

The New Books

Belles Lettres

- LAST ESSAYS. By Joseph Conrad. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.
- FOUR INTRODUCTORY LECTURES. The Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture. Harvard University Press.
- MY KEY TO LIFE. By Helen Keller. Crowell. \$1 net.
- A DICTIONARY OF EUROPEAN LITERATURE. By Laurie Magnus. Dutton. \$10.
- THE ANATOMY OF TOBACCO. By Arthur Machen. Knopf. \$2 net.
- FIELDING THE NOVELIST. By Frederic T. Blanchard. Yale University Press. \$6.
- ESSAYS OF 1925. Selected by Odell Shepard. Hartford: Edwin Valentine Mitchell. \$2.50.
- SELECTED ESSAYS. By Karl Marx. International Publishers. \$1.75.
- CRITICAL WOODCUTS. By Stuart Sherman. Scribners. \$2.50.
- INTELLECTUAL VAGABONDAGE. By Floyd Dell. Doran. \$1.25 net.
- A BOOK OF MODERN ESSAYS. Edited by Bruce Welker McCullough and Edwin Berry Burgum. Scribners. \$2.
- THINGS THAT HAVE INTERESTED ME. Third Series. By Arnold Bennett. Doran. \$2.50 net.
- SINGING IN THE RAIN. By Anne Shannon Monroe. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.
- A NORTHERN COUNTRYSIDE. By Rosalind Richards. Holt. \$1.50.
- FOUR NOVELISTS OF THE OLD REGIME. By John Garber Palache. Viking Press. \$3.

Biography

- ALBERT A. BOYDEN. Privately printed by his brothers and his sister, George W. Boyden and Charles W. Boyden of Sheffield, Illinois, William C. Boyden of Chicago, and Martha Boyden Finley of New York.
- THE LIFE AND WORKS OF THOMAS GREEN FESSENDEN. By Porter Gale Perrin. Orono, Me.: University of Maine Press.
- UNDER THE BLACK HORSE FLAG. By Isabel Anderson. Houghton Mifflin. \$4.
- FAMOUS MEN OF SCIENCE. By Sarah K. Bolton. Crowell. \$2 net.
- THEY KNEW THE WASHINGTONS. Translated by Princess Radziwill. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.
- THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF DR. SAMUEL BUTLER. Vol. I (Shrewsbury Edition). Dutton.
- MADAME DE STAEL. By David Glass. Knopf.

Drama

- UNDERTONES AND THE LADY OF DESTINY. By PHEBE HOFFMAN. Samuel French. 1925.
- "Undertones" is a charming, fanciful episode of an old man whose impetuous, youthful spirit, a long absent guest, returns to him on the occasion of his having misunderstood and turned out of his house his only son because of the latter's interest in a certain girl. The dialogue in it is natural and sparkling, though the theme is somewhat outworn. Good actors could play this little piece up to a vivacious pitch.
- A much more ambitious and successful attempt is Miss Hoffman's "Lady of Destiny," also a comedy in one act. The scene is that of a town department store on the day before the election of the Mayor. Through the force of a tragic incident, Emmy, the saleswoman and character of the ribbon counter, causes Nancy Snyder, the influential daughter of the owner, to swing the voting in another and better direction. From a practical point of view the plot fails to convince the reader, but the dialogue is spirited and delightful. There is promise of excellent comedy in Miss Hoffman's work. Her imagination will take hold of some larger theme and go delightfully over the hills with it.
- YOUNG WOODLEY. By John Van Druten. Simon & Schuster. \$1.75.
- POST MORTEM. By Charles Divine. Appleton.
- SO THAT'S THAT. By John V. A. Weaver. Appleton.
- RICHES. By Gilbert Emery. Appleton.
- BIMBO, THE PIRATE. By Booth Tarkington. Appleton.
- THE CHIEF THING. By Nicolas Evreinoff. Doubleday, Page.
- THE GREAT GOD BROWN: THE FOUNTAIN: THE MOON OF THE CARIBBEES, AND OTHER PLAYS. By Eugene O'Neill. Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.
- THE COMEDY OF THE CROCODILE. By L. A. Triebel. Oxford University Press.

Fiction

- THE ENEMY'S GATES. By RICHMOND BROOKS BARRETT. Boni & Liveright. 1926. \$2.
- The Morgenthals were a most unfortunate family, as Mr. Barrett shows them to us in this new novel. It is a family chronicle, and both in its subject matter and style it is reminiscent of that success

of last season, "The Matriarch," by G. B. Stern. Mark Morgenthal and his wife were Jews of the old school, with a backing of racial pride and tradition that their children did not inherit. Left immensely wealthy by the death of Mark, his two sons and his daughter make comparative messes of their lives, and reduce his fortune considerably. Since they have received strangely mixed qualities from their parents, and further complicated matters by unhappy marriages in the cases of George and Jessica, the book ends with the elder son a suicide, the other an impotent social-climbing dilettante, while the strongest of the lot, the daughter, has suffered a reversion to type that can scarcely be considered happy.

The problems raised by this history of three badly equalized young people are obviously not to be lightly passed over. Besides the racial question suggested by the title of the book, and focussed largely by Jessica's relations with her almost too gentle first husband, the influences of inherited wealth and of parental incompatibility are touched on. As a whole the story suffers from being packed too full of meat; there are evidences that Mr. Barrett enlarged his original novel, which dealt primarily with the weak-willed George Morgenthal and his ruin. Attempting to make an inclusive group picture of it, he has weakened the reality and significance of his central character and theme. For, in spite of the space given to the other members of his family, George remains the important person in the book, and the things that happen to him remain fixed in the memory while all the apparatus used by the author to show off the qualities of the others seems vain. "The Enemy's Gates" is really a study in faulty heredity, as exemplified by this principal figure.

BITTERN POINT. By VIRGINIA MACFADYEN. A. & C. Boni. 1926. \$2.

In an age when Aristotle and his formulas for ordered beauty are largely in the discard, and a mad chaos of idea and impression is the vogue, a story well told—with beginning, middle, and end—is a distinctly refreshing experience. Miss MacFadyen, whose "Windows Facing West" and "At the Sign of the Sun" have before met with favor, has written one of the most enthralling tales of terror that has been published in a long time. It is told with a restraint, an economy of words and scenes, and a crescendo of interest that stamps it as a workmanlike job. A ghastly tale it is, dealing with the physical resurrection of a brutal eighteenth century pirate band, through the perfervid imaginings of a beautiful though neurotic young author, who finally dies in the perfumed clutches of the "Master"—a beady-eyed Turk, lustful "in a manner most unusual."

The story has extraordinary verisimilitude. The twin plots, over two centuries apart, finally converge in a culmination of stark horror seldom surpassed. Nor is there the slightest sop to the groundlings at the end, for the tale closes with a shudder more grisly than the best that has gone before. Miss MacFadyen has hit upon a purely imaginative hypothesis and about it woven a plausible drama. Her gruesome narrative evinces a peculiarly intimate artistry—a rare insight into human hearts under situations that make for drama. The story gives all too little opportunity for the use of Miss MacFadyen's evident ability. It is to be hoped that she will dedicate her next book to an interpretative study of life. Her imaginative power and polished workmanship are worthy of a finer genre than Tales of Terror. Some day Miss MacFadyen will have her amused laugh at "Bittern Point."

STORM DUST. By CONSTANCE I. SMITH. Holt. 1926. \$2.

The wages of sin are paid with compound interest in this lugubrious, yet unpleasantly powerful sex novel. The leading rôle falls to Jacqueline Frere, a widow in her mid-thirties with a small son, who takes as her second husband a rich and lusty libertine of seventy-four. Jacqueline is half French, half Jewish, by birth, and she harbors at their worst the most undesirable characteristics of the two races—sensuality and avarice. These lead her rapidly into an illicit love intrigue with a handsome manservant of the household, a tyrannical selfishness in the use of her newly acquired wealth, a loathing of her aged husband, which at last culminates in her being directly

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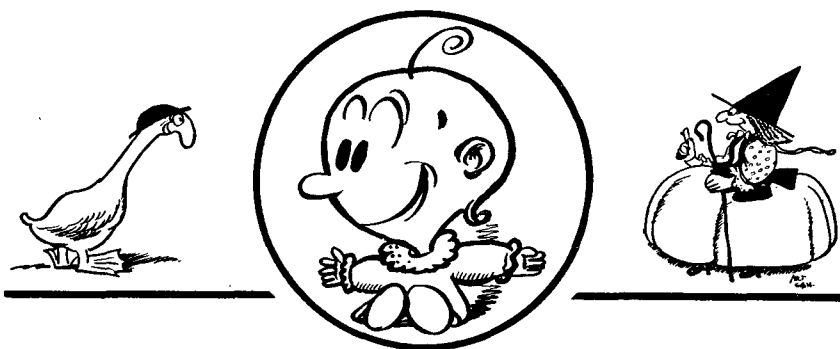
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The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

responsible for his death by drowning. Her deceit, cupidity, and general vileness bring an increasingly heavy retribution, but her character is so utterly detestable that, as the blows of her punishment fall, one is almost stirred to cry: "Goody! Goody!" rather than to feel solicitude for her pangs. It is clear that the author intended to arouse our sympathies for Jacqueline during the experience of her chastisement, but this she fails to do because of having previously portrayed the culprit in terms of a too lurid and profound depravity.

THE TWELVE SAINTS. By *Ruth Manning Sanders*. Clode. \$2 net.
CUCKOO. By *Douglas Golding*. McBride. \$2 net.
RIDERS OF THE WIND. By *Elsyth Thane*. Stokes. \$2.

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PAUL BUNYAN. By *Esther Shepard*. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.
KELLER'S ANNA RUTH. By *Elsie Singmaster*. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.
THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MR. COLLIN. By *Frank Heller*. Crowell. \$2 net.
JACK SUTHERLAND. By *Theodore E. Oertel*. Crowell. \$2 net.
WHEN THE FIGHT BEGINS. By *Holman Day*. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.
SECRET HARBOR. By *Stewart Edward White*. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.
MASTERSON. By *Gilbert Frankau*. Harpers. \$2.
IT'S NOT DONE. By *William Bullitt*. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.
THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS. By *Richard Garnett*. Knopf. \$3 net.
HEAT. By *Isa Glenn*. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

Foreign

DIFFERENTS SOUVENIRS DE JEUNESSE. Selected from the novels of *Anatole France*. Edited by *V. F. Boyson*.
DIE NEUENTSTEHENDE WELT. By *Count Hermann Keyserling*. Darmstadt: Reichl.

L'AGRICULTURE PENDANT LA GUERRE. By *Michel Augé-Laribe*. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires (Yale University Press).
LE CONTROLE DU RAVITAILLEMENT DE LA POPULATION CIVILE. By *Pierre Pinot*. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires.
LA VIE ECONOMIQUE A BORDEAUX PENDANT LA GUERRE. By *Paul Courteault*.
BIBLIOGRAPHIE METHODIQUE DE L'HISTOIRE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE DE LA FRANCE PENDANT LA GUERRE. By *Camille Bloch*. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires (Yale University Press).
LES AVENTURES DU FILIBUSTIER BEAUCHENE. By *Alain-René Lesage*. Edited by *Harry Kurz*. Century. \$1.
LA VIE AMOUREUSE DE MADAME DU BARRY. Paris: Flammarion.
L'HOMME QUI DEVINT FEMME. By *Sherwood Anderson*. Paris: Emile-Paul.
LA SITUATION ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE DES ELATS-UNIS A LA FIN DU XVIII SIECLE. By *Alexandre Capitaine*. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires de France.

Miscellaneous

OSCAR WILDE FROM PURGATORY. By *Hester Travers Smith*. Holt, 1926. \$2.

Here are displayed a series of psychic messages, purportedly from the author of "De Profundis" and "Dorian Grey." Hester Travers Smith is the author of "Voices from the Void" and assumes in her Foreword to the present book that she is "speaking of a discarnate personality of whose existence there is no question." She leaves it to the reader to pronounce upon the case. We ourselves are not convinced by the evidence.

Sir William F. Barrett, F. R. S. discusses the spirit-communications in his introduction. They came through automatic writing and the ouija board. He refers to the recent findings of Professor Richet, the eminent European physiologist, who does not believe in survival. Sir William himself is convinced "that whilst many supernormal psychical phenomena may ultimately be proved to be due to abnormal conditions of the brain, yet there will be found to remain well attested facts which will compel science to admit the existence of a soul; and also of a spiritual world, peopled with discarnate intelligent beings, some of whom can occasionally, but more or less imperfectly, get into communications with us."

Do the Oscar Wilde scripts support this view? They are merely presented. They are indubitably interesting. Sometimes one's visualization of Mrs. Travers Smith at the ouija board and Oscar communicating from grey space sets one's sense of humour stirring, particularly in view of certain of the questions and answers. Mrs. Travers Smith, on the other hand, discusses the communications of Oscar amiably and rea-

sonably. She gives her reasons for believing that his communications differ from the cases cited by Richet as obviously reconstructions of a celebrated personality in the sub-conscious mind of the operator. In three separate instances Wilde's own handwriting, or quite a remarkable imitation of it, came through the automatic writing. Passages parallel to certain passages in his published writings are displayed by him—to impress his personality upon the faithful. There are other remarks more spontaneous and peculiar.

All one can say in a case of this kind is that acceptance or non-acceptance is bound to be colored by the leanings of the observer toward spiritualism or away from it. If one tends to believe the major premise one has food for much speculation. We ourselves are not inclined to dogmatize one way or the other. In general, it may be said that in this, as in all similar records, there is no proof positive.

THE LIBERTY BELL. By *Victor Rosewater*. Appleton. \$1.75.
AMERICA TRIUMPHANT. By *Constance d'Arcy Mackay*. Appleton. \$1.25.
THE FIRST CENTURY OF PRINTING AT BASLE. By *A. F. Johnson*. Scribners. \$3.50.
ITALIAN XVI CENTURY. By *A. F. Johnson*. Scribners. \$3.50.
TYPOGRAPHY OF THE SPANISH XVI CENTURY. By *Foxy Thomas*. Scribners. \$3.50.
FOXES, FOXHOUNDS, AND FOX-HUNTING. By *Richard Clapham*. Scribners. \$3.75.
SOLOMON IBN GABRIOL'S CHOICE OF PEARLS. Translated and edited by *Rev. A. Cohen*. Bloch.
PIRKE ABOOTH. Edited by *R. Travers Herford*. Bloch.
BANKING THROUGH THE AGES. By *Noble Foster Hoggson*. Dodd, Mead.

Science

EVOLUTION, GENETICS, AND EUGENICS. By *HORATIO HACKETT NEWMAN*. University of Chicago Press. 1925. \$3.50.

Professor Newman's book is worthy of passing mention, because the author was one of the witnesses for science in that strange legal battle that raged at Dayton, Tennessee, for ten hot days last summer, and he has incorporated the results of his experience there in this revision of his already well-known work. It is always interesting, and sometimes profitable, to listen while a veteran speaks of war.

There are two distinctive features about this book. First, unlike many of the more serious and intelligent discussions of evolution, it does not either ignore the opposition nor dismiss it summarily. It takes up assertion after assertion, and discusses all of them, even the absurd ones, fully, seriously, and with complete good nature. This makes what one may call the "philosophical" part of the book bulk larger than it usually does in popular evolution volumes, but there is nothing superfluous about the additional matter.

The second distinctive and valuable feature lies in the large and liberal quotations that fill the book. Professor Newman does not content himself with talking about what Darwin, Huxley, DeVries, Bateson and all the rest of the cloud of witnesses had to say; he selects their most pertinent sayings and reprints them, verbatim and duly labeled. This makes this volume a veritable source-book; in lack of complete libraries a most useful vademecum for isolated teachers and preachers.


Travel

AMERICAN SHRINES ON ENGLISH SOIL. By *J. F. Muirhead*. Macmillan. 1926. \$3.

Recently a little book appeared upon those parts of London where American associations were strong. Mr. Muirhead's task is more ambitious. He has made a survey of England and with much scholarship and a pleasing style has written a guide book to the environment that so many famous Americans left behind them. It is more than a record, and the careful descriptions will be of service to scholars as well as travelers. The expected background of Puritans, Quakers, and Virginians is in this book, but also much more not expected, and the record is carried from the settlement up to the great war.

VIRGIN SPAIN. By *Waldo Frank*. Boni & Liveright. \$3.
TALES OF THE ESKIMOS. By *Captain Henry Toke Munn*. Lippincott.
THE GLITTERING MOUNTAINS OF CANADA. By *J. Monroe Thornton*. John W. Lea, 1520 North Robinson Street, Philadelphia. \$4.50 net.
THE MOUNTAINS OF YOUTH. By *Arnold Lunn*. Oxford University Press. \$4.25.
THE FRINGE OF LONDON. By *Gordon S. Maxwell*. Brentanos. \$2.50.

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