

THE AMERICAN MERCURY AUTHORS

HERBERT ASBURY *is on the staff of the New York Herald-Tribune.*

MARY AUSTIN *is the author of the chapter on aboriginal literature in the Cambridge History of American Literature, and has written many books and articles about the Indians. Her Indian play, "The Arrow Maker," is well known. She is at present living at Santa Fé, New Mexico.*

JAMES M. CAIN *is a newspaper man, and has been a frequent contributor to THE AMERICAN MERCURY.*

GIUSEPPE CAUTELA *is an Italian, and up to three years ago had not written a line in English. His first novel, "Moon Harvest," has just been published. He lives in Brooklyn.*

EMMETT REID DUNN, PH.D. (Harvard), *is associate professor of biology at Smith College. He specializes in ecology.*

C. HARTLEY GRATTAN *is a native of Massachusetts. He was educated at Clark, where he studied history under Harry Elmer Barnes. For two years he was a teacher of English in a small mid-Western college, abandoning that work in June last. He is a frequent contributor to the reviews.*

SARA HAARDT *is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, where she is now living. She is a graduate of Goucher, and was an instructor there for a while. She is the author of a novel, "Career," soon to be published.*

DuBOSE HEYWARD *is a South Carolinian and was the organizer of the Poetry Society of*

South Carolina. He is the author of "Skylines and Horizons" and "Carolina Chansons," the latter in collaboration with Hervey Allen.

JACQUES LECLERCQ *formerly wrote under the pseudonym of Paul Tanaquil. He is now living in New York.*

WALT McDougall *is the dean of American cartoonists, for many years on the World.*

LEWIS MUMFORD *is a lecturer on Architecture and American Civilization at the New School for Social Research. He is the author of "Sticks and Stones."*

LOUISE POUND, PH.D. (Heidelberg), *is one of the editors of American Speech, a journal devoted to New-World English, the first issue of which is appearing this month. She is professor of English literature at the University of Nebraska.*

WINIFRED SANFORD *was born in Minnesota, and educated at Mount Holyoke and the University of Michigan. For a while she was a school teacher. She now lives in Texas.*

GEORGE STERLING *is the well known poet. He was one of Ambrose Bierce's most beloved disciples.*

JAMES STEVENS *is the author of "Paul Bunyan," a collection of lumber-camp legends. For many years he was a laborer in the Northwest.*

A. L. S. WOOD *is on the staff of the Springfield (Mass.) Union. He was born on Long Island, and has been on newspapers in New York and Virginia.*

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Editorial NOTES

The call issued in this place several months ago for a Kentuckian able to explain what has happened to his once proud and puissant State is still unanswered. It is accordingly renewed. By what process was Kentucky captured by the Methodists, Baptists and other such riff-raff? Forty years ago the State was the scene of a spacious and charming civilization. Its people drank good whiskey, raised good horses, ate good victuals and made love to very pretty gals. Even ten years ago it was still measurably more civilized than any other State south of the Ohio, save only Virginia and Louisiana. But now it is fast descending to the level of Arkansas and Tennessee. All its distilleries are closed, there is a war on against its race-tracks, and its legislature came within one vote of passing the idiotic Tennessee anti-evolution law. Worse, there seems to be no protest by the civilized minority. The *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Col. Henry Watterson's old paper, is actually supporting Prohibition. What has happened in Kentucky? Is there a Kentuckian left who can describe and account for the catastrophe? If so, the columns of THE AMERICAN MERCURY are open to him.

Protest, *De rebus theologicis*, from Mr. Burt Hommel, of Lewiston, Pennsylvania:

A word, if you please, on the plight of the Devil. I notice in reading the *Droll Stories* that Balzac occasionally neglects to capitalize synonyms for God. Whether this is intentional or not I do not know, but it fetches to my mind the fact that the name of the Devil, when written today, is scarcely or never capitalized by modern writers. This is unfortunate; at least, so it seems to me. Why, if God always brings

Continued on page xxviii



The telephone door

More people enter our homes and offices by telephone than in person. Through the telephone door, traveling by wire, comes a stream of people from the outside world on social and business missions. Important agreements or appointments are made, yet the callers remain but a few seconds or minutes and with a "good-bye" are gone. We go out through our telephone doors constantly to ask or give information, buy or sell things, make personal calls and on dozens of other errands.

None of the relations of life is more

dependent upon co-operation and mutual consideration than these daily millions of telephone journeys. It is the telephone company's part to furnish the means of calling and to place courteous and intelligent employees at the service of the public. Good service is then assured when there is a full measure of co-operation between users.

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To the Orient

WHERE the silks come from —gorgeous, shining, soft cascades of color. Where the rugs live — my, the bargains! Where they tie embroideries in negligent bundles — sleeve bands, and bits of brocade, and tiny bags — and sell them for nothing at all, with a bit of white jade thrown in, or a flash of kingfisher feather set in silver!

Where the world's all different, from the crown of its head — with pearls and pale flowers in a carved coiffure — to the soles of its feet in butterfly slippers. Where anything may happen — and generally does — except what happens at home.

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Editorial NOTES

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down a capital G, should not Satan also have a big D? I move, therefore, that you editors labor henceforth with the philologists and grammarians, in anticipation of the suggested change. Or else have Jehovah decapitalized also.

Apropos of Mr. Ward Greene's recent "Notes for a History of the Klan," a customer in Chicago sends in the following:

The present Klan is an outgrowth of Kappa Alpha, a Southern college fraternity, founded about 1868 at Washington and Lee to perpetuate the original Klan. Later it had injected into it many of the tenets of Scottish Rite Masonry. The Emperor Simmons, of Atlanta, was a member and national officer of Kappa Alpha, and took advantage of the anti-Jewish hysteria following the Frank trial to set up the present Klan. Kappa Alpha is still the highest degree in the order.

The following belated but waspish remonstrance comes from one subscribing himself P. H. Emerson, B.A., M.B. (Cantab.), 5 Lascelles Mansions, Eastbourne, Sussex, England:

My attention has been called to an article of a Mr. Seligman on Alfred Stieglitz in your issue for May, 1924. Permit me to say that the statement that Mr. A. Stieglitz was the first to be awarded the Progress Medal of the Royal Photo Society for artistic photography is quite inaccurate and false. I was awarded that medal in 1895 for "the artistic advancement of photography," and Stieglitz and Seligman both know this. The critics of New York are making themselves absurd in the way they are and have been booming Stieglitz, who never did first class artistic work. When my history of art photography, which I am writing, appears, you will see it all set forth there, and meantime I refer you to my "Naturelike Photography," third edition, published in New York, 1899. I am sure you do not want to mistreat people. Seligman has no qualification as an art critic, for he once wrote me jering at Sargent's work, and said a circus rider is a better artist.

Polite protest from Dr. Paul De Kruif:

In my article on Jacques Loeb, in your July issue, I spoke of him reading "Candide." Your

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10/10 KASBAH,

The Enchanted Part of Algiers

EUCALYPTUS woods above. The blue bay below. Snow crowned mountains in the distance. And in this setting . . . Algiers! With its narrow stairways for streets. Its veiled women . . . bare feet clasped by heavy golden anklets . . . fingers henna-tipped. Its dim Houses of Allah . . . the glimmer of hanging lamps cast on prostrate shrouded figures . . . the air opalescent with incense. In the bazaars . . . the cobblers stitch red leather babouches. Black bearded M'zabites pass in flowing Arab garb. Merchants and buyers screamingly bargain. The "Hand of Fathma," the Arab mascot, is for sale.

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XXX

Editorial NOTES

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praiseworthy printer made it "Candida." Now my enemies will scornfully point out that I had Loeb reading "Candida" twenty years before it was written. Hurrah!

Caveat filed in a celebrated case by Mr. Philip De Wolf, of Providence, R. I.:

Will some one please tell me what Culture is? This question is inspired by several parts of Mr. Thompson's "Why I Live Abroad," in your May number, specifically, and by many articles in the critical reviews.

First, those who use the term "culture" most, usually call themselves critics. That's all right; they may be, but what must one be to deserve the title of critic? Critics don't always agree, and each one seems to be equally entitled to his own opinion,—as are the great majority of us who don't call ourselves critics, but just the same have opinions.

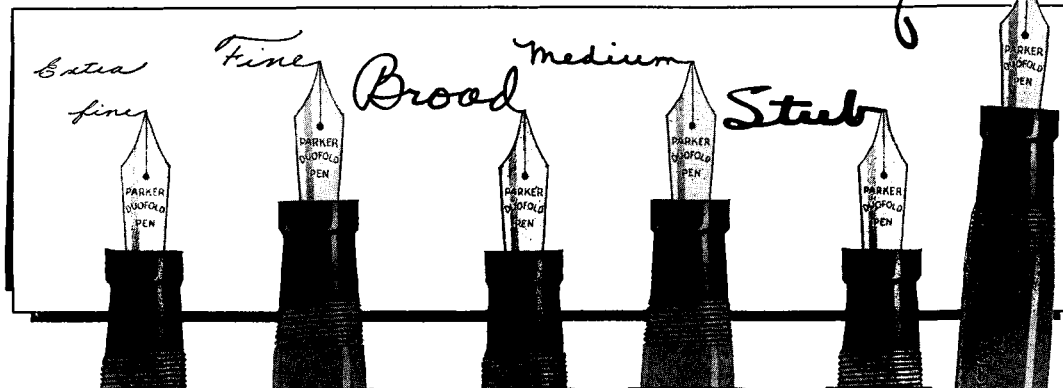
I am a chemical engineer by profession. I know that under certain conditions (and I know what the conditions are) a molecule of SO_3 will combine with a molecule of water to form sulphuric acid, that a definite quantity of heat will be evolved, and all others will check me. This is not a matter of opinion, but of fact.

Why say a person is uncultured because he does not care for certain kinds of music, and does for others? The social standing of my ancestry, in New England and South Carolina, on both sides, has been as good as the best for three centuries, but I don't care for the theatre, and never go when I can get out of it. I do care for chess, and mathematics; I love all the beauties of nature, from a driving rain three and one-half miles up in the Andes to sunsets on the Mojave desert, or a green turtle sunning himself in the Caribbean. The wind in the shrouds is beautiful to me, and I could listen to Kreisler as long as he could play, but one evening at a Boston Symphony concert was spent with my watch in my hat, hoping it would be over, as it finally was. I love flowers; I love beautiful, graceful furniture. I have written one book, on a technical subject, and several articles, but I believe in Prohibition and do not think it an unwarranted attack upon private rights, or "liberty," any more than the suppression of the opium traffic is. I get my principal joy, after my home, out of sailing a boat, and next to that, out of scraping, sandpapering and painting to get her in commission. I read,

Continued on page xxxii

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

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Editorial NOTES

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and enjoy discussing, general politics, economics, science, sports—most subjects,—but I hate a crowd. Am I utterly uncultured?

And on a slightly different line, Mr. Thompson says, "We do not care to be slapped on the back by casual acquaintances of our class." May not the fault be, not with America, but the class to which Mr. Thompson belongs, for I agree with his apparent disbelief in the dictum that all men are created equal? In my forty-five years I don't recall anyone ever slapping my back, nor do I ever expect anyone to, and I don't consider myself unpopular.

Briefly, doesn't "culture" consist in being interested in the things the writer (or talker) is interested in?

A learned friend of the medical faculty favors the Editors with a protest against a statement made in *Clinical Notes* in April, to the effect that there is no scientific medical literature upon the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the human face—that its care and embellishment remain in the hands of quacks. He reports that the following volumes are authoritative:

Paschkis, Heinrich: *Kosmetik für Aerzte*; Vienna, 1901.

Eichhoff, P. J.: *Praktische Kosmetik für Aerzte und gebildete Laien*; Leipzig and Vienna, 1902.

Joseph, Max: *Handbuch der Kosmetik*; Leipzig, 1912.

Truttwin, Hans: *Handbuch der kosmetischen Chemie*; Leipzig, 1920.

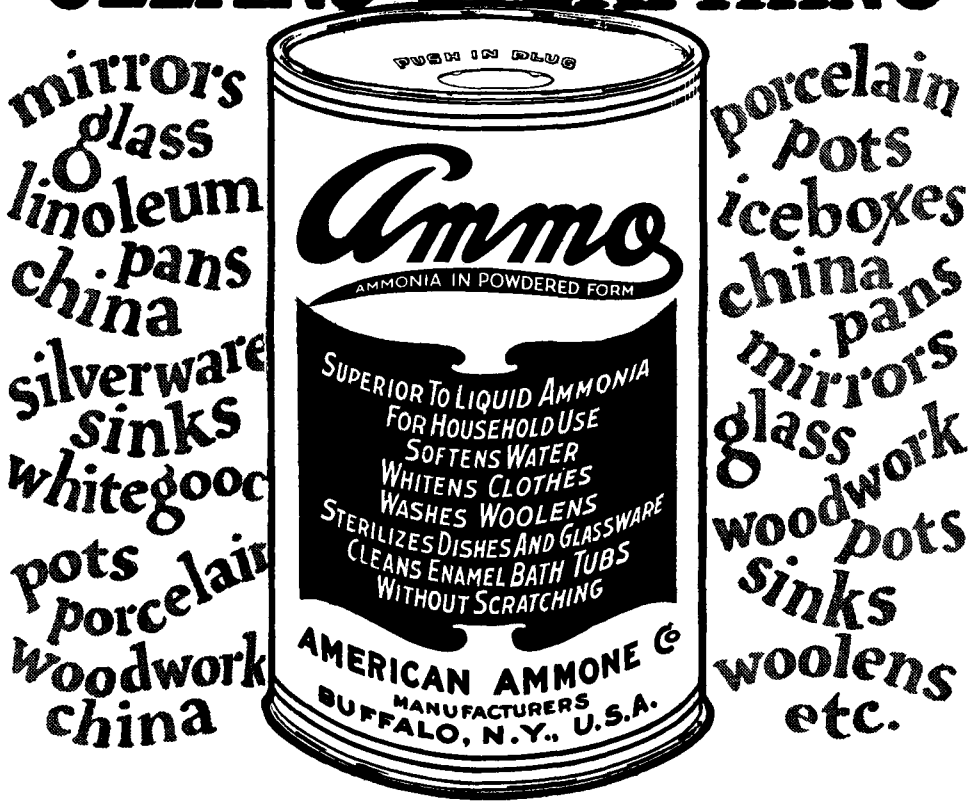
Saalfeld, Edmund: *Kosmetik*; Berlin, 1914. (Also in English translation.)

Miller, Charles Conrad: *Cosmetic Surgery*; Philadelphia, 1924.

The following comes from a customer temporarily resident in Nashville, in the great State of Tennessee:

Here I am in Nashville, and wanting to drive by automobile to Knoxville. There are two or three roads between the two towns, but I am told by State highway engineers that all are impassable—that I must go by way of Chattanooga. Look at your map! This is the State where the teaching of Evolution is banned by statute!

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591 + 592 + 607 + 605 +
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This exhaustive compilation comprises every known scrap of writing from Mr. Davis' hand, and an immense accumulation of other documents. The work of collection was begun in 1908 under the auspices of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, of which the compiler is the director, and enlisted the services of a large number of librarians, State archivists and private collectors, North and South. Every surviving letter and telegram by Mr. Davis is printed, with a note appended to each showing its present location, and in addition all of his known speeches are reported in full, including those he made as a Representative and Senator in Congress before the war, and as Secretary of War. There are also many letters to Mr. Davis from other public men, and a large number of auxiliary documents, some of them of great historical value. The work is carefully edited, well printed and substantially bound. It will be indispensable to every library pretending to cover the field of American history. There is an index running to 167 double-column pages.

THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

By Ralph Volney Harlow. Henry Holt & Company
\$5 8½ x 5¼; 862 pp. New York

A conventional survey of American history, written for the use of college students. Sound official doctrine.

THE FINANCIAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

By J. Warren Stehman. The Houghton Mifflin Company
\$2.50 8 x 5; 339 pp. Boston

One of the Hart, Schaffner & Marx prize essays. The author is associate professor of economics in the University of Minnesota. He inclines to admire the management of the American Telephone and Tele-

Continued on page xxxvi

THERE'S BEAUTY, TOO, BENEATH THE MASK OF DULL DRAB HAIR

"Then, behold!—"

WHAT a vision of shimmering loveliness. Peculiar! He had always thought a cloud hung about her perfect face—like a veiled beauty who reluctantly accepts the creed of the inscrutable Orient.

Tonight her beauty seemed so different, so distinct, so alive.

She looked like one that had bloomed into life. What had she captured—this elusive something that would have urged the genius of a Leonardo da Vinci to catch by palette and brush the verve of color that haloed her features?

Yes; and lighted her eyes like the glow from unseen embers.

Now it dawned on him. It was her hair—hair like heaped-up sunshine.

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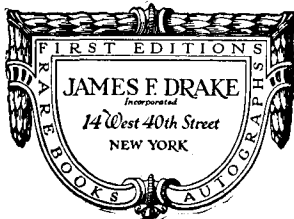
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Continued from page xxxiv

graph Company and has little to say in criticism of its financing. The work embodies a research of immense tediousness, and constitutes a valuable contribution to American economic history.

IRELAND.

By Stephen Gwynn.

Charles Scribner's Sons

\$3 8 1/2 x 5 1/2; 252 pp.

New York

This is one of the series of books called "The Modern World," edited by H. A. L. Fisher. The author is opposed to complete autonomy for Ireland. There are excellent chapters on the agriculture, industries and social organization of the country. The constitution of the Irish Free State is given in an appendix.

THE SCIENCES

A GEOGRAPHICAL INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY.

By Lucien Febvre.

Alfred A. Knopf

\$6 9 1/4 x 6; 388 pp.

New York

This book is by a high authority and reveals an immense knowledge of the subject, but it is so controversial that most lay readers will probably find it somewhat difficult. The translation from the French is by E. G. Mountford and T. H. Paxton. There are seven maps and a good bibliography.

THE DECLINE OF MAN.

By Stanton A. Coblenz.

Minton, Balch & Company

\$2.75 8 1/4 x 5 1/2; 263 pp.

New York

A gloomy forecast of the future. The author rehearses all the familiar reasons for believing that the human race is declining, and adds a few of his own. He believes that salvation lies in government control of production and distribution, and the abandonment of nationalism for internationalism.

HEREDITY IN NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE.

By Lewellys F. Barker and others.

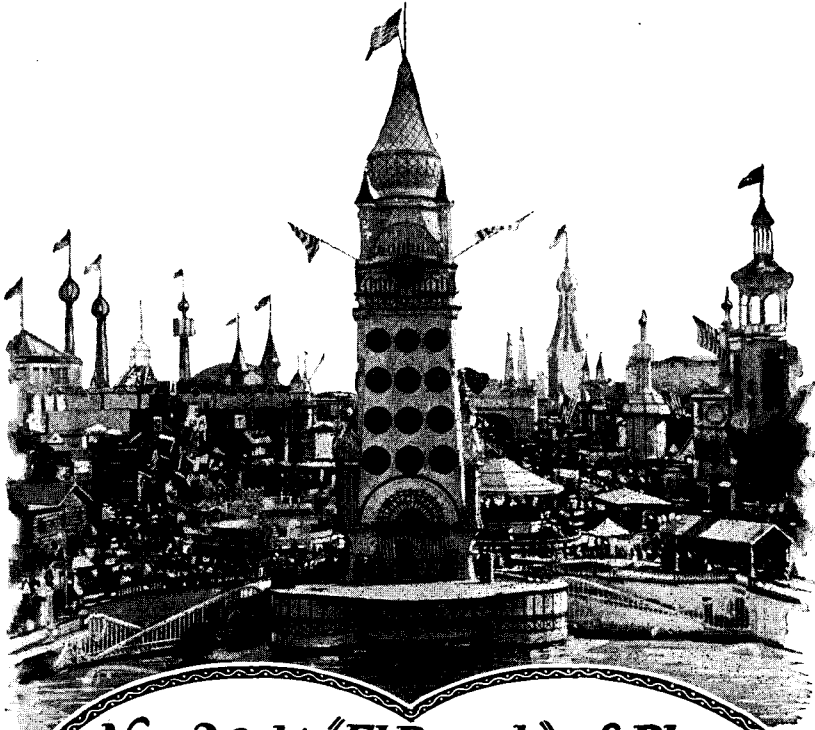
Paul B. Hoeber

\$3.75 9 x 6; 332 pp.

New York

This book is made up of the papers read at a meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, with a report of the discussions following. The contributors include a number of American medical men of the first importance. The difficulties of their inquiry are revealed by the fact that they come to no conclusion. But a large mass of interesting material is assembled.

Continued on page xxxviii



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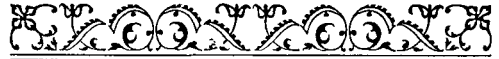
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THE CONQUEST OF CANCER.

By H. W. S. Wright. E. P. Dutton & Company
\$1 6¼ x 4¼; 82 pp. New York

All that is actually known about the nature and treatment of cancer is here clearly stated by a competent surgeon. The sections dealing with the use of radium and the x-rays are especially sensible. An authoritative and valuable little book.

ELEMENTS OF PHYSICAL BIOLOGY.

By Alfred J. Lorka. The Williams & Wilkins Company
\$5 9 x 5½; 460 pp. Baltimore

An attempt to apply the principles of mathematical physics to the study of biological phenomena. The book shows a great deal of originality, but will probably be incomprehensible to most laymen, and, indeed, to the majority of biologists.

CRITICISM

NEWMAN AS A MAN OF LETTERS.

By Joseph J. Reilly. The Macmillan Company
\$2.50 7¼ x 5; 329 pp. New York

This is an admirable study, laudatory, but by no means uncritical. Newman is discussed as preacher, as poet, as novelist, as historian and as controversialist. The peculiar force of his rhetoric is competently analyzed, and there is an excellent closing chapter upon his influence.

LA CULTURE ITALIENNE.

By G. Prezzolini. Librairie Félix Alcan
10 Fr. 7½ x 4¾ (paper); 246 pp. Paris

A comprehensive and vigorous account of the intellectual life of the Italy of today by one of the foremost Italian essayists. The book is well worthy of being brought before the English-speaking public in translation. The translation into French from the Italian is by Georges Bourgin. There is an introduction by Benjamin Crémieux.

PRECURSORES DEL MODERNISMO.

By Arturo Torres Ríosco. Talleres Calpe
4 Pesetas 7½ x 5 (paper); 124 pp. Madrid

This is a critical discussion of four men of letters who had a powerful influence on the *modernista* movement in Spanish-American literature and who lived in the latter half of the last century: Julián del Casal, Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, José Martí and José Asunción Silva. There is an introduction dealing in a general way with this movement.

Continued on page xl

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SOCIOLOGY

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PHYSICIANS IN THE
UNITED STATES.

By Lewis Mayers and Leonard V. Harrison.

The General Education Board

Free 8 x 5 1/4; 196 pp. New York

This report deals chiefly with the situation of the
country practitioner. It presents a great deal of new
material, and is a valuable contribution to the study
of the subject. Rather uncommonly for such a work,
it is very well written.

THE CHILD, THE CLINIC AND THE COURT.

By Jane Addams and others.

The New Republic

\$1 7 1/4 x 4 3/4; 344 pp. New York

A group of twenty-eight papers, mainly devoted to
the psychological and psychopathological problems
arising in the courts for juvenile delinquents. They
are very uneven in value. Some present useful obser-
vations, but others are formal and without merit.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

SECURITY AGAINST WAR.

By Frances Kellor.

The Macmillan Company

\$6 2 vols. 9 3/4 x 6 1/2; 851 pp. New York

An exhaustive study, heavily documented, of the
efforts to reach a practicable basis for world peace
that have been made since the late war, and of the
events and controversies that have stood against
them. The name of Antonia Hatvany appears on the
title page as collaborator.

OUR GOVERNMENTAL MACHINE.

By Schuyler C. Wallace.

Alfred A. Knopf

\$2 7 1/2 x 4 7/8; 223 pp. New York

An elementary handbook of the government of the
United States, federal, State and municipal, beginning
with a consideration of public opinion. There is a
preface by Dr. Charles A. Beard. Short bibliographies
are appended to the successive chapters.

THE SUPERCITY. *A Planned Physical Equipment for
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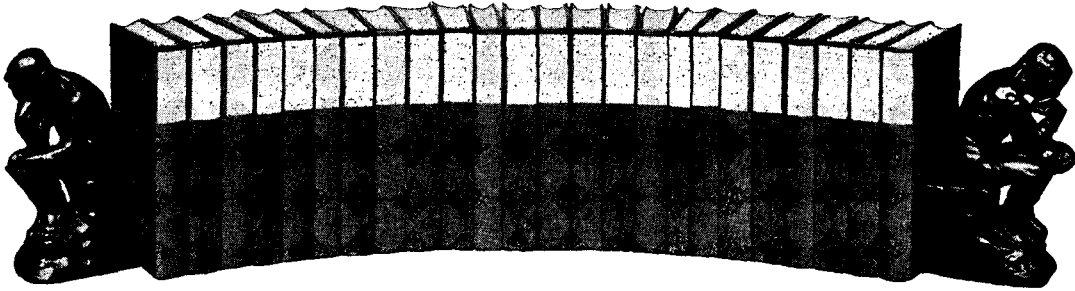
By Robert R. Kern.

Privately Printed

8 x 5 1/4; 349 pp. Washington, D. C.

Plans and specifications for a new Utopia. The
author is professor of economics and sociology in
George Washington University.

Continued on page xlii



They recommend that you read Joseph Conrad!

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—Gouverneur Morris.



The only writing of the last twelve years that will enrich the English language to any extent.

—John Galsworthy.



Here, surely, if ever, is genius—the possession by a divine spirit of man's earthly clay.

—Hugh Walpole.



One comes to Conrad with unspeakable relief—with the feeling that here, at last, is a novelist who understands as the poets do.

—Christopher Morley.

One of my chief claims to distinction in the world is that I wrote the first long appreciative review of Joseph Conrad's work.

—H. G. Wells.



There is no one like him; there is no one remotely like him. He sees and describes not merely this man's love or that woman's inspiration, but the blind sweep and devastation of universal forces.

—H. L. Mencken.

To stand in a Summer-stilled, man-smelling city street and to feel suddenly a fresh salt wind from the far-off pastures of the sea—this is the sensation when one comes upon a book by Joseph Conrad.

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Continued from page xl

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Paul B. Hoeber

New York

A reprint of a medical classic. Macmichael was born in 1784 and "The Gold-Headed Cane"—a charming account of eminent members of the Royal College of Physicians—was first published in 1827. The present edition was an introduction by Dr. Francis R. Packard, and a short preface by the late Sir William Osler.

EDMUND BURKE: *A Historical Study.*

By John Morley.

\$10

9½ x 6; 255 pp.

Alfred A. Knopf

New York

Morley's first book on Burke, here reprinted, was issued in 1867, twelve years before the "Life of Edmund Burke" that he contributed to the English Men of Letters Series. It has been out of print for many years. It is here reprinted in superb format, designed by Bruce Rogers and executed by William Edwin Rudge. The edition is limited to 750 copies for sale. There is a brief preface by Harold J. Laski.

A KING'S LESSONS IN STATECRAFT.

By Louis XIV of France.

\$3

8½ x 5¼; 189 pp.

Albert & Charles Boni

New York

These extracts from the memoirs and notes of the Grand Monarque range in date from 1661 to 1710. The translation is by Herbert Wilson, and there is an introduction, with notes, by Jean Longnon.

HEINRICH VON KLEIST: WERKE: *Volume I.*

Edited by Karl Federn.

7½ x 5; 397 pp.

Volksverband der Bücherfreunde

Berlin

The first volume of a definitive edition of Kleist's works, edited by a distinguished German scholar. It opens with a short biography by the editor, and includes a large number of Kleist's letters and some of his poems. Some of the letters are from the private collections of Prince Carl Lichnowsky, Prof. George Minde-Pouet and Fedor von Zobeltitz. There are exhaustive notes by the editor.

A DEFENSE OF LIBERTY AGAINST TYRANTS.

Edited by Harold Laski.

\$3.50

8¾ x 5½; 229 pp.

Harcourt, Brace & Company

New York

A translation of "Vindiciae Contra Tyrannos," probably by Philippe du Plessis-Mornay, the Huguenot Pope (1549-1623). The first English translation, printed in 1689, is here revised. There is a learned and uncommonly dull introduction by the editor.

Continued on page xlii

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SIMPLICISSIMUS THE VAGABOND.
Translated by A. T. S. Goodrick. E. P. Dutton & Co.
\$5 9 x 5½; 377 pp. *New York*
One of the Broadway Translations. The story is
one of the most famous German popular tales of the
Seventeenth Century, and for nearly two hundred
years was ascribed to one Samuel Greiffenson von
Hirschfeld. It is now known to have been written by
Hans Jacob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen, a pro-
lific writer of picaresque fiction, who employed a
dozen pseudonyms. The present translation is a good
one, and there is a useful introduction by William
Rose.

THE DIABOLQUES.
By Jules Barbey D'Aureville. Alfred A. Knopf
\$3 8¼ x 5¾; 275 pp. *New York*
This volume belongs to the Blue Jade Library. The
translation of the six tales is by Ernest Boyd, who
also contributes an excellent introduction. In addition,
Sir Edmund Gosse's essay on Barbey D'Aureville,
from "French Profiles," is included.

TWO TREATISES OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.
By John Locke. E. P. Dutton & Company
\$0.80 6¾ x 4¾; 242 pp. *New York*
This volume is No. 751 in the excellent Everyman's
Library. There is an introduction by Professor William
S. Carpenter, of Princeton.

ESSAYS

**THE HERITAGE OF GREECE AND THE LEGACY
OF ROME.**
By E. B. Osborn. The George H. Doran Company
\$1.25 7 x 4¾; 192 pp. *New York*
A concise and well written account of the major
contributions of Greece and Rome to modern civiliza-
tion. It is an excellent little book for those beginning
the study of classical culture—miles better than the
horribly dull books usually forced upon high school
students and college freshmen.

A LA CLARIDAD DE LAS ESTEPAS.
By J. Dols. Corpeño. Imprenta María v. de Lines
6½ x 5; 104 pp. *San José, Costa Rica*
This is a collection of brief, fugitive essays, some
not more than eight lines in length. There is vigor of
outlook in a few of them.

QUO VADIMUS?
By E. E. Fournier d'Albe. E. P. Dutton & Company
\$1 6½ x 4¾; 92 pp. *New York*
The author paints a very optimistic picture of the
future in the light of the latest scientific discoveries.
Indeed, it is so rosy that it is preposterous.

Continued on page xlii



H. L. Mencken on *The Nation*

(From the *Baltimore Evening Sun* for July 6, 1925. Copyright the *Evening Sun*.)

IF I were a fellow of public spirit and eager to poison the Republic with my sagacity, I'd rather be editor of *The Nation* than editor of any . . . other newspaper and magazine in America, save perhaps four or five. For *The Nation* is unique in American journalism for one thing: it is read by its enemies. They may damn it, they may have it barred from libraries, they may even—as they did during the war—try to have it put down by the police, but all the while they read it. . . .

Is the Creel Press Bureau theory of the war abandoned? Is it impossible to find an educated man today who is not ashamed that he succumbed to the Wilson buncombe? Then thank *The Nation* for that deliverance, for when it tackled Wilson it tackled him alone. Is Coolidge headed for a grand débâcle? Is the Golden Age beginning to be sicklied o'er with a pale cast of green? Then prepare to thank *The Nation* again, for it began to tell the harsh, cold truth about good Cal at a time when all the daily journals of America, with not ten exceptions, were competing for the honor of shining his shoes.



I OFTEN wonder that the great success of *The Nation* under Villard has made such little impression upon American journalists—that they are so deaf to the lessons that it roars into their ears. They all read it—that is, all who read anything at all. It prints news every week that they can't find in their own papers—sometimes news of the very first importance. It comments upon that news in a well-informed and sensible fashion. It presents

all the new ideas that rage in the world, always promptly and often pungently. To an editorial writer *The Nation* is indispensable. Either he reads it, or he is an idiot. . . .



ITS politics are often outrageous. . . . It is doctrinaire, inconsistent, bellicose. . . . It has no sense of decorum. It is sometimes a bit rowdy. But who will deny that it is honest? And who will deny that, taking one day with another, it is generally right? It is disliked inordinately, but not, I believe, by honest men, even among its enemies. It is disliked by demagogues and exploiters, by frauds great and small. They have all tasted its snickersnee, and they have all good reason to dislike it, from Bryan to Judge Gary, and from Coolidge to Doheny.

Personally, I do not subscribe to its politics, save when it advocates liberty. I do not believe in laws, and have no respect for politicians. Thus I hope I may whoop for it with some grace, despite the fact that my name appears on its flagstaff. How my name got there I don't know; I receive no emolument from its coffers, and write for it very seldom, and then only in contravention of its ideas. I even have to pay cash for my annual subscription—a strange and painful burden for a journalist to bear. But I know of no other expenditure (that is, of a secular character) that I make with more satisfaction, or that brings me a better return. Most of the papers I am doomed to read are idiotic even when they are right. *The Nation* is intelligent and amusing even when it is wrong.

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By Alfred Kerr.

Rudolf Mosse

M. 3

9 x 6; 207 pp.

Berlin

Impressionistic pictures of the United States by the well-known German critic. His journey took him to the Pacific Coast, and he traveled with wide-open eyes. His volume is vastly more amusing and penetrating than the usual book of its kind.

ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM INDIA (1779-1815).

By Mrs. Eliza Fay.

Harcourt, Brace & Company

\$3.50

8¼ x 5¾; 307 pp.

New York

These letters from Mrs. Fay, the obscure and unhappy wife of an advocate at the Supreme Court at Calcutta, relate her experiences in Egypt and in India in the last quarter of the Eighteenth Century. They are interesting reading and of some historical value. There are many explanatory notes by E. M. Forster, including a brief sketch of the life of the author.

FICTION

BRAVE EARTH.

By Alfred Tresidder Sheppard. The George H. Doran Co.

\$2.50

7½ x 5; 388 pp.

New York

This story takes place in the England of the Sixteenth Century, and is about a poor youth who is in love with a peasant girl, but becomes betrothed to a lord's daughter whom he grows to hate. Desiring both love and money he manages to marry and have children with both. There are some colorful sketches of English life of that time.

THE HARP.

By Ethelreda Lewis.

The George H. Doran Company

\$2.

7½ x 5; 359 pp.

New York

This is the story of a dreamy young man whose life is shattered by his discovery that his wife has been unfaithful to him. The usual rubbish.

THE OLD WOMAN OF THE MOVIES AND OTHER STORIES.

By Vicente Blasco Ibañez.

E. P. Dutton & Company

\$2.50

7½ x 5¾; 391 pp

New York

These fifteen stories, translated by various men, first appeared in magazine form. Their action takes place in foreign lands. On the whole they are the usual movie stuff of this manufacturer of shockers. There is an introduction by Arthur Livingston.

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