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New York London

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.

Biography

A SOLDIER'S MEMORIES. By MAJOR-GENERAL SIR G. YOUNGHUSBAND. Dutton. 1925. \$5.

General Younghusband's forty-odd years of service in England, Africa, and India would appear to have moulded him into a perfectly cast type of the British officer and gentleman, with the sterling qualities and shortcomings of both. His memoirs, like so many of their ilk, depend for their saleability on the usual series of anecdotes with little narrational value, "points" which would be unacceptable to an American newspaper cartoonist, a slightly redeeming amount of local quaintness, and a star cast of army officers of the highest rank. Also one might sentimentally touch on the customary bluff sincerity of the honest soldier's *méthode*, while secretly musing on the good or the evil of his glorification of military achievement and army traditions. Be that as it may, however, the reader will be more than apt to react with customary enthusiasm to the tales of nonchalant heroism and boyish gallantry in the isolated and lawless outposts of his Majesty's Empire. Beginning with Sandhurst and his cadetship, General Younghusband carries us to the outbreak of the World War, giving us a few chatty hours of reminiscences without continuity and certainly with no historical objective. As an isolated chapter, that on the Spanish-American War might be of some significance to Americans, particularly in its portrayal of Dewey as a brave fighter but utterly helpless without the expert advice of a handy British captain to aid him win the Battle of Manila.

HESKETH PRICHARD. By Eric Parker. Dutton. \$5.

FROM PRESIDENT TO PRISON. By Ferdinand A. Ossendowski. Dutton. \$3.

A SHEAF OF MEMORIES. By Frank Scudamore. Dutton. \$5.

Drama

THERE CAME TWO WOMEN. By HERBERT QUICK. Bobbs-Merrill. 1925. \$1.25.

This four-act play is a curious and not altogether successful attempt to dramatize a realistic, conventional story in the terms of the stage and the language of blank verse. As the title suggests, two women claim a child,—one the real mother, and the other the foster-mother who has secretly brought it from the home where it was being cared for, to pass it off as her own. The situation should be dramatic; perhaps it might be if it were not so long drawn out and if the dialogue, which should be simple and realistic as the South Dakota characters that speak it, had not been carefully set down in iambic-pentameters.

THE CHIEF BRITISH DRAMATISTS. Edited by Brander Matthews and Paul Robert Liedes. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.

TI-ME-KUN-DAN. Translated by Millicent H. Morrison. Dutton. \$1.50.

Fiction

MR. BISBEE'S PRINCESS. By JULIAN STREET. Doubleday, Page. 1925. \$2.

Mr. Street's title story was recently featured in *The Red Book Magazine*. While far from being a masterpiece, it is a capable study of human nature, in the person of an entirely American business man who meets a strange and fascinating lady on the train, on the way back from a convention. Mr. Bisbee is grossly misunderstood in his own town, and thereby hangs the tale. The other long short stories in the volume are "A Speaking Likeness" and "Syringas." Of these we liked the latter best. None of the people in the former appealed to us, and we didn't care much what happened to any of them.

Mr. Street writes gracefully, and is a little more than average psychologist. As a satirist, in his former "Sunbeams, Inc.," he had our heartiest support for his thesis. But, in passing, we do not see why both his editor and his publisher should have so "played up" the fact that it took Mr. Street three months to write "Mr. Bisbee's Princess." What has that got to do with it? Is the excellence of fiction measured by a time-clock?

On the whole we do not see that these three collected stories will serve either to increase or decrease Mr. Street's reputation as a talented writer of light fiction. He is all right as far as he goes. His is a cultivated style and an urbane acquaintance with

the leses ironies of life, and he knows how to handle the material he chooses. Further than that there is nothing to say.

DR. RICARDO. By WILLIAM GARRETT. Appleton. 1925. \$2.

Mr. Garrett's tale is a cleverly constructed story, one in which the mystery is sustained to the end, and the plot advances to its conclusion without the introduction of extraneous characters and resort to false clues. It has sufficient of stirring incident in it to lend it excitement, and yet little enough to escape the reproach of being melodramatic. And if the solution of its problem as to the identity of the murderer of a man whose arrest as a blackmailer is being sought is not arrived at without the employment of a device familiar to detective literature, still that device is not apparent until the moment of the clearing up of the mystery. The book holds the interest throughout, and has a compactness of narrative, together with a regard for the plausibilities, that lifts it above the general ruck of detective stories.

THE GOOSE WOMAN. By REX BEACH. Harpers. 1925. \$2.

Mr. Beach knows how to construct an acceptable magazine story. These magazine stories of his, now gathered together, make good light reading. Embedded in each there is a neat and clean love-story of recognizable pattern. In each, except in "Cool Waters" the fellow gets the girl, after going through *sturm und drang*. In "Cool Waters" the wife is miraculously brought back to life at the end by the mysterious psychological effect of an oil gusher unexpectedly "coming in," and she and her husband presumably go "back home" with a fortune, and hence (from the fiction point of view) with the assurance of living happily ever after. All the stories fulfil that necessary periodical requirement, to "leave a good taste in the mouth." All the women in them but two are without fault or flaw, and one of these exceptions is so bad as to make an excellent "villainess." All the heroes are two-fisted, reliable, energetic heroes, with laudable sentiments. In other words, Mr. Beach's view of life as displayed in these stories is distinctly collegiate, "old style."

As to his material. For his title story he has adapted to his own uses a dramatic character who figured in a sensational crime of several years ago that was, for a long time, "front page stuff" in many newspapers. He has changed the celebrated "pig woman" into a "goose woman," made her a "forgotten darling of grand opera" who has deteriorated since the loss of her voice into a slatternly gin-swilling harridan. She hates her son, for in bearing him she lost her voice and her "career." And so on. Mr. Beach motivates his story with rather heavy strokes, but it is all there, melodramatic but well knit together. The juveniles fall into each other's arms at the end and the half-witted religious fanatic gets the burnt end of the stick. The characters are sufficiently human, if heavy.

In the next tale, "Cave Stuff," Mr. Beach's humorous-heroic Marcel, the French valet, is obvious "stock." The Alaskan background is used and the underlying theme is "sure fire": that of the insulted and injured finally ruling the roost in the end. This theme is of constant appeal to all readers of ephemeral fiction. "The Michigan Kid" is also, as the publishers put it, "played out against an Alaskan backdrop." Here we have the stock bad-man, the gambler suspected of murder, who really turns out to be one of nature's noblemen and gets a thoroughly good girl for reward in the end, the good girl incidentally coming into a fortune at the same time. He himself has also made one. But all his "games were square." And he has twice "been through hell" for his girl.

"Cool Waters" and "Powder" are chiefly interesting for their background, the Southwestern oil country. We learn about several "fishing jobs" which hold up the drilling of oil wells, one of which finally "comes in" to make a fortune for a man and wife who have endured the blistering hell of the desert. The other, presumably, "comes in" also makes a fortune for a preyed-upon heroine, after blowing the "villain of the piece" sky-high because of his evil machinations with nitre. Mr. Beach handles the conversation of plain men convincingly and salts it acceptably with the jargon used in the land of oil derricks. His "local color" is interesting.

The plots of these stories "feature," of

(Continued on next page)

Dutton's

OUTSTANDING BOOKS

A New Side Light on the
War of Independence

A Prime Minister and His Son

From the correspondence of the 3rd Earl of Bute and of Lt. Gen. Charles Stuart, K.B. Edited by the Hon. Mrs. E. Stuart Wortley. Charles Stuart as a youth in his early twenties commanded a regiment of the British forces during four years of the war, at first in Boston, later in New York. His shrewd comments on the blindness of those in England to the situation in the Colonies, and the letters of Gen. Clinton and others to him give the book unusual interest. \$6.00

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His "Man and Mystery in Asia" told of his early explorations in Asia; this volume tells of his experience as a chemist serving Russia in the Japanese war; of the confusion and corruption that forced the Revolution of 1905; of his 53 days as President of the Eastern Republic and of prison life after its collapse.

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The World of the Incas

By OTTO von HANSTEIN

A story of the forgotten, purely communistic state which existed in Peru, and a discussion of the causes of its failure to endure. \$2.50

NEW FICTION

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The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

course, foregone conclusions. There is nothing subtle about the human types with whom Mr. Beach deals, and there is nothing subtle about the triumphs he concocts for them. But he knows how to work out a story succinctly and graphically. As we have said, his yarns are well-knit. They are well enough knit to make us wish that the "love interest" he feels he must put into them were not so obviously "rubber stamp." Mr. Beach is good at giving us the oil-country background with salient strokes. He does not fake, he has observed on the spot. If he had not such a stereotyped method of dealing with human beings, and could present his principals more "in the round" against such backgrounds, a certain dramatic power in his writing would go for more. "The Goose Woman" remains his most interesting character, because the mere sketch he makes of her life history suggests to the imagination a powerful novel; but it is a novel in search of a master. Mr. Beach is content to fit the sketch into a neatly carpentered magazine thriller.

THE DEDUCTIONS OF COLONEL GORE. By LYNN BROCK. Harpers. 1925. \$2.

Colonel Gore began his deductions when he came back to England, after years of foreign service, and found himself at the Melhuish dinner-party. Pretty Mrs. Melhuish, who had been a great pal of his in old times, was now married to that rather grim and cool-blooded doctor. Why, standing by the bowl of chrysanthemums on the piano, did she speak in that odd way to the fascinating Mr. Barrington? Mr. Barrington, Colonel Gore observed, was the kind of man who draws women's eyes as he crosses the room. Their color "brightens beneath the flattery of his look," their voices are "tinged with the subtle challenge of their sex." The reader, as well as Colonel Gore, deduces that Mr. Barrington is a bit of a bird. When pretty little Babs Melhuish whispers—audibly, else no story—"If the door is shut, go away. I may not be able to manage tonight"—the cheerful reader begins to hear the tinkle of fracturing Stone Tables.

A thoroughly competent detective story; one that throws enough cantilevers across the Rubicon to keep even the sophisticated modern reader gently entertained; though the stop-light always flashes just before trans-fluminal traffic begins. "Lynn Brock," the publisher's jacket says, is the "pen name of a noted author;" but the book is copyrighted in the same name; can copyrighting be done under a pseudonym? In any event the connoisseur of mystery tales will find here one worthy of his evening hours. We like Colonel Gore; he is one of those gentlemanly, quietly courageous, pipe-and-whiskey-loving British army officers who are the favorite creation of lady novelists (is Lynn Brock a feminine person?). Let's hear from him again.

THE WHISPERING LANE. By FERGUS HUME. Small Maynard. 1925. \$2.

It is a good many years since "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab" captured the British and American public but although fashions in fiction, including the mystery story, have changed greatly Mr. Hume has not been left behind by the procession. This yarn shows the complex ingenuity of plot that marked his earlier stories, and the plot is the whole thing in this variety of detective-puzzle story. One does not mind greatly if the actors are mere automata, if they are not too wooden. This one involves a properly sinister villain, a doctor who has committed a preliminary murder to lay a foundation for the action of this piece. He is then found murdered, himself, on the premises of the woman whom he has been trying to blackmail. Problem: prove the lady's innocence. It runs into spiritualism, with a highly modernized ghost, and it also drops into a London Chinese opium den where there is a first class fight as a climax to the strenuous action of the plot. It is something of a "thriller" as well as a puzzle story.

RED ASHES. By Margaret Pedler. Doran. \$2. net.

THE SECRET OF BOGEY HOUSE. By Herbert Adams. Lippincott. \$2.

THE ANCIENT HIGHWAY. By James Oliver Curwood. Cosmopolitan. \$2.

ASHE OF RINGS. By Mary Butts Paris. Three Mountains Press.

KNIGHT AT ARMS. By H. C. Bailey. Dutton. \$2.

(Continued on next page)

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Columbia University Press
 2960 Broadway
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THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF CHINA

By Friedrich Hirth

Emeritus Professor of Chinese in Columbia University

Pp. xx + 383. With map. \$3.50

Front page headlines again feature China prominently in the foreground of world political events, while Western governments endeavor to find a solution for present conditions. The key to modern China and its culture lies in its history, no other people being so closely connected with their own ancient history. Professor Hirth's book is recognized as a standard authority on the subject.

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The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

- THE HISTORY OF MANON LESCAUT.** By L'Abbé Prévost. Translated by George Dunning Gribble (Broadway Translations). Dutton. \$3.
- HARWOOD.** By Arthur O. Friel. Penn. \$2.
- FAME.** By Micheline Keating. Putnams. \$2.
- CHARMEUSE.** By E. Temple Thurston. Putnams. \$2.
- MY LADY LEE.** By Edith Ballinger Price. Greenberg. \$2.50.
- THE TALE OF GENJI.** By Lady Murasaki. Translated by Arthur Waley. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

Miscellaneous

- SKIPPY.** By PERCY L. CROSBY. Greenberg. 1925.

Readers of *Life* who have made the acquaintance of Mr. Percy L. Crosby's entertaining urchin, Skippy, will be glad to meet their young friend in the greater permanence of book form. He has once more before made his appearance between boards, but this time under the aegis of a new publisher he appears in colored illustrations as well as in black and white drawings. He is an amusing and mischievous youngster, and Mr. Crosby has drawn him in a great variety of moods,—disconsolate in the rain, announcing "if she don't show up pretty soon, I'm goin' to bust this date—that's all"; progressing from drugstore to drugstore with a tape-measure to discover the girth of their respective soda glasses before investing his money; proving to his father that the responsibility is God's, not his, if he is not good; bursting in upon his mother's tea-party to inquire whether it's all right for him "to start that clean towel" she put in the bathroom; keeping the weekend guest from his bath while he preempts the tub for his toy sailing vessel, and a hundred other pranks. Mr. Oliver Herford supplies a graceful introduction for the small boy.

- THE EFFICIENT KITCHEN.** By GEORGIE BOYNTON CHILD. McBride. \$2 net.

This is a revised edition of a handbook of directions for planning and equipping the modern labor-saving kitchen. It is an excellent manual, well-arranged, sensibly devised, and practical in its suggestions. The seasoned housewife will appreciate its wisdom while the novice would do well to accept its guidance.

- REST AND GROW STRONG.** By EDWARD HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS and EDWARD BRYANT HOAG. Bobbs-Merrill. 1925. \$2.50.

The authors of this practical and reliable guide to health have written their book in non-scientific terms of direct appeal to the lay reader. It is so methodically simple that a child could understand the greater part, and yet so profoundly enlightening that its values should be apparent even to the best informed skeptic. Unsupported theories are entirely absent, the contents being composed of authentic cases and examples, with their separate methods of treatment, which have come either directly under the observation of the authors or of fellow physicians whose word is equally trustworthy.

The comparatively new science and study of the glands, as important factors in human health and disease, is explained and analyzed at a length essential to approximate understanding; so too are the more recent developments in therapeutic psychol-

(Continued on next page)

A BALANCED RATION

- THE COMMON READER.** By VIRGINIA WOOLF (Harcourt, Brace).
- A POETRY RECITAL.** By JAMES STEPHENS (Macmillan).
- THE LETTERS OF MARY RUSSELL MITFORD.** Edited by R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON (Dial Press).

L. W., Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "I do not want to be a lawyer or a physician, but I do want to have a comprehensive view of United States law from a layman's viewpoint, and to know, with more than my present erudition, how the human body functions and how to take care of it." In other words, he wants books that will help him keep well and out of trouble.

K. C. TURNER'S "Studies in American Elementary Law," second edition published by Flood, Chicago, 1921, is one of the books with which the first part of this plan may be carried out. The other is "Materials and Methods of Legal Research," by Frederick C. Hicks, published by the Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y., 1923. The author has not only a thorough knowledge of his subject, but exceptional opportunities for learning the needs of readers like L. W.

J. F. Williams's "Personal Hygiene Applied" (Saunders, Philadelphia) is a good book for keeping well, with Fisher's "How to Live Long," second edition, one of the publications of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. "The Human Body and Its Care," by John S. Engs (Christopher Pub. House), should be added to this collection, and will take care of the subject of physiology for the needs of most readers. But one who wants an exhaustive and valuable work on physiology in general should get the one by Luciani, published by Macmillan in five volumes, of which the fifth volume is "Human Physiology."

Here is a list to keep on hand, judging by the number of calls I have for one or other of its subjects. I need not explain that the books were chosen by experts.

H. E. T., Newburyport, Mass., asks for the best book of etiquette recently published.

THE best book so far, one that I believe will keep its value for a longer time than most of these books, is "Etiquette," by Emily Price Post (Funk & Wagnalls). It is expensive but that has not interfered with its career as a best-seller.

M. G., New York, asks for books of reference sketching briefly the plots of great English and American novels. He has already Lippincott's "The Reader's Handbook," compiled by Ebenezer Brewer; Helen Rex Keller's "The Reader's Digest of Books" (Macmillan), and Grozier's "One Hundred Best Novels" (Harcourt, Brace). He asks if there are others of this sort. These books need not be in print.

ON the shelves of most public libraries may be found a set of eight large volumes published by Malkin some years ago, the "Library of Literary Criticism of English and American Authors," by Charles W. Moulton and others; this is a familiar work, especially to college students in sudden need of knowledge. Another very present help is Baker's "Guide to the Best Fiction" and its companion volume for historical fiction; these are arranged by countries and cover a vast amount of ground. Baker does not give plots in full but tells enough about each book to place it for an intending reader; the historical guide is especially useful. For books of recent publication keep abreast of the *Book Review Digest*, one of the H. W. Wilson monthly publications, which gives a brief summary of the plot and quotations from important reviews. This covers more than fiction, of course, and so does another publication of high value, the American Library Association *Booklist*, appearing monthly and also as an annual.

T. L., New York, asks for the most complete and up-to-date field-book for the determination of wild plants in his section.

THE "Field Book of American Wild Flowers," by F. Schuyler Mathews (Putnam), covers this section and much

more: the arrangement is such that an amateur can readily find his flower and though there are 600 pages it is of scarce more than pocket size. There is a corresponding book for trees and shrubs. A useful little book, less expensive and covering less ground, is the "Pocket Nature Guide" for "Wild Flowers East of the Rockies" (Doubleday, Page). Both of these are carefully illustrated, many of the pictures being in color.

W. D., Northampton, Mass., reminds C. O. M., who asks for stories about collecting, that some of the best of these have appeared in magazines: Joseph Hergesheimer's series in the *Saturday Evening Post* and the series by Aaron Davis, for example, appearing in the same magazine last year. There was a set of stories of this type by Winfield Scott Moody in *Scribner's Magazine*, 1906-07. E. R. N., Stamford, Conn., says that anyone who liked "Quinney's" would love Moody's "The Pickwick Ladle" and Sedgwick's "The Nest," the latter out of print, and that to this list must be added Henry James's "Spoils of Poynton" and "The Outcry."

A village Shakespeare club of many years standing, says J. D. B., Ojai, Cal., wishes to include Shakespeare's contemporaries in its next year's program, and asks for suggestions.

"GREAT Englishmen of the sixteenth century," by Sir Sidney Lee (Scribner), has studies of the characters and careers of Shakespeare, Bacon, Spenser, More, Raleigh, and Sidney, with a chapter on the spirit of the sixteenth century. The most important recent addition to the literature of this subject, however, is the record of the discoveries of Dr. J. Leslie Hotson concerning "The Death of Christopher Marlowe," lately published by the Harvard University Press. By research whose infinite pains were rewarded by extraordinary good fortune, Dr. Hotson has established the manner of the taking-off of "Christopher Morley" and brought to light not a little new to our world concerning his career. The monumental work of Dr. Edward H. Sugden, "A Topographical Dictionary to the Works of Shakespeare and his Fellow Dramatists" (Longmans) covers even more than the title indicates, in six hundred pages: there is nothing like it, although there have been efforts in this direction: it is one of those rare books that enlighten the young student and meet the approval of the scholar.

P. A. R., Schenectady, N. Y., asks for a beginner's book for chess.

THE simplest for the beginner is "Chess," by R. F. Green, published by Bell in England and to be obtained from the American Chess Co., 150 Nassau Street, N. Y. Staunton's "Chess Player's Manual" (Bell) covers the same ground in greater detail and would be valuable to more advanced students as well. This being one of the subjects recommended by readers of this department to the seeker after hobbies at Fortress Monroe, I am reminded that "Elgy" asks me how did I "ever overlook Charles Taussig's fascinating book" on hobbies, and B. B., Hueneme, California, suggests designing scenery, costumes, and color schemes for model theatres, those tiny stages that play such a part with playwrights and provide so many grown-ups with priceless possibilities of play.

M. A. B., New York, is interested in lace crocheting.

"THE Craft of the Crochet Hook" and "Beautiful Crochet on Household Linen," both by Flora Klickman, are published by Stokes. I am assured by the best crocheter I know that the magazine "Needlecraft," an illustrated monthly published in Augusta, Maine, is useful to beginners as well as to the expert.

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 City.



Speaking of Books

EVOLUTION IN TENNESSEE

is a moot question these days. But despite the dictum of the Tennessee Legislature, Professor H. H. Newman has found that there are Tennesseans who are willing to inquire into the subject of the biological transition of man.

That the current legal disputes have done much to arouse a general interest in questions of evolution is evidenced by the very large general sale of Professor Newman's timely book, *Evolution, Genetics and Eugenics*.

Here he has condensed in one volume an account of the various phases of evolutionary biology with a well-balanced selection of excerpts from the most authoritative writers on the subject. *Evolution, Genetics, and Eugenics*. By Horatio Hackett Newman. \$3.50, post-paid \$3.60.

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