts, introductory and supplementary chapters. Volume II is in English and contains the most extensive commentary that has yet been published on a single Old Spanish text. The notes are of a text-critical, grammatical, and lexicographic nature, and form a valuable contribution to the knowledge of Old Spanish. *Spanish Grail Fragments*. Vols. I and II. By Karl Pietsch. Sold only in sets, \$5.00, postpaid \$5.25.

A definite technique

for modern language study—grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, reading, and translation—is outlined in this convenient handbook. The student of modern languages could be assigned no more profitable first lesson than the contents of this small guide. *How to Study Modern Languages in High School*. By Peter Hagboldt. 25 cents, postpaid 27 cents.

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THE LITERATURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

By Julius A. Bewer
Professor in Union Theological Seminary

Pp. xiv+452. \$3.00

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FOR AN ANSWER

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