

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

SUMMER. By Romain Rolland (Holt).

HYPATIA. By Mrs. Bertrand Russell. (Dutton).

THE GREATEST BOOK IN THE WORLD. By A. Edward Newton. (Little, Brown).

W. H. S., Middletown, Conn., asks if there is a small, clearly printed abridged classical dictionary at not too great a price, in print in English.

THERE is a "Smaller Classical Dictionary," edited by E. H. Blakeney, one of the volumes of the inexhaustible and indispensable Everyman's Library (Dutton). This costs less than a dollar. All three of the classical dictionaries most often found in libraries, public and family, in the United States, are now out of print, but should not be difficult to find. "Harper's Dictionary of Classical Literature and Antiquities," edited by Harry Thurston Peck, costs six dollars. It has all the topics under one alphabet, brief reading lists, and many illustrations. The "Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities" of Sir William Smith, first edition 1842, was last published in America (3rd edition) by Little, Brown; the "Concise Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities" based on this, with over 1000 illustrations, was published by Holt in 1898.

C. C. T., Philadelphia, was so delighted with "The Hawk's Nest," by George Sterling, in the SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE, that she went to the library there to find something else of his and found that his name was not even catalogued.

THE titles of the volumes of George Sterling are, in order of appearance from 1908, "The Testimony of the Suns," "A Wine of Wizardry," "The House of Orchids," "Beyond the Breakers," "Ode" for the opening of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, "Yosemite," "The Caged Eagle," "The Binding of the Beast," "Lilith" and "Rosamund" (plays) and "Sails and Images." In 1923 Holt published his "Selected Poems"; the others are published by Robertson, San Francisco. A play, "Truth," has appeared since. Mr. Sterling was born at Sag Harbor and now lives in San Francisco; C. C. T. has a hawk's nest of her own on the top of a windmill at Shelter Island.

O. M. T., Indianapolis, Ind., asks for books on the art of the dance, classical, Spanish, and ballet.

"THE Antique Greek Dance," by Maurice Emmanuel (Dodd, Mead), is translated by W. J. Branley; it is a famous work with over six hundred illustrations. "The Dance: Its Place in Art and Life," by the Kinneys (Stokes), describes with photographs and diagrams the different schools of ballet, the national dance of Europe and the Orient, and some of the modern dances. "The Russian Ballet in Western Europe," by W. A. Propert (Dodd, Mead), is a gorgeous and expensive work describing the career of the ballet from 1909 to 1920. A delightful biography is that of Enrico Cecchetti, written by Olga Raester; "The Master of the Russian Ballet" (Dutton). It has a grateful and characteristic preface

by Pavlova. The *Revue Musicale*, Paris (Nouvelle Revue Française), devoted one of its remarkable special numbers—December 1, 1921—to "Le Ballet au XIX Siècle" with many contemporary illustrations, and one of the best essays in Stuart Henry's "French Essays and Profiles" (Dutton) is on "The Great Era of the French Ballet." I wish—some of these stately and magnificent entertainments would be brought to America, for instance, "Les Indes Galantes" of Rameau, lately revived with loving fidelity to tradition.

In Horatio Parker's "Eighth Notes" (Dodd, Mead) there are several studies of great dancers of our time, and for the very latest along these lines there is of course Gilbert Seldes's "The Seven Lively Arts." "The Dance in Education," by A. and L. Marsh (Barnes), has all the music too. While for the philosophy of the dance and its place in the life of man, I prefer the noble study by Havelock Ellis, "The Dance of Life" (Houghton Mifflin). [One of the world-classics of dancing, as important as Playford's "English Dancing Master," has just been translated into English for the first time. This is the "orchestography" of Thoinot Arbeau, published at Langres, France, in 1588. The translation is made by Cyril W. Beaumont and published by him (in England) also in a special limited edition. It is in the form of a dialogue with a pupil.]

E. D. D., Saratoga Springs, N. Y., looks for a play of Revolutionary or Civil War times, to be given by a patriotic society for money-raising purposes, and asks about Bronson Howard's "Saratoga."

THIS was one of his very first plays, written at the period when playwrights might use unabashed the devices of the aside and the soliloquy, and while the subject makes it peculiarly appropriate for this place and purpose, it is not so much of a play in itself as his "Shenandoah." This is not beyond the powers of amateurs, if they will content themselves with an off-stage horse for Sheridan's ride. Clyde Fitch's "Nathan Hale" (Baker) is a good choice for a Revolutionary play; his "Barbara Frietchie" (French) and "Captain Jinks" (French) have such pretty costumes that they would take the mind of an audience off the slips that have been known to take place in amateur productions. Pinero's delightful "Trelawney of the Wells," for instance, I have seen given by high-school casts with about as little talent or training as possible, and somehow a few rehearsals in costume put them into the picture beautifully.

G. H. E., Philadelphia, Pa., asks for an elementary book on etchings, woodcuts, lithographs.

"ETCHING and other Graphic Arts," by George T. Plowman (Dodd, Mead) and follow it with Frank Weitenkamp's "American Graphic Art" (Macmillan).

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

Mahilde Neil

Columbia University Press 2960 Broadway New York, N. Y.

FIVE STAGES OF GREEK RELIGION
By Gilbert Murray
Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford
276 pages. \$3.75

This is a revision of the earlier work "Four Stages of Greek Religion" which has been out of print for several years. A new chapter on "The Great Schools" and a few corrections of errors in the first edition are the principal changes.

"The scholarly caution and restraint, the discriminating spirit, which marks the whole book, added to the unusual dignity and charm of style, makes it one of the most delightful studies of the inner life of Greece that we have seen."—*The Churchman*.

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by Thomas Grant Springer

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Speaking of Books

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THE
University of Chicago Press
CHICAGO

"ONE of the outstanding geniuses of America is C. L. Edson," says Meredith Nicholson. Julian Street says: "Weird and Poesque by nature, there is a great depth in Edson's writing." E. W. Howe read the two books named below at one sitting. H. L. Mencken said that any publisher should jump at the chance of publishing Edson's sincere stuff. Other equally eminent critics call Edson a mediocrity, a boulder and a fool. You can judge for yourself.

WHALE MEAT
a satire on democracy in America

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT JEWS
a study of tribal nature

are the two important books in the set of six, the other titles being DULCINEA'S DIARY, a burlesque novel, ALMOND BLOOM, a Byronic blast, PRAIRIE FIRE, an epic of Covered Wagon days, and RHYMES AND CIRCUSES, comic verse.

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All six books post paid \$2.25

THE
EDSON POCKET LIBR
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There were too many good ones—

so the judges had to award 29 autographed copies of *The Constant Nymph* instead of the 25 originally advertised. And even that leaves at least 150 excellent letters unrewarded.

Here are the names of those who, in the opinion of a committee of leading booksellers, best answered the question, "Why is *The Constant Nymph* the best-selling book in America?"

MARGARET ARMITAGE, Minneapolis, Minn.
C. RALPH BENNETT, Gouverneur, N. Y.
JULIA A. CLARKE, Minneapolis, Minn.
FRANCIS M. CURRIER, Winchester, Mass.
ALFRED C. DALMAS, New York, N. Y.
W. E. ELLIS, Moultrieville, S. C.
BELLE FLIGELMAN, Helena, Mont.
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MISS MARY JESSUP, Goshen, N. Y.
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MARGARET E. SCHEVILL, Berkeley, Cal.
GERTRUDE M. SHIELDS, Indianapolis, Ind.
ANNETTE M. SWARTLEY, Meadville, Pa.
A. H. WARREN, San Diego, Cal.
EDWIN A. WERNETT, Allentown, Pa.

The judges were Messrs. Percy Beach, of Beach's Bookshop, Indianapolis; John G. Kidd of Stewart Kidd, Cincinnati; and Frederic Melcher, Editor of *The Publisher's Weekly*.

Here is one of the winning letters that is short enough to quote:

"In Dodd, there is all the dramatic insufficiency of *Genius*; and in *Teresa*, the tearing, tearful tragedy of the *Understanding*—but—*Un-gifted*. The man has the qualities, the eccentricities even, that brighten each ego's dreams; and the girl, the disillusioning inadequacies that darken the hopes of the myriad. . . Thus each of the many finds portrayed some part of what, poor soul, he is; thus each of the many finds revealed some part of what, poor soul, he would be."



The autographed copies of *THE CONSTANT NYMPH* will be mailed at once to the winners.

Meanwhile, anyone can buy *THE CONSTANT NYMPH* at the nearest bookstore—\$2.00

Doubleday, Page & Co.

The Phoenix Nest

ONE thing we like about the firm of *Albert and Charles Boni* is that their American Library, which now contains over twenty titles, is reviving certain powerful American writers who are, in this illiterate day and generation, too little remembered. * * * This Fall they come out with the "Collected Stories and Tales of *Fitz-James O'Brien*," with an introduction by the contemporary *Edward J. O'Brien* (as seems quite suitable, so far as nomenclature goes). * * * E. J., who annually gleams among the short stories of the year for what he considers the best, remarks of the famous *Fitz-James* that his stories "are the creative result of a very powerful intellect playing with considerable intensity upon an interior life of great depth and terror, and not only registering with precision its own reactions to the discoveries, but formulating a philosophy as daring as *Poe's*. The best of his short stories call for no apologies, except our own for neglecting them so long." * * * Which is accurate and well stated! * * * In October the same firm is to publish a new and notable symposium upon the Negro. This is particularly timely. Some of the contributors to it are *Sherwood Anderson*, *Paul Robeson*, *Paul Kellogg*, *Frank Tannenbaum*, *Countee Cullen*, *W. E. B. du Bois*, *James Weldon Johnson*, *Walter F. White*, *Jessie Fauset*, etc. * * * We hear that *Llewelyn Powys's* "Skin for Skin" is vividly interesting. And, if you speculate about the remarkable *Powys* brothers, read *Llewelyn's* account of them in the *September Century*. * * * *Llewelyn Powys* has now bought a remote cottage on the Dorchester cliffs, where he and his wife, *Alyse Gregory*, former managing editor of the *Dial*, have recently gone to live. * * * So *J. Maynard Keynes* is engaged to *Lydia Lopokova*, the celebrated Russian dancer! * * * *Keynes* is an art patron as well as an economist, possesses a remarkable collection of modern pictures, and belongs to a syndicate that retains certain painters at an annual fee for first call on their pictures. * * * He is associated with a sort of Ministry of the Talents in London, which includes, among painters *Duncan Grant* and *Mrs. Clive Bell*; among novelists, *Virginia Woolf*; among biographers, *Lytton Strachey*; among sculptors, *Frank Dobson*; with *Roger Fry* and *Clive Bell* standing for art, scholarship, and aesthetics. * * * In the heart of the old whaling town of Nantucket, *Wilbur Daniel Steele*, author of "Taboo" and many short stories and other novels, has remodeled for himself a fine old Colonial house which has everything but a furnace. He will continue to write there until mittens and a fur coat become necessary! * * * *W. R. B.* of our kindred column, "Curative and Discursive," has received much

information about *General Charles King*, having recklessly mentioned him in connection with some remarks about *Harold Bell Wright*. * * * It seems that *W. R. B.* gave one to understand that the famous military novelist was dead,—whereas recently, at the advanced age of eighty, he rode his own horse in the Wisconsin State Fair horse show, entering his mount in competition in the military class. * * * *General King* is attached to *St. John's Military Academy* as an instructor. He is a veteran of five wars, being the only officer in the entire army ever to have been awarded campaign medals for all five. The citizens of *Milwaukee* take a great pride in the record of the doughty *General*. * * * Whatever *W. R. B.* may or may not have said, there is one book of *General King's* that has quite properly become a classic. This is his juvenile novel about *West Point*, "Cadet Days"—the best fictional picture of the *United States Military Academy* that has ever been drawn. * * * There is a modern youngster of our acquaintance who has already read and re-read "Cadet Days" at least five times! * * * And there are plenty of people to testify that the backgrounds of *General King's* stories of Army life in the early days are entirely accurate. To this indeed, *W. R. B.* tells us, he takes little exception. He simply recognized in the *General a flair* for the same sort of psychological treatment that *Harold Bell Wright* affects. * * * Well, long may the *General* wave! Nowadays, when the author of popular novels often salts away many hundreds of thousands of dollars, it seems too bad that the *General* never realized much (monetarily) from his own once enormously popular work. His was the epoch before noted novelists could buy country places and motor cars with their royalties! * * * To *Dutton's Today* and *Tomorrow Series*, *Rebecca West* now contributes a new volume, "The Future of Sex." Well, to judge by all the publicity *Sex* has been having of late years, its future ought to be bright! * * * A modern satire of most social schemes and philosophies, that is said to suggest in its method "Gulliver's Travels" and to have aroused lively discussion in Germany, is "The Isles of Wisdom" by *Alexander Moszkowski*, which has just been translated and brought out over here. * * * *Harold McGrath* is reported as saying that he writes merely to amuse people, and we think it worth noting that he adds,

I never, in my stories, attempt to tell people how to live, because they will do as they darn please anyway.

Which, in these days of open or thinly veiled propaganda, is an exceedingly refreshing statement! *Booth Tarkington* has at last run to earth a copy of *Sir*

Richard Tarkington's *Diary*, "Tarkington's Pylgrymage," published in 1517, the oldest diary of travel in the English language. * * * The dramatization of *Ben Travers's* "The Cuckoo in the Nest" is having a successful early season in London, and may be brought over here. * * * Her publishers sent *Margaret Kennedy* the hundred thousandth copy of "The Constant Nymph," specially bound for a wedding present, when *Miss Kennedy* recently married *David Davis*, former secretary of *Asquith*. And there was a pocket in the box containing the handsome royalty cheque already earned by "The Constant Nymph"! * * * *Stark Young* returns to *The New Republic* from dramatic work on *The New York Times*. You can now get his book of children's plays, "Sweet Times and the Blue Policeman" through *Henry Holt*. * * * Finally, from *Shenandoah Avenue*, *Saint Louis*, comes the following interesting communication from *Edwin Hutchings*. Note it well!

Your reference to *W. H. Carruth's* evolution verses, in the *Phoenix Nest* for August 22, prompts me to remind you of a little book compiled in 1915—"Evolution: a fantasy by *Langdon Smith*" * * * with correlative poems, selected and edited by *Laurens Maynard*." It contains some twenty poems, including *Carruth's*, and is of especial interest at this time. *Laurens Maynard*, one of the founders of *Small, Maynard & Co.*, was a most delightful personality, who thought it was preferable not to be wholly sane.

Will you take a message for your friend the sturdy *Dane*, the *Oaken Peg*, *P. E. G. Quercus*, who wafts along with the *Trade Winds*? Please tell him, in answer to his inquiry of August 29, page 91, that *Wolcott Balestier*, *Kipling's* brother-in-law, spanned the three-decade period from 1861 to 1891, and was the inspiration for *Kipling's* *Dedication* to "Barack Room Ballads." *Balestier's* "Benefits Forgotten" was published posthumously, 1893. * * *

And so, with the info. that *Achmed Abdullah* has signed contracts for the publication in Paris (in French translation) of his complete works, at the rate of two a year—we now close our chronicle for this particular sennight. *Pax Vobiscum!*

THE PHOENICIAN

Foreign Notes

(Continued from page 140)

Marshal Bassompierre is one of the romantic figures of French history, a dashing and successful if not a great soldier, a gay and genial cavalier, a *Don Juan* who declared that he had burned no less than 6000 love letters, an ambassador and host of tact and lavishness, and a loyal supporter of the Crown under *Henry IV*, the *Regent Marie de Medicis*, and *Louis XIII*. Basing his work on *Bassompierre's* journal which was first edited and published fifty years ago, *Paul M. Bondois* has produced an admirable life of the French *Marshal* (Paris: *Michel*). A sympathetic chronicler, but not a hero-worshipper, his book is scientific in method, though lively in style.



OTHER
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by *Willa Cather*

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