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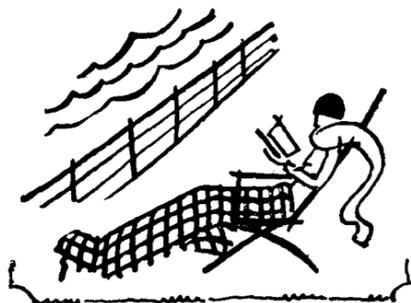
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The Phoenix Nest

WE ourselves are seeking the bounding billow, but many of you may be seeking the fair green within the next several months. * * * We used to play golf ourselves, so we can understand your predilection now that it actually seems as if summer were approaching. * * * But if you go out among the bunkers, and if you are not shooting under ninety for the eighteen, take along "The Duffer's Handbook of Golf," by *Graniland Rice*, illustrated by *Clare Briggs*, the famous cartoonist. * * * "If at first you don't succeed," says Mr. Rice, "try looking at the ball." And anon he bursts into song as follows, "He who swings and lifts his head will say things better left unsaid." * * * Mr. Rice also conveys tips from such famous players as *Jim Barnes*, *Walter Hagen*, and *Bobby Jones*. * * * But maybe you would rather get some tips from poets,—maybe you would rather sit down under a shade-tree just off the course, commune with nature, and dip into some pleasant books of verse, letting the chip-shots fall where they may. * * * In such a case, allow us to recommend some books that you can slip in your pocket. * * * Here is, for instance, "New Poems and Old," by one *Muriel Stuart*. This very attractively manufactured small volume is produced by one whose praises as a bookseller we have often sung, namely *Edwin Valentine Mitchell*, of 27 Lewis Street, Hartford, Connecticut. It bears an introduction by *Henry Savage*. * * * Mr. Savage rather daringly states that "Muriel Stuart is the greatest English woman poet living today." * * * We can't go that far with him, but we can opine that her poetry is well worth reading. Here's a naughty lyric of hers we very much like:

GAY GIRL TO GOOD GIRL

*What is virtue, when all's done,
Withered breast, shaking knees?
Cold thoughts sitting in the sun,
If it only bring you these?*

*Men love virtue—so they say,
So they say, but what they do
Kisses half your soul away,
And takes virtue out of you!*

When you die, they'll say, "Poor thing!"

*When I'm dead, they'll lean above;
One will kiss me, one will bring
A posy for the sake of love.*

*When we're both dead, gone far hence
Will it matter what we've been?
On your virtues and my sins
Grass will grow as quick and green.*

* * * And then here is a most charming smaller volume entitled "Casements," being fifty poems by fifty French poets (1820-1920) selected and translated by *Richard Cloudesley Savage* (and what a swell name!) and published in this country by Dutton, imported from J. M. Dent and Sons of London. * * * Here are strains by *Bansville*, *Baudelaire*, *Botrel*, *Daudet*, *Paul Fort*, *Catulle Mendès*, *Musset*, *Nadaud*, *Regnier*, *Richepin*, *Rostand*, *Verlaine*, and others. * * * A nice and original summer token for your best girl. * * * Then there's "Nobodaddy," a poetic drama by *Archibald MacLeish*, published by Dunster House, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Seven hundred copies only of this attractive volume have been printed and consequently it sells for six dollars. * * * The title-page design by our old friend *W. A. Dwiggin* is, of course, a thing of beauty. * * * The Modern Library has just got out an excellent broadside about their books. "Vacation time," they remark, "slip a few Modern Library volumes into the corners of your grip!" And not a bad suggestion at that! * * * Schulte's bookstore, 80 Fourth Avenue, will send on inquiry their "Quinn" catalogue of first editions, and in spite of the fact that *Swinburne's* name is spelt two separate ways in it, very fine some of the items are. * * * The rare first of the *Swinburne's* essay on *Blake*, London 1868, is priced at \$12.50, which isn't at all unreasonable. * * * And looking further through Part 1 of the catalogue, we glean very interesting "info" here and there. * * * *Par exemple*, here is *George Moore's* "Hail and Farewell" in 3 volumes, London 1911-1912 (1914), priced at seventy-five dollars. In volume three there is an autograph inscription by *W. B. Yeats*, which leads one to surmise that he really didn't like the book. It is a little too strong to print here. But on the opposite fly leaf the same poet has written,

*What wonder that so vain a creature
Being jealous of the very wind
Mistook an impulse of ill nature
For art's deliberate mind.*

* * * Then, in this same catalogue is advertised *Ezra Pound's* "Hugh Selwyn Mauberly" from the Ovid Press. This is priced at \$22.50. The Vellum edition was intended, says the catalogue, to be strictly limited to 15 numbered and signed copies printed on genuine vellum and not for sale; notice of this is printed in the back of the book, but *Ezra Pound* had three extra copies made and signed specially for *John Quinn*. This is copy No. 18, with the inscription "Ezra," and the last copy printed on vellum. * * * A book of Irish verse listed in this catalogue, that seems worth having, is "Secret Springs of Dublin Song," by an anonymous author. Some have attributed it to "A. E.," others to the late *Susan Mitchell*. * * * "It has some of the most amusing poems and of the broadest humor published in Dublin in recent years." * * * And you can buy (or could) three volumes of *The Egoist* (an Individualist Review), in three-quarter morocco, for twenty-five dollars. They contain among other things the first printing of *James Joyce's* "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," and contributions by *Amy Lowell*, *Ezra Pound*, *Remy de Gourmont*, *Wyndham Lewis*, and others. * * * But, laying aside the catalogue, we now turn to "Mape: The World of Illusion," by *André Maurois*, the author of "Ariel." This is another volume of biography, comprising three studies. The first is of *Goethe*, in the throes of his youthful romance with *Charlotte Buff*. * * * On the rather strange Contents page this is called "The First Circle of Mape or The Creator." * * * "The Second Circle of Mape or The Reader" concerns a young man and his attempt to emulate a character in one of *Balzac's* stories, his attempt to enter *Balzac's* world of illusion. * * * "The Third Circle of Mape or The Interpreter" presents the portrait of an actress, namely, the famous *Sarah Siddons*. * * * And what the deuce is this Mape? you may justly ask. * * * Well, it turns out that Mape, as *M. Maurois* tells us in his opening pages, is a word coined by his own little daughter to designate her ever-ready world of make-believe. * * * From the office of *George Sylvester Viereck* comes the following statement:

From a paragraph in a literary publication we note that *Jacob Wassermann* is about to publish a long novel dealing with the destiny of the Jewish people since Christ. We understand that there will be a central character, one eternal Jew, who passes immortal through the ages. Permit us to state, as a matter of record, that we are now engaged in the completion of a novel conceived and begun fifteen years ago, in which the central figure is the Wandering Jew, immortal and young. The treatment of our subject will, very likely, be totally different from *Wassermann's* work, for we are not primarily, nor even to any appreciable degree, interested in the history of the Jew. Our Wandering Jew is the Eternal Man, akin to *Ahasuerus*, *Faust*, and *Don Juan*, and partaking of all of them—man in quest of himself. The work will probably consist of two volumes, the greater part of which is now in the hands of an international publishing house; but it is not possible to tell at this moment whether it will appear in the Fall or in the Spring, following or preceding the publication of *Wassermann's* novel. We bring this matter to your attention now to forestall the possible suggestion later that we were inspired in any way by *Wassermann's* work.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) *George Sylvester Viereck*,
Paul Eldridge.

* * * "Blues" is out, an anthology "tracing the development of the most spontaneous and appealing branch of Negro folk music from the folk blues to modern jazz." * * * It is edited by *W. C. Handy*, with an introduction by *Abbe Niles* and illustrations by *Miguel Covarrubias*. * * * It is published by *Albert and Charles Boni*. * * * It contains over forty pieces of music and words by *Handy*, *Williams*, *Nashe*, *Gershwin*, *Kern*, *Berlin*, and others. * * * *W. C. Handy*, who composed the "St. Louis Blues" and the "Memphis Blues" is, of course, the Father of the Blues. * * * *Covarrubias's* illustrations are simply amazing, and *Handy's* selections are naturally full of prizes. One simple strain which we like particularly is entitled "Mountain Top Blues (Blue Mama's Suicide Wail)." Some of the words run like this:

*Goin' up to the mountain top
Throw myself down in the sea;
Climb up to the mountain
Throw myself down in the sea;
Jes let the sharks and fishes
Make a big fuss over me!*

* * * And so, so long!

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