

# THE AMERICAN MERCURY

## CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

### CRITICISM

#### THE MODERN ENGLISH NOVEL.

By *Abel Chevalley.* Alfred A. Knopf  
\$2.50 7½ x 4½; 259 pp. New York

The judgments set forth in this book are seldom novel, but it constitutes nevertheless a useful summary of the subject. The author is a Frenchman, and it was originally published in French for the use of students. The translation is by Ben Ray Redman. An index is missing, and badly wanted. There is a brief bibliography of French works.

#### EXCAVATIONS.

By *Carl Van Vechten.* Alfred A. Knopf  
\$2.50 7½ x 5; 285 pp. New York

Some of these essays come from previous books by Mr. Van Vechten, now out of print; others are from magazines. The persons dealt with are Philip Thicknesse, Ouida, Herman Melville, Edgar Saltus, H. B. Fuller, Matthew P. Shiel, Arthur Machen, Ronald Firbank, Sophie Arnould, Oscar Hammerstein, Léo Delibes, Arthur Sullivan, Isaac Albéniz and Erik Satie.

#### THE WRITING OF FICTION.

By *Edith Wharton.* Charles Scribner's Sons  
\$2 8¾ x 5½; 178 pp. New York

Chapters on the short story, and on the construction of the novel and character and situation in the novel, with an essay on Marcel Proust added. Mrs. Wharton has little to say that is new.

#### EUGENE O'NEILL.

By *Barrett H. Clark.* Robert H. McBride & Company  
\$1 7½ x 5; 110 pp. New York

This book belongs to the Modern American Writers series, edited by Ernest Boyd. It is the first study of O'Neill between covers so far published, and contains a great deal of hitherto inaccessible material, much of it of considerable interest. Mr. Clark discusses all of the O'Neill plays at length and with great insight. There is an exhaustive bibliography.

#### FORTY IMMORTALS.

By *Benjamin De Casseres.* Joseph Lauren.  
\$3.50 8¾ x 5¾; 371 pp. New York

Unhackneyed and often brilliant essays upon various worthies, sometimes in the form of dithyrambs. Some of the men dealt with are Nietzsche, Blake, Spinoza, Ibsen, Thoreau, Balzac, Shelley, Emerson, Baudelaire, Strindberg, Whitman, Poe, Stirner, Amiel, Verlaine, Rousseau, Stendhal, Flaubert, Hawthorne and Hugo.

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### THE FINE ARTS

#### PRIMITIVE NEGRO SCULPTURE.

By *Paul Guillaume and Thomas Munroe.* Harcourt, Brace & Company  
\$6 19 x 7½; 134 pp. New York

This is the first adequate treatise on African sculpture in English, and it is so well done that little remains to be said upon the subject. There are chapters on the Negro mind, on the basic aims of Negro plastic, and on the different tribal styles. The excellent illustrations are from the collection of Dr. Albert C. Barnes.

#### PRINTS AND BOOKS.

By *William M. Ivins, Jr.* The Harvard University Press  
\$5 8 x 5¼; 375 pp. Cambridge, Mass.

Many of these little essays were written for the *Bulletin* of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and deal with prints in its collections. The book reveals the wide and sound knowledge of the author, and is full of charm.

### HISTORY

#### SOLDIERS OF THE PLAINS.

By *P. E. Byrne.* Minton, Balch & Company  
\$2.50 8¼ x 5½; 260 pp. New York

This is an account of the Indian wars of the 60's and 70's, written from the standpoint of the Indians, and planned to do belated justice to their fortitude, daring and military skill. The author argues that the government should erect a monument to these "first patriots of the plains."

#### A SHORT HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION.

By *Lynn Thorndike.* F. S. Crofts & Company  
\$5 9 x 5¾; 619 pp. New York

A text intended mainly for college use. Dr. Thorndike has covered his immense field very skillfully, and has kept his narrative interesting without making much sacrifice of essential fact. His viewpoint is roughly that of H. G. Wells in "An Outline of History." There are useful bibliographies at the ends of the chapters.

#### THE AMERICAN IN ENGLAND.

By *Robert E. Spiller.* Henry Holt & Company  
\$4 8½ x 5½; 416 pp. New York

This somewhat formidable volume summarizes the reports brought back from England by American trav-

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## OTHER NEWS FROM BRICK HOUSE FAMED BARD LAUDS FIRST NOVEL

### *Special to the American Mercury—*

Clement Wood, poet, critic and novelist, wrote to the publishers of Gloria Goddard's new novel, *Backyard*, "It is the most distinguished first novel that I have ever encountered." When interviewed, subsequent to his statement, Mr. Wood said: "The method of *Backyard* has definitely enlarged the craft of fiction by furnishing it with a new tool. Measured beside the slim half dozen best American novels it loses none of its impressiveness. The book establishes the author, at first appearance, as one of the most significant figures in fiction that America has produced."



GLORIA GODDARD

Additional investigation by our star reporter elicited the information that *Backyard* is on sale at all bookstores at two dollars per copy.

### FENCER'S FLASHING PHRASES STIR EDITORS

Mercury readers will be glad to learn of the publication on October 8th of Robert Nathan's *The Fiddler in Barly*. The delivery of a new manuscript by the brilliant young swordsman-novelist is always an event—even to a jaded editorial staff. This latest tale, which has to do with the adventures of a middle-aged fiddler and his dancing dog, is reported by them to be by far his finest work to date. It, also, may be purchased for two dollars.

### CRITICS PROBE WRITERS

Two additional volumes, numbers five and six, have been added to the *Modern American Writers Series* which is under the general editorship of Ernest Boyd. Barrett Clark's *Eugene O'Neill* is the first book to be wholly devoted to the life work of the playwright and is said to be an excellent piece of work con-

taining much new and interesting material. Ben Ray Redman's *Edwin Arlington Robinson* develops the thesis that that writer is the most considerable poet this country has



ROBERT NATHAN

yet produced, although the study, as a whole, is by no means one of uncritical enthusiasm. Each of these valuable works is priced at one dollar.

### BRIEFER MENTION

Among other interesting Brick House publications are Harold Lamb's cossack novel, *White Falcon* (\$2.00), the gorgeously illustrated *Encyclopedia of Furniture* (\$15.00), *ROMOLA* and H. C. Anderson's fascinating history, *The Sailing-Ship* (illustrated, \$5.00), Elise Lathrop's *Early American Inns and*



BEN RAY REDMAN

*Taverns*—the only complete work on the subject—(illustrated, \$5.00), and the first three volumes of the *Drawings of the Great Masters*, Florentine, Flemish and Early German, priced at \$5.00 each. These titles and many other Brick House publications may be purchased at your bookseller or from **ROBERT M. McBRIDE & COMPANY, 7 West 16th Street, New York City.**