

THE AMERICAN MERCURY AUTHORS

DAVID MERRILL ANDERSON comes from New Hampshire and is a graduate of Amherst and Phillips Exeter. "Play a Waltz" is his first published short story.

HERBERT ASBURY is a Missourian, and has been doing newspaper work for the past thirteen years in Illinois, Georgia and New York. He has been in New York for about eight years, on the staffs of the Sun and the Herald, and is now on the staff of the Herald-Tribune. During the World War he was a lieutenant of infantry.

WILLIAM E. DODD, Ph.D. (Leipzig), is a North Carolinian and became professor of American history at the University of Chicago in 1908. He has devoted himself largely to the history of the South.

MAX EASTMAN is a graduate of Williams College. After a few years' teaching and graduate work in philosophy at Columbia, he became editor of *The Masses*, which was suppressed during the war. While its editors were still under indictment, the magazine came to life again as the *Liberator*, a journal more seriously political in character. Mr. Eastman continued to edit this publication until 1922. He has spent the last two years in Russia.

DR. MAJOR GREENWOOD is a high official in the British Ministry of Health, and secretary of the Royal Statistical Society.

ALVIN F. HARLOW is a native of Sedalia, Missouri, and a graduate of Franklin College, Indiana. He was formerly engaged in the illustrating and engraving business.

PATRICK KEARNEY is a frequent contributor to the magazines. He is the author of several one-act plays which have been published and produced. He was born in Ohio, and has lived in New York since leaving Ohio State University.

ARTHUR KROCK, now assistant to Ralph Pulitzer, editor of the *World*, was trained under Henry Watterson on the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and was formerly its Washington correspondent. He edited the collection of Col. Watterson's editorials published after the latter's death.

ROBERT H. LOWIE, Ph.D. (Columbia), is associate professor of anthropology at the University of California and editor of the *American Anthropologist*. He is the author of "Primitive Society" and "Primitive Religion." He has lately returned from Europe, where he was vice-president of the International Americanist Congress at Gothenburg and delivered addresses before the Anthropological Society at Vienna and the Anthropological Club at Cambridge.

LUIS MUÑOZ MARÍN is a Porto Rican, but has lived in the United States for many years. He is a frequent contributor to the *American*, *Spanish* and *Latin-American* magazines. His wife is Muna Lee, the poet.

FRED LEWIS PATTEE, Litt.D., is the author of "A History of American Literature Since 1870" and of various other works in that field. He is at present at the University of Illinois.

ELBERT PEETS is a Cleveland architect whose work is mainly in the field of park and garden design and city planning. He is co-author with Werner Hegemann of "Civic Art," the standard thesaurus of architectural city planning.

STANLEY WALKER was born on a ranch in Lampasas county, Texas. He worked for a time as a laborer and later attended the University of Texas. He has been a reporter on various Southwestern newspapers and was once secretary to the Mayor of Dallas. He joined the staff of the *New York Herald* in 1919; remained with the *Herald* through the sale of the property as reporter and rewrite man, and is now assistant city editor of the *New York Herald-Tribune*.

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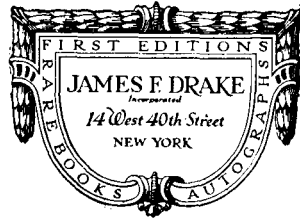
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THE AMERICAN MERCURY

The BORZOI BROADSIDE for MARCH 1925



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THE SPRING FLIGHT is a first novel of America by an American that does much towards restoring the national tradition which seems to have departed
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with Mark Twain. It is the intimate record, realistically presented, of the youth and manhood of Kenneth Fair, as thoroughly American as Theodore Roosevelt or Babe Ruth. Through the medium of his hero's adventures Mr. Smits, whom we discovered to be a Detroit newspaperman, has revealed the vast, shifting panorama of the American scene -- revealed it with gusto, an infinite zest for life, not a little satiric humor, and above all, from a thoroughly detached and civilized standpoint. In addition he has realized the main function of a novelist, namely, to tell a good story. *THE SPRING FLIGHT* may not be that Great American Novel for which we have all been waiting so long and so vainly, but it approaches that somewhat chimerical ideal closer than any first novel in recent years. Here is a book that can be put on the shelf of American literature between *HUCKLEBERRY FINN* and *THE SCARLET LETTER*.

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FRANCIS BRETT YOUNG
Author of SEA HORSES



My Name is Legion

MY NAME IS LEGION was begun in 1919 and was finished after nearly five years of work when Charles Morgan was within a few days of his thirtieth birthday. He had determined to write a work of pure imagination and to write it without regard to time, length or fashion. This novel is the outcome. It is the story of a girl who was born "more spirit than flesh"—a natural saint and ascetic, endowed with great powers. It tells of her life among the lust, the brutality and the vulgar luxury of the modern world. Men and women of grossly or subtly carnal minds she attacks with her spiritual and miraculous weapons. The book shows the effects of these attacks upon them and upon herself. For Irma does not come out scatheless from her combats. The work which she has set herself, which, in fact, has been imposed upon her by the curious circumstances of her birth and by what might be termed the chemical composition of her wholly unique spirit, is a constant travail, a ceaseless torture and castigation of soul. It is only after her finest achievement which finally justifies and makes clear her place in the world, that Irma is able to transcend the obscurities of her early youth and find for herself some measure of happiness.

Miss Storm Jameson, in a letter to the author, wrote: "I cannot really write to you about it, because the book has—quite literally—silenced me. My mind is full of it."

MY NAME IS LEGION. By CHARLES MORGAN. \$2.50 net.

A Cartoon for a Stained-Glass Window

WHEN Carl Van Vechten's THE BLIND BOW-BOY first appeared in 1923 its author swore before a notary public that his one and only object in creat-

ing this "cartoon for a stained-glass window" was to amuse. And he succeeded. Fanny Butcher in *The Chicago Tribune* called it "A Super Ziegfeld Revue"; *The Irish Times* compared it "with Anatole France's most exuberant flights of fancy"; while Ernest Boyd in *The Nation* dubbed it "the great realistic novel of contemporary New York life."

"Witty and sophisticated comedy, moving with a light hand among habits and values which are ordinarily taken seriously. Its hero is being introduced to the civilized artifices of New York. His Campaspe Lorillard carries sophistication beyond any point it has heretofore reached in American fiction; his Duke of Middlebottom is a dream of what the British aristocracy could do in the way of luxurious naughtiness if they had minds and put their minds to the task."—Carl Van Doren in *The Century*.

THE BLIND BOW-BOY. By CARL VAN VECHTEN, author of "Red," "Peter Whiffle," "The Tattooed Countess," etc. A Borzoi Pocket Book. \$1.25 net.

Our Rural Heritage

THE subject of James Mickel Williams's new volume, OUR RURAL HERITAGE, is by no means one of merely historical interest. "Our rural heritage" is a living thing and has a definite bearing upon the development of our national life.

What we have here is an analysis of the attitudes and beliefs that enter into "our rural heritage," an inductive study of the psychological processes of the development of our rural population from its simple organization as isolated neighborhoods of equals to its present complex organization as an advanced agricultural population.

This is primarily a psychological study, based on a careful examination of documents, field studies of particular communities, and statistical correlation of economic conditions with psychological facts. The long-felt need of a thorough study of the social psychology of rural development is hereby supplied.

A supplementary volume dealing with THE EXPANSION OF RURAL LIFE is in preparation.

OUR RURAL HERITAGE. By JAMES MICKEL WILLIAMS, author of "Principles of Social Psychology," "The Foundations of Social Science," etc. \$5.00 net.

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

The BORZOI BROADSIDE for MARCH 1925

A Medieval Romance

WHEN Sigrid Undset's *THE BRIDAL WREATH* appeared in this country, in its translation from the Norwegian, A. Donald Douglas in *The New York Tribune* said of it: "Sigrid Undset has wrought a miracle. Her display of medieval Norway she compasses not by a tedious inventory of battlemented turrets and elaborate archaisms but by an evocation of life suffered through the soul of Kristin Lavransdatter, a girl more absolutely real than the very most recent heroine. She is a sweet and fiery and patient prisoner to love."

THE MISTRESS OF HUSABY carries on the story of Kristin. She has married Erlend and the scene has changed to the old northern capital of Norway: Trondhjem. Her private domestic drama is startlingly affected by the exciting politics of the time. The brilliant and flighty Erlend becomes involved in revolutionary plots, and against the background of court pageantry is enacted the romance of this lovely woman. In its sure revelation of a woman's character there is only one other Scandinavian novel to which Sigrid Undset's work can be compared: *MARIE GRUBBE* by J. P. Jacobsen. *THE MISTRESS OF HUSABY* is the evocation of medieval romance and a stirring portrayal of a woman ahead of her times.

THE MISTRESS OF HUSABY. By SIGRID UNSET. Translated from the Norwegian by CHARLES ARCHER. \$3.00 net.

A Frenchman Looks at Literature

It remained for a Frenchman to write what J. Middleton Murry in *The Athenaeum* called "the best book on the modern English novel." Monsieur Abel Chevalley, writer, teacher, journalist, diplomatic Minister, High Commissioner for France, a man of the most varied career, has made one of the most complete and scholarly analyses of the modern English novel that has yet been written. Starting with a brief sketch of the English novel before 1800, the author progresses to a forty-page study of the outstanding trends of the nineteenth century and thence to the consideration of the most important figures and works of the present age. Henry James, Thomas Hardy, Mrs. Humphry Ward, George Meredith, John Galsworthy, Gilbert Cannan, Samuel Butler, W. H. Hudson, James Joyce, H. G. Wells, Arnold Bennett, Hugh Walpole and many others are carefully and vitally discussed.

"The most ambitious and systematic attempt to trace the development of the twentieth-century English novel and describe its main tendencies today which, to our knowledge, has been made either in France or in this country."—*Weekly Westminster Gazette*.

"The writing is so alive and fresh that what is really a resumé of the soundest English criticism abounds with judgments that seem almost new."—*Manchester Guardian*.

This book achieved the distinction, almost if not quite unique, of being first published in its original French in England by the Oxford University Press.

THE MODERN ENGLISH NOVEL. By ABEL CHEVALLEY. Translated from the French by BEN RAY REDMAN. \$3.00 net.



Murder and Mystery

BACK to his native England after several years' absence in Canada comes Reginald Eames. A day or two after his arrival his lifeless body is found jammed into the locked wardrobe of his hotel room. The finger of suspicion points in many directions, for more than one person had a possible motive for committing the crime.

In unravelling the tangled threads of the mystery in *THE EAMES-ERSKINE CASE*, the author, A. Fielding, a newcomer to this country, has done an ingeniously clever bit of writing, for plot follows plot with surprising rapidity and thrill. The interest never lags for a moment and A. Fielding has done what J. S. Fletcher and few others have been able to do: namely to maintain an illusion of absolute credibility during the most incredible and exciting incidents. At a time when so few stories of this kind are being well written it is a privilege to welcome A. Fielding to the front rank of mystery detective story writers.

THE EAMES-ERSKINE CASE. By A. FIELDING. \$2.00 net

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The Dean of Music Critics

"I REGARD Ernest Newman as one of the greatest writers upon music, not only of today, but of all times," said Leopold Stokowski, Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, on the occasion of Mr. Newman's arrival in this country as guest critic of *The New York Post*. As music critic of *The London Times* Mr. Newman established a reputation for his sagacity, progressiveness and brilliance second to none. This reputation has been greatly enhanced by his volumes of musical studies.

A few months ago *WAGNER AS MAN AND ARTIST* appeared in a new and revised edition on the *Borzoi* list. Now two more Newman books are to be published: *A MUSICAL CRITIC'S HOLIDAY*, a new book, and *A MUSICAL MOTLEY*, a new and revised edition of his well-known essays. In his new book Mr. Newman tries to answer the perplexing question whether the criticism of contemporary music is possible, especially in a time of radical change such as this. He imagines a musical critic suddenly to become tired of the clash of opinion as to the relative value of the music of today, and to seek refuge from the clamor of the contending parties in a lonely house. Here, with the aid of a full musical library, he works out principles and creeds to sharpen his judgment and to supply the reader with helpful and entertaining theories of modern music.

In *A MUSICAL MOTLEY* the author has added much new material to this delightful book of essays, first published in 1919. Some of the chapters are: *A Trap for the Critics*, *The Amateur Composer*, *On Instruments and Their Players*, *Mad Monarchs and Music*, *Some Musical Parodies*, *The Confessions of a Musical Critic*, *The Best Hundred Scores*, *The Weary Willies of Music*, etc.

Anyone seeking knowledge, entertainment and an appreciation of the best in musical literature should cultivate the acquaintanceship of "the Dean of Music Critics" through his books.

A MUSICAL CRITIC'S HOLIDAY.
A MUSICAL MOTLEY. By
ERNEST NEWMAN, author of "*Wagner As Man and Artist*." Uniform in format.
\$3.00 and \$2.50 net respectively.

Aspects of Science

NICHOLAS KOPELOFF, PH.D., of The Psychiatric Institute, says of *ASPECTS OF SCIENCE* by J. W. N. Sullivan: "This is anything but a forbidding
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book, intended rather for the general public than for the specialist. It is, indeed, one of those rare works which hold the interest of anyone concerned with culture. The truth of science is something impersonal, but its meaning is personal, says the author, and his is the humanistic viewpoint.

"His style is felicitous, neither ponderous nor condescending. Dealing as much with aesthetics as with science, his subject matter will prove especially stimulating to artists in all fields of activity. One wishes that there were more books of this kind to bring about a better understanding between workers in special fields and the intelligent public."

ASPECTS OF SCIENCE. By J.
W. N. SULLIVAN. \$2.50 net.

The Great American Myth

FOR these many years, while American readers have delved into the folklore of foreign countries, there lay at their doorsteps, unknown and unrecognized by many, the great American myth: Paul Bunyan. In him, the traditional hero of the lumber camps, is one of the few authentic figures in American folklore. His strength was as that of Hercules, his achievements rivalled the boastings of Münchhausen, his adventures would fill a second *Odyssey*, and withal he is as much a part of the story of our country as Brigham Young or Buffalo Bill.

James Stevens, who has worked in lumber camps and mills for many years, has collected the stories of Paul Bunyan at the fountain head, and has made them into a book, *PAUL BUNYAN*, that is wholly American in its delineation of this preposterous, Gargantuan character who visualizes perfectly the national love for tall talk and tall doings.

The stories of Babe, the blue ox, who drank up rivers and pulled down trees; of Johnny Inkslinger, the camp clerk, who wrote from Tuesday until Saturday without halt in order to have a record of Bunyan's nine-day speech to the loggers; of Big Swede, who almost rivalled Bunyan in height and strength; of Hot Biscuit Slim and Cream Puff Fatty, who cooked the Black Duck Dinner, so tremendous a meal that the loggers were forced to retire and sleep for five weeks; of all the adventures of the gigantic Bunyan and his crew are the raw materials of which true folk literature is made. No American can afford to neglect this vastly amusing and superb rendering of a national myth.

PAUL BUNYAN. By JAMES STEVENS.
With woodcuts by ALLEN LEWIS. \$2.50 net.

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

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THE SECOND VOLUME IN THE BLUE JADE LIBRARY

"The Diaboliques" of d'Aurevilly

By ERNEST BOYD

[THE following quotation is taken from portions of Ernest Boyd's introduction to THE DIABOLIQUES by Barbey d'Aurevilly, the second volume in *The Blue Jade Library*, of which THE LIFE OF HENRI BRULARD by Stendhal was the first.]

The qualities which still lend a flavor to Barbey d'Aurevilly's criticism, however wrong-headed—his mastery of striking epithet, his superb courage and imagination—find their supreme expression in fiction. After writing, at the age of sixteen, an ODE TO THE HEROES OF THERMOPYLAE, he began his literary career proper, in 1834, with his first book of fiction, AMAIDÉE. . . . After two books of minor merit there began to appear those works upon which he established the fame that slowly accumulated during his lifetime: UNE VIEILLE MAÎTRESSE, L'ENSCORCELÉE, LE CHEVALIER DES TOUCHES, UN PRÊTRE MARIÉ, LES DIABOLIQUES, and UNE HISTOIRE SANS NOM, which happens to have been his first book to appear in English, when Edgar Saltus published A STORY WITHOUT A NAME, in 1891.



The trait common to all these stories, and the characteristic mark of Barbey d'Aurevilly's peculiar talent, is their Satanic mysticism, their preoccupation with what is diabolical, in the literal and original sense of that word. The title, LES DIABOLIQUES, describes not only the six women of this book, but the central figures in all the others, for all Barbey's characters are possessed by the devil. . . .

His style has been described as "brutal and exquisite, violent and delicate, bitter and sweet. It is like a witches' brew composed of flowers and serpents, tigers' blood and honey"—a compliment decidedly in his own style.

THE DIABOLIQUES. By BARBEY D'AUREVILLY. *Translated from the French, with an introduction by ERNEST BOYD. Uniform with Volume I of The Blue Jade Library. \$2.50 net*



The BORZOI Barometer

A POPULAR edition of A MOTHER'S LETTERS TO A SCHOOLMASTER by an anonymous author, which was first published in 1922, has just been issued at the price of \$2.50. This book, which Dr. John Dewey called "the most readable introduction to what is fundamental and sound in modern theories of education with which I am acquainted," has created a tremendous amount of interest throughout the United States and England and is said to have readers in many foreign countries. In fact the author received word recently from Dr. Clyde Fisher of the recent Scandinavian expedition that "Madame Ellen Key has been reading your book and told me she was enchanted with it." The late G. Stanley Hall said shortly before his death: "I wish I might live to see, at least in some favored locality, the inauguration of a school of this kind," referring to one of the many sane ideas on education which this mother advances.

THE first review of the first *Borzoi* book of the New Year appears as we write this (January 4, 1925). *The N.E.A. Book Survey* reviewed THE MATRIARCH by G. B. Stern and said of it: "If a more amusing, more compactly done, or better written book comes to this desk during the season—well, heaven hasten the day!"

THE HORLA AND OTHER STORIES, Volume XII in *The Borzoi* Maupassant, will be published this month.

Two *Borzoi* books have recently found their way to the screen. Motion pictures of A LOST LADY by Willa Cather and THE DANCERS by Gerald du Maurier have both been released and are now showing at "your favorite theatre."

YOUNG HARVARD, a book of poems, by Witter Bynner, which went out of print several years ago, has now been reprinted at \$1.50 net at about the same time that its author returned to New York for a few weeks' visit.

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Superlatives

A UNIQUE experiment in modern essay writing is this volume by Grant C. Knight, of the University of Kentucky, entitled *SUPERLATIVES*. Herein are essays analyzing outstanding superlative characters in English fiction, designed to inspire interest in good literature. The characters considered are drawn from the works of Dickens, Eliot, Brontë, Defoe, Meredith, etc. Thus for The Greatest Rogue Mr. Knight has chosen a woman, Moll Flanders, that picturesque adventuress whose story Defoe has told in one of the great "rogue" classics of literature.* The most terrible figure in English literature is Heathcliff of Charlotte Brontë's *JANE EYRE*, according to the author of this book. (We ourselves would vote for Bethlehem of *HARVEST IN POLAND*) Jane Eyre herself is The Happiest; at the other extreme The Most Tragic is Dr. Lydgate of *MIDDLEMARCH*.

Others that Mr. Knight has characterized are The Greatest Lover, The Most Humorous, The Most Unreal, Most Memorable Children, The Most Pitiful, and The Greatest Hero. Of each he tells their story and the reasons for his choice, in such provocative fashion that the reader must be indeed hardened if he can withstand the temptation to read more about these superlative characters.

Therein lies Mr. Knight's object: first and foremost to interest those who are not familiar with

* *MOLL FLANDERS*, by Daniel Defoe, can be procured in The Borzoi classics, \$4.00 net.

many of the American and English classics in some of the finest examples of literature. In doing so he has also succeeded in writing an extremely amusing and original book which will appeal to all whether they have read the classics or not.

SUPERLATIVES. By GRANT C. KNIGHT. \$2.00.

The Latest Publishing Arrangements

The books listed below have only just been contracted for by Mr. Knopf. Their publication dates will be announced in due course.

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A Novel by STEPHEN HUDSON

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By JOHN A. KROUT

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In Canada, Borzoi Books can be obtained from The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Ltd., St. Martin's House, Toronto

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A SPECIAL OFFER

THE AMERICAN MERCURY is making a few very advantageous offers with other magazines. Subscriptions at these rates cannot be entered through agents, or through any other channels than the offices of the magazine in question, and these offers will not be extended indefinitely.

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Edmund Gosse says, "These essays (collected in 1846) not only deserved but demanded resuscitation." \$2.00

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