

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.
MARY T. GIBLYN, Yonkers, N. Y.
EDITH DARROW GOLDSMITH, Glenside, Pa.
EVELYN HARRINGTON, Columbus, O.
MARIETTA A. HYDE, St. Johnsville, N. Y.
MISS MARY JESSUP, Goshen, N. Y.
FRANK KIDDE, New York, N. Y.
MISS LOUISE DE LANE, Boothbay Harbor, Me.
JOHN MARCO, Victoria, B. C., Canada
ELSIE MCGREGOR, Whittier, Cal.
MRS. WALTER MEIGS, New York, N. Y.
LAURA BURTON MILLER, Charlotte, N. C.
MARY MOWBRAY-CLARKE, New York, N. Y.
ARTHUR T. MUNYAN, Brooklyn, N. Y.
ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, New York, N. Y.
MARY PATRICIA O'BRIEN, Meriden, Conn.
CLARA M. SAWDON, Laramie, Wyo.
MRS. HELEN BOVEE SCHEAR, Waterloo, Iowa
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.



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The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

BIOGRAPHIES FOR COLLECTORS

THE Fall list of the publications of Houghton Mifflin Company contain several new biographies and collections of letters that will be of interest to collectors of American first editions. One of these is "The Life and Letters of John Burroughs" by Clara Burrus, which its publishers say is a "splendid and realistic portrait that makes the great naturalist and philosopher live again; a book that should take its place beside Boswell's 'Johnson,' which is a strong endorsement, indeed. Another is "Letters of Bret Harte," edited by Geoffrey Bret Harte, now first published and said to be "full of character and humor" and "tell in detail the story of his romantic career." Still another important book is the "Diary and Letters of Josephine Preston Peabody," edited by Christina H. Baker. From her sixteenth year to her death, three years ago, Josephine Preston Peabody kept a diary which was largely concerned with the poet's thoughts, ambitions, the arts she loved, and the joys she created herself. It is said to be one of the most vivid and living journals, showing a gallant spirit and intensity of artistic feeling which make it comparable to the "Diary of Marie Bashkirtseff." A highly stimulating volume and one of interest to students and writers of history is "William Hickling Prescott, His Life and Writings shown in His Correspondence, 1833-1847," transcribed and edited by Roger Wolcott. These letters of one of the greatest of American historians include those written in the early years of discouragement and trial, continue through his first successes, "The History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella," "The History of the Conquest of Mexico," and "The History of the Conquest of Peru," and end in 1849, when he reached worldwide recognition. All four of these works contain many letters of the greatest literary interest and are now published for the first time,

making them well worth owning in their original editions.

ON READING BOOK CATALOGUES

GEORGE H. SARGENT contributes a very readable article "On Reading Book Catalogues" to the September number of *Antiques*. If you are a collector of books, he observes, you read the catalogues that come in your mail as a necessary matter of business. But if you are a true bibliophile you read them for mental pleasure and profit. Catalogues differ as much as the men who make them. Mr. Sargent concludes as follows:

"Every book auction catalogue reveals something of the owner of the books himself, especially if he is the cataloguer or if the books, as frequently occurs, bear owner annotations which are repeated in the catalogue. The Johnsonian will find delight in the catalogue of Topham Beauclerk, who is said never to have loaned a book. The student of printing will have a great deal to interest him in the catalogue of the Hibbert Library. The collector of Americana may nowadays draw upon a collection of book catalogues which themselves form a considerable library. First edition collectors may gain bibliographical knowledge and much pleasant information from the catalogues of collectors of "firsts," like that of the late John Quinn. Prefaces and introductions must, of course, be read. Usually these are written by the auctioneer's cataloguer, and are frankly nothing but an advertisement for buyers, but now and then some collector wishes to say a word for himself or his books. Richard LeGallienne even dropped into poetry in a foreword to the catalogue of the sale of part of his library. It is easy to tell which owners have been readers of their books, and which ones have bought with an eye to a possible parting with their treasures. Personally, I like the catalogue of a collector who has also been a reader with a love for the old, the quaint and the rare in books. Many a pleasant, if not a profitable hour may be spent in the reading of such litera-

ture. And who shall say that the stimulus given to imagination by the mere names of books is not worth while?"

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF "INK"

THE August number of the New York Public Library *Bulletin* contains the first part of a bibliography, or reference list of the "Chemistry and Manufacture of Writing and Printing Inks," compiled by William B. Gamble, with an introduction by H. M. Lydenberg, chief reference librarian. This instalment contains 244 items in many languages and only reaches the letter H (Hendricksen). It will probably require two more parts to complete the list. No one but the specialist would ever dream that so much had been written about ink, and certainly specialist and outsider, connoisseur and casual inquirer, will appreciate the labor, research, and patience required to compile this bibliography. Some of the many problems which this subject raises is indicated by a single paragraph from Mr. Lydenberg's introduction:

"Why should some writing inks fade, for instance, and why should fading be so unusual with printing inks, black inks, that is to say? How have our present methods come down from the earlier times when men had more time, or thought they did, to make things properly? If the paper used in our books is poorer in quality than that used fifty or a hundred years ago, how is it that the inks are not appreciably worse? Why, if black ink seems permanent, do the colored inks fade when exposed to sunlight? It is not uncommon to find writing inks that have eaten the paper that they were printed on, but did any one ever see such an attack by printer's ink? Can we get fast colors in inks with our present methods? Do our inks differ radically from those of the early days of printing, and how did those early inks differ from what the scribe used in his work? If it is possible to make for writing purposes an invisible ink, has any one tried to do the same for printing? Why in all the stories of international criminals has no one thought to use a book printed in invisible inks, while the literature of diplomatic spies bears on nearly every page a story of the use of kindred writing ink? Are there any qualities of ink that have to be taken into consideration by

the designers of printing presses, or is it such an obliging substance that the maker of the press can say to the maker of the ink, "Here is the place and the shape of the fountain, and you must adapt your ink to what I am willing to allow you?" Why is it that prices of inks have been so little affected by the war? And how do they compare with those of the past century? Dozens of questions like these come to the mind of anyone who has wondered how a book is made, or who has ever cared to see what makes the book and how it grows and is translated from the mind of the author through composing room and paper mill and press room and bindery into that familiar shape with those familiar black marks on white paper we accept with so few questionings."

NOTE AND COMMENT

SIR ARTHUR QUILLER-COUCH, in his "Charles Dickens and Other Victorians," which was recently published, says "I do not see what writer we can choose to put second to Shakespeare save Dickens." He qualifies this sweeping statement by saying "I am talking of sheer creative force."

* * *

About a year ago the headmaster of the Bungay Grammar School, an English boys' school, made the statement that while boys will read the works of James M. Barrie and George Bernard Shaw, they will not look at the works of Scott or Dickens. The remark has led to not a little observation and discussion, and now the consensus of opinion seems to be that there are more volumes of Dickens borrowed from libraries by boys in England than that of any other classic or modern fiction writer. It would be interesting to know whether this is the condition in America.

* * *

In a report of the recent International Book Fair at Florence in the *Publishers' Circular*, the writer says: "The books that have aroused the most enthusiasm are, of course, the beautifully illustrated books for children which only exist in Italy in a very rudimentary form. The drawings of Rackman and Dulac are perhaps the most popular and every volume illustrated by these two artists have been sold."

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AMERICAN TURF REGISTER and *Sporting Magazine*, volume 15, 1844, also the following numbers or the engravings.—Vol. IV, October 1832, Indians gathering wild-rice. April 1833, "Timolion."—Volume VII, June 1836, "Tramp"—Volume VIII, November 1836 "Felt"—Volume XIV, April 1843, "Grey Eagle," January 1845, "Fashion." Memorials of the Discovery and Early Settlement of the Bermudas, by Sir J. H. Lefroy, 2 vols. London 1877-79.

Down the West Branch by Capt. C. A. J. Farrar. Heroes and Heroines of the Grand National. The Acadians in Song and Story, Ficklin. In Acadia, Ficklin, New Orleans, 1893. "The Rock Floor of Intermont Plains of the Arid Regions" by Charles Rollins Keyes, pub. in Bulletin of Geological Society of America, vol. 19, 1908.

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