

THE AMERICAN MERCURY AUTHORS

CHARLES ANGOFF *is assistant to the editor of THE AMERICAN MERCURY.*

CHLOE ARNOLD *was born in Arkansas, and is now living in Westport, Conn.*

EMILY CLARK (MRS. BALCH) *was one of the founders of the Reviewer at Richmond, Va. Her first book, made up of sketches of Virginia life, is soon to be published.*

CORNELIA H. DAM *has been connected with the archeology division of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania since 1921, and is now chief of its educational department. She graduated from Bryn Mawr in 1919.*

W. A. S. DOUGLAS *was born in Ireland and is the Chicago correspondent of the Baltimore Sun. He has done newspaper work in many parts of the world.*

MARY J. ELMENDORF *was born in New York City, and is now living in Seattle, Wash. She has contributed poetry to the Independent, the Commonwealth, Poetry and other periodicals.*

DUFF GILFOND *graduated from Cornell in 1923, and worked on New York newspapers for a year afterward. She is now living in Washington, where she is writing special articles for various newspapers and magazines.*

JOHN WALKER HARRINGTON *graduated from the University of Wooster (Ohio), and has been on the staffs of various Cleveland and New York newspapers. He is a frequent contributor of legal and economic articles to the reviews.*

SADAKICHI HARTMANN *is half German and half Japanese, but has lived in the United*

States for many years. He is the author of a dozen or more books. Of late he has ventured into the movies.

IDWAL JONES *is dramatic editor of the San Francisco Examiner. His latest book is "The Splendid Shilling," an historical romance of California.*

RUTH LECHLITNER *was born in Indiana and educated at the University of Michigan. Last year she was assistant editor of the Midland. Her poems have appeared in Poetry, the Measure, Palms and other poetry magazines. She is now living in New York.*

DEWEY M. OWENS *was born in Tennessee and educated there. He is city editor of the Knoxville Journal.*

WM. ALLEN PUSEY, M.D., LL.D., *is a former president of the American Medical Association, and has devoted a great deal of study to the problems he discusses in his paper. He is a Kentuckian and has been in practice in Chicago since 1889. He was professor of dermatology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Chicago) for many years, and is now professor emeritus.*

KARL SCHRIFTGIESSER *was born at Roxbury, Mass., and was educated at the Roxbury Latin School and Goddard Seminary. He is now on the staff of the Boston Transcript.*

ROBERT JOYCE TASKER *is now in San Quentin Prison, serving a term of from five years to life for robbery. He is a Dakotan and was educated in Oregon and Canada.*

W. M. WALKER *is an Alabamian. He is on the staff of the New York Herald-Tribune.*

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

Today-

THE DIVIDING LINE

*between the antiquated and the modern
home is automatic oil heat*



YOU don't care what other people do, of course—but haven't you noticed that more and more of your friends are putting in oil heat? Haven't you noticed what a favorite topic of conversation it has become at bridge and dinner tables—and how enthusiastic women are about it?

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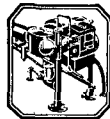
erate means shouldn't enjoy this carefree, luxurious, automatic oil heat; why their home shouldn't be on the right side of "*the dividing line*"?

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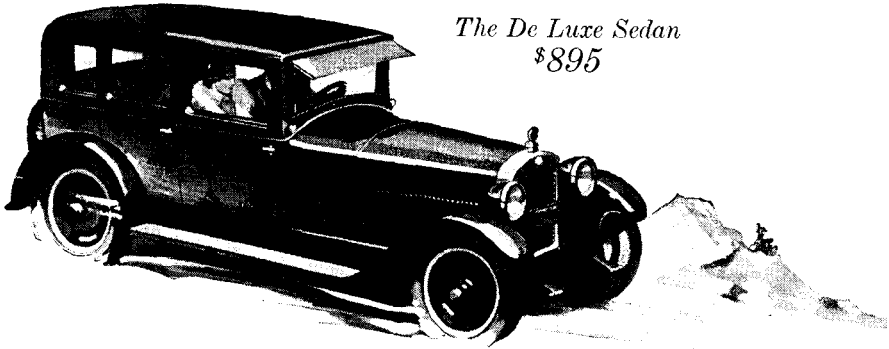
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Editorial
NOTES

THE AMERICAN MERCURY has in contemplation the publication of a style-book for the use of its contributors, printers and editors, and will welcome suggestions from experts in spelling, punctuation, capitalization and the allied arts and mysteries. There are, in this field, many puzzles and moot points. Should a great family magazine, consecrated to the nurture of civilization, drop the final *-te* from such words as *quartette* and *cigarette*, or should it cling to tradition? The tendency in America is to shorten all such words whenever possible, but THE AMERICAN MERCURY has hitherto kept to a more conservative course. What of *programme*, which is commonly converted into *program*, and *chloride*, which has become *chlorid*? Should the names of the seasons be capitalized? Obviously, the title of the chief magistrate of the Republic should be capitalized, and so should the title of the chief executive of every sovereign State, but what of titles lower down the scale? Is *mayor* to be capitalized or kept in lower case? And what of *judge*, *constable*, *county clerk* and *secretary of State*? "The President says" seems decorous and proper, but "the Mayor says" begins to be strutting, and "the Alderman says" is plainly absurd. The question of foreign words presents other difficulties. THE AMERICAN MERCURY has tried to give them their proper accents, but it has wobbled on the question of italization. Should the accents be retained after a word has been taken into English, e.g., *matinée*, *début* and *employé*? Here are problems that plague every editor. There is no certain standard of usage. THE AMER-

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY



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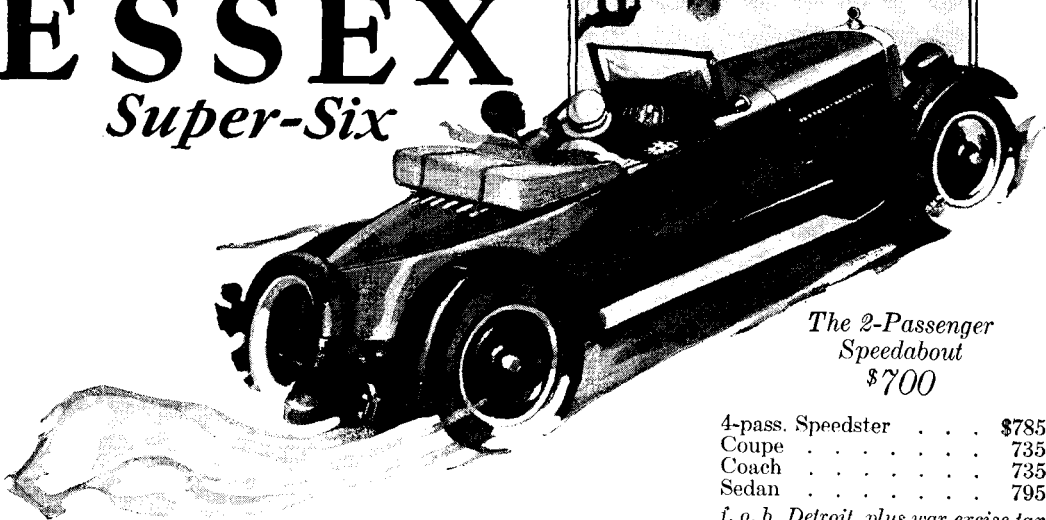
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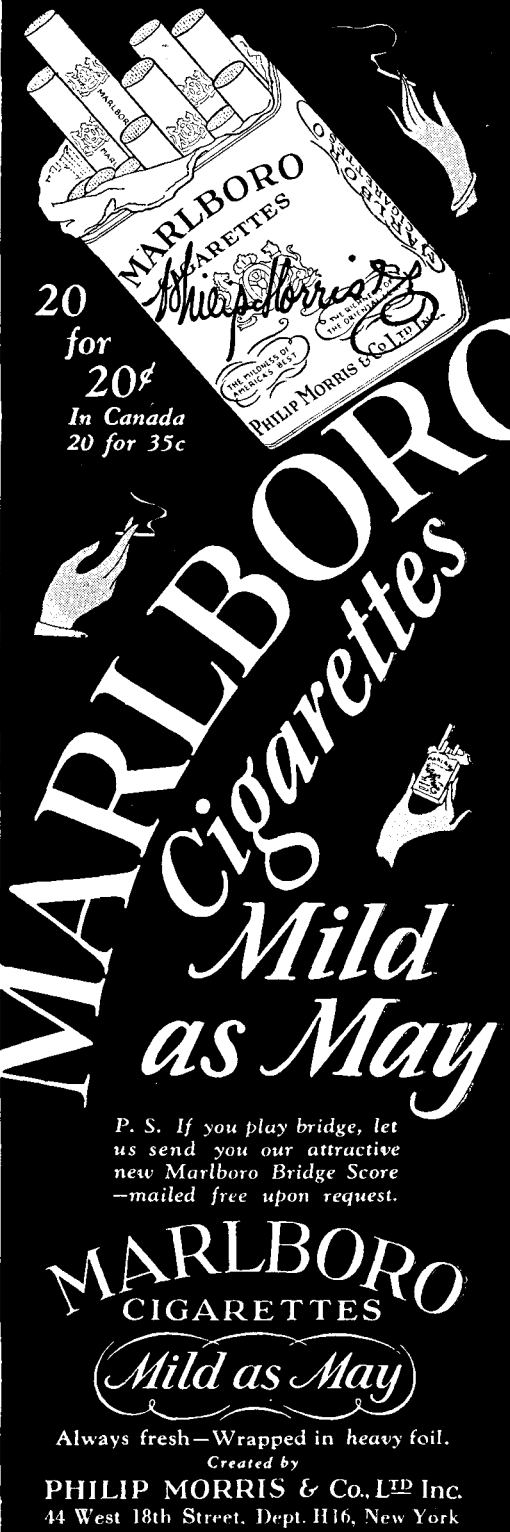


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XXXV



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Editorial NOTES

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ICAN MERCURY, in the main, has followed the English usage, though retaining American spellings and putting such words as *government*, *university* and *press* into lower case, but it is willing to hear argument against its somewhat vague rules, and to adopt better ones.

A few hundred copies of Mr. William Woollcott's clarion patriotic song, "I Am a 100% American," first printed in THE AMERICAN MERCURY for November, 1924, remain in hand, and will be sent to reliable 100% Americans free of charge on application to the editorial office. Two cents postage for one copy and six cents for ten. Rotary clubs and other organizations desiring larger quantities will kindly make their wishes known. As many as eighty-five applications have been received in one day, some of them for a dozen or more copies. Poets desiring to adorn the song with additional stanzas may send them to Mr. Woollcott in care of this office.

In Americana for April, under the name of the great State of Texas, appeared the following:

The Hon. Edmund Vance Cooke, "poet and philosopher," speaking before the Dallas Open Forum:

God Himself is a Democrat.

To this Mr. Cooke now enters the following polite protest:

In the first place, I was not announced, or (as far as I know) reported as Honorable, as I'm not a justice of the peace, a dry agent, a member of the Legislature, or a patent medicine vendor. Secondly, I never said or wrote Himself with an upper case H. Thirdly, I did not say Democrat, but democrat, which is all the difference in the known world, at this writing. Your twisted and (probably unwittingly) falsified item implies that some Texas Fundamentalist is claiming the Almighty as a member of the Democratic party. On the contrary, mine

Continued on page xxxviii



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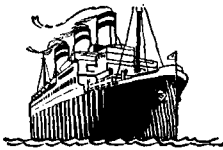
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Editorial NOTES

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was what I consider a rather ingenious, if not convincing, argument to show that the Creator is as dependent upon his Creation as Creation is dependent upon him, allowing for the sake of argument that they are not identical.

As in duty bound, THE AMERICAN MERCURY offers its apologies to Mr. Cooke, with every assurance of high respect, but also with several mental reservations. His theory that he is not an Honorable is certainly not shared by his amiable Texas hosts: they give every distinguished stranger that handle, and surely none deserves it more than a poet. His second objection raises a question of literary prudery. If the loud roars and sinister belches of the Methodist hierarchy count for anything, THE AMERICAN MERCURY will go to Hell when it dies, but so long as it remains on this earth it cannot bring itself to the mortal discourtesy of putting Deity into lower case. No doubt Mr. Cooke will recall Mark Twain's Nicodemus Dodge, who held that no man (and, by an easy inference, no magazine) could be wholly damned who refrained from "spelling the Saviour's name with a little g." The same fond hope prevails in this office, despite the expert opinion of the bishops. As for Mr. Cooke's final objection, all it shows is a lamentable ignorance of Holy Writ, the foundation of all sound government and decent family life. Let him turn to the first chapter of Nahum and see if he can find any signs of divine democracy there. And then let him turn to the first six verses of Exodus xx, and to the fourteenth verse of the thirty-fourth chapter of the same great Book, and to Deuteronomy iv, 24, and v, 7, and vi, 15, and to Joshua xxiv, 19. All these passages may be very well taken as describing a Democrat. In fact, they describe a lamented Democrat of high tone, the late Dr. Wilson, very precisely. But they no more describe a democrat than they describe a Christian.

Do you know—at this moment—the
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"I FIND that I have let personal opinions lead me astray in my investments," an investor remarked to the Compton Company. "Some years ago, a friend of mine recommended utility bonds. I thought that I had a pretty well diversified list, until I got hold of a copy of your Personal Investment Guide. I find that a little more than seventy per cent of my holdings are in utility bonds."

This is not an uncommon case. Many investors, sound believers in the principle of diversification in *kinds* of securities, as well as different issues, often let personal prejudice, or the advice of a friend, lead them astray. It is for such investors, men who have holdings of \$25,000 or more, that the Compton Investment Guide was invented.

This book will enable any investor to

list his securities, and show, almost at a glance, their diversification, balance as to character, maturities and market values, and all the details of his holdings that may affect their desirability. There is just one thing that this book cannot do for you. That is to tell you the market values or relative merits of specific issues.

That is the pleasure and the business of this company. Your own investment knowledge will permit you to list your bonds, analyze your list, and determine whether or not it is fitted to your needs for diversification, marketability and yield. This company, with its thirty-nine-year-old reputation for soundness in securities, can give you all the service, all the advice that you will need to make your list as sound, as suited to your needs as it should be.

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Check List of NEW BOOKS

*Continued from front advertising section
page xxviii*

THE DIARY OF ELBRIDGE GERRY, JR.

\$2.50 8 1/4 x 5 1/2; 220 pp. *Brentano's*
New York

Mr. Gerry, a handsome young buck of the Hartford of the early part of the last century, started out for Washington early in 1813, and covered nine States in his journey, all the important happenings in which he scribbled down in a diary. He was the son of the Vice-President of the time, but he was very sensible and knew a handsome girl when he saw one. As a result, his diary is something of an exception for those days: it is always readable and in parts, in fact, quite racy. There is an introduction by Claude G. Bowers.

FIRE UNDER THE ANDES.

By Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant. Alfred A. Knopf
\$4 8 1/4 x 5 3/8; 331 pp. New York

Miss Sergeant's faculty for apprehending and analyzing character is well-known to readers of the *New Republic*, wherein many of her studies of contemporaries have appeared. Here she reprints ten of them, along with four contributed to other magazines. Her subjects include Mr. Justice Holmes, the late Amy Lowell, Eugene O'Neill, William Allen White, Dr. Alice Hamilton and Willa Cather. There are portraits of all of them.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN.

By Himself. The American-Scandinavian Foundation
\$2.50 7 1/2 x 5 1/4; 313 pp. New York

This is the story of the cobbler's son of Odense, who was bitterly laughed at in his boyhood and youth because of his belief that he would become a great actor or a poet. His parents were failures, socially, and he was left an orphan when quite young. Though his struggles were many, in the end he won international fame. As he says, "my own life is the most wonderful fairy tale of all." The translation of his story, which was originally written for the German edition of the author's works in 1846, is by Mary Howitt.

FICTION

ANDY BRANDT'S ARK.

By Edna Bryner. E. P. Dutton & Company
\$2.50 7 1/2 x 5; 504 pp. New York

Another story of a so-called enlightened woman's harrowing struggles with her impossible and uncongenial family, written with no unusual skill or eloquence. The heroine's ideal is to be found upon page 20: "She would do anything, she determined, rather than live the way her mother had, slaving away without happiness, bringing forth children without love."

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY



Don't give him ordinary good food. Take him to a place that offers the unusual in food and drink. Give him something worth rolling on the tongue to get the full measure of its delicate exciting flavor. Never mind whether it's as easily digestible as it might be. Delicacies that make people expand and grow mellow are somehow not always "health foods."

But before you leave him be sure to tell him the Gourmet's secret—ENO.

Tell him to take a sparkling dash of it in water before he goes to bed, another when he gets up. It will help to clear his system, rid him of many of the poisons that often follow overindulgence in food and drink, and thus help to keep his spirits high next day so that nothing will intervene to dim the genial memory of the night before.

For ENO is one of the greatest of all laxative cleansers—

mild, efficient, sparkling, delightful. It has become world famous because of that. And because there is nothing about it to suggest the ordinary, harsh, nauseating salt laxative. ENO's taste is *good* even after its effervescence has subsided. And although its action is mild, it is very thorough. For years the smart world both here and abroad has depended on this bubbly saline in part to keep keen for social duties. Business men declare it does wonders in keeping them alert. Mothers everywhere depend upon it as a laxative corrective for their families.

Have a bottle in your own house, always. For the health of your family and as a courtesy to guests.



ENO, world renowned for over half a century, at druggists, 75c and \$1.25 a bottle. Prepared only by J. C. Eno, Ltd. Sales Agents: Harold F. Ritchie & Co., Inc., Belmont Bldg., Madison Ave. at 34th Street, New York.

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Check List of NEW BOOKS

Continued from page xl

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE.

By Hanns Heinz Ewers. *The John Day Company*
\$5 9 3/8 x 6 1/4; 337 pp. New York

An excellent translation of Hanns Heinz Ewers' well-known novel, beautifully printed, with illustrations and decorations by Mahlon Blaine. The story of the progress of religious hysteria among a group of peasants in a mountain hamlet in the north of Italy, it is the first of his novels to be translated into English, and is admirably chosen to represent his very special talents. The translation is by Ludwig Lewisohn.

THE LONGEST SHADOW.

By Jeffery R. Jeffery. *Little, Brown & Company*
\$2 7 3/4 x 5 1/4; 325 pp. Boston

For generations the Questes have been known in the Indian Service, and the romantic Philip Queste is expected to follow the family tradition. But the War comes and goes and Philip returns to London and enters his uncle Geoffrey's accounting business. After leading him a lively chase, Judith, a typical modern, jilts him. At about this time Philip meets his half-brother Nigel Swales, who tells him something of their romantic mother, whom Philip remembers only vaguely. Finally, breaking away from his old life, Philip goes to chasing rainbows.

THE ADMIRAL AND OTHERS.

By Peggy Temple. *E. P. Dutton & Company*
\$1.50 7 3/4 x 5 1/4; 138 pp. New York

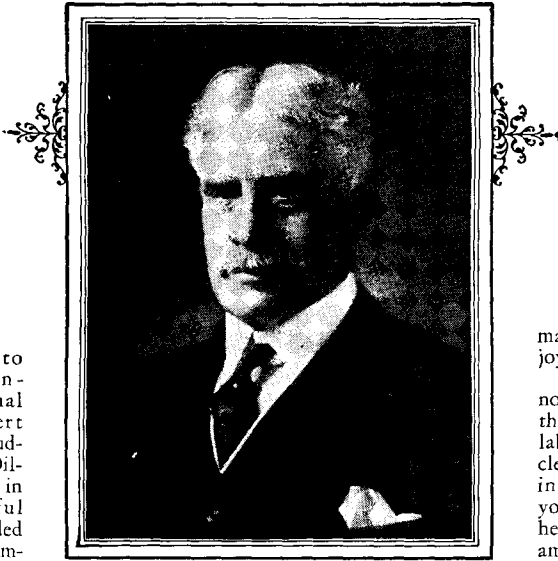
Here is the first novel of a twelve-year-old English girl. She relates the doings over a week-end at the Summer cottage of the Podds, and the farcical complications that develop when the boy of the house is laid up with chickenpox. Her portrait of the ever-serious Admiral is delightful.

THE BAND PLAYS DIXIE.

By Morris Markey. *Harcourt, Brace & Company*
\$2 7 x 4 3/4; 375 pp. New York

This, the author's first novel, records the adventures of Kirk and Anthony Hale, of New England ancestry, who come down from Canada and join the Yankee army. They are wounded in their first encounter at Fredericksburg and are carried to a prison hospital in Richmond. There they spy Camilla Dame, daughter of Colonel Dame of General Lee's staff, dancing in the jail courtyard, and both fall in love with her. The cousins escape and journey in Confederate uniform to Deep Run, near Savannah, where their lady love now is. They are accidentally discovered and fly back to Richmond and en route are drafted into the Confederate ranks. Kirk meets his end gloriously on the battlefield and leaves Anthony to claim Camilla.

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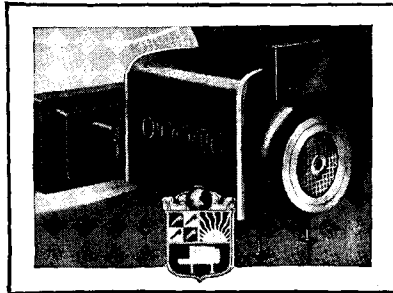
"I have much pleasure," he said, in assuring you of our complete satisfaction. The colder the weather becomes and our need for comfort increases, Oil-O-Matic seems to possess the remarkable feature of functioning even more efficiently."

The surprising thing is not that Oil-O-Matic serves him so well, but that any one in any size home may enjoy this same luxury. Oilomatic heat is not a symbol of wealth. Rather it is evidence of a desire to

make home life more enjoyable.

Your present fuel cost is not the cost of heating. To this must be added all the labor, discomfort and extra cleaning. Oil-O-Matic eliminates all these and gives you dependable, clean, even heat for practically the same amount you are now spending. Frequently it shows an actual saving. Oilomatic heat means far more than a change in fuel.

All the advantages that have led more people to select Oil-O-Matic than any other oil burner, may be yours. They are explained in our newest booklet, profusely illustrated in colors. Send for it today. Your local oilomatician, trained in oil heating, will gladly arrange terms to suit your convenience.



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Thoughts of Treason

One of the great contributions to *menschengeschlecht*—meaning particularly Goethe's application of the word—is the antiseptic, Listerine. The surgeon attained the *herrschaft* of his problems and the entelechy of his dreams when it was created.

All of which means absolutely nothing.

But even so, we were prompted to write it because, after reading some of Mr. Mencken's Irritorials, we have a growing suspicion that he builds them around a few words of obscure character, and of recent acquisition.

We even dare think that he reviews the completed masterpieces and for a moment, becoming his own charming self, mumbles, "I guess that will knock them for a loop."

Somehow the pet vanities of a Babbitt likewise seem only human to us.

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A system of musical æsthetics that will really stand the analysis of an intelligent being

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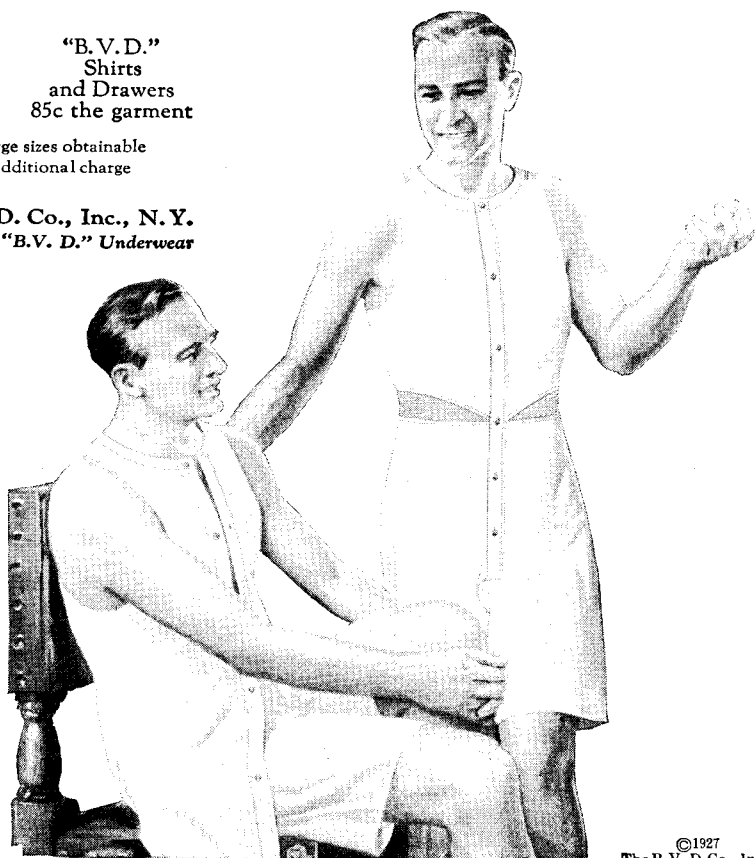
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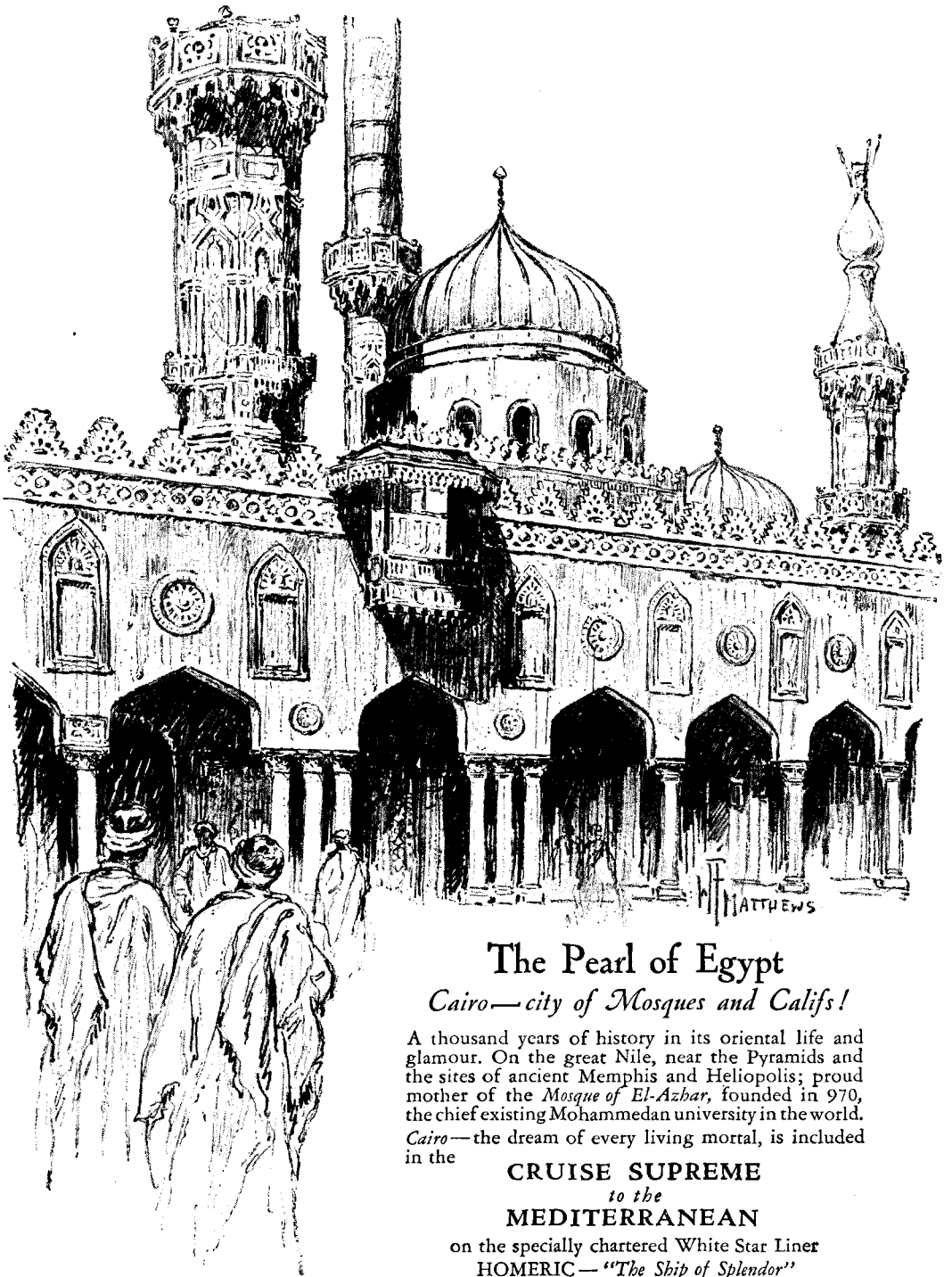
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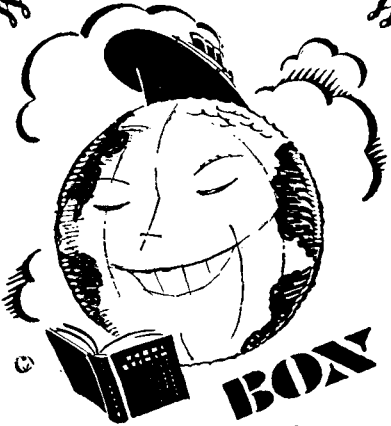
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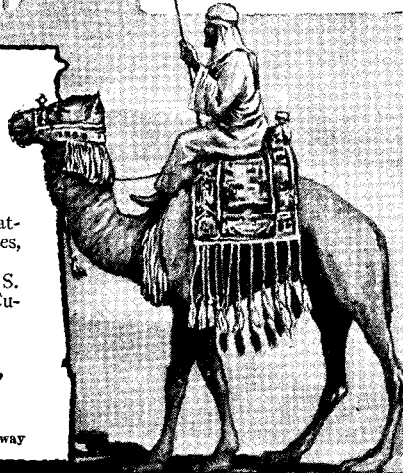
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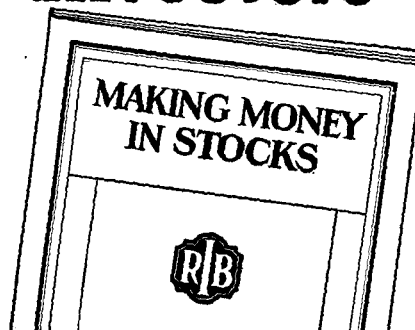
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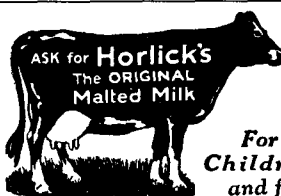
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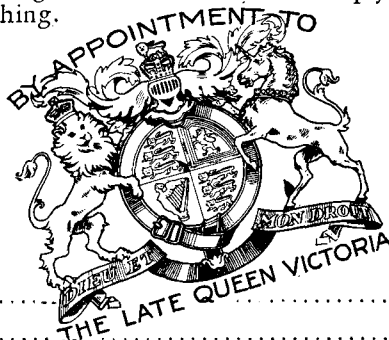
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County of New York } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county afore-
said, personally appeared Samuel Knopf, who, having been duly
sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business
Manager of The American Mercury and that the following is, to the
best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership
management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in
the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied
in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse
of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, manag-
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Business Manager, Samuel Knopf 730 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security
holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more or total amount of
bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)
None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the
owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only
the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the
books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or
security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee
or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corpora-
tion for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said
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edge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which
stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books
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other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason
to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any
interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities
than as so stated by him.

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(Business Manager)
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[SEAL] JOSEPH C. LESSER.

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Thus George S. Bryan, the editor of the new definitive edition of Barnum's Autobiography, at the end of a 15,000-word introduction which amounts in itself to a fresh and independent portrait of the Emperor of Humbug. Barnum's life-story as told by himself is indeed the Big Show. Barnum first published it in 1855; the next edition, much expanded and changed, came in 1869; from then until 1889 he

issued a new version practically every year, the maximum lapse between editions being two years. What Mr. Bryan has given us, as the result of prolonged and painstaking collation, is a composite text which includes the matter of each of the versions published during the author's lifetime, with all narrative material arranged in proper chronological order.

Barnum's story as Barnum told it is of course the main tent of the great show. The story is already passably well known to cognoscenti; and it has received within recent years the tribute of a successful biography, Mr. Werner's *BARNUM*, which is primarily a retelling of the narrative that Barnum set down. As a matter of sheer utility the present edition is measured by the fact that it alone tells the entire story, omitting nothing that at

(Continued on page lxi)

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

The BORZOI BROADSIDE for JUNE 1927

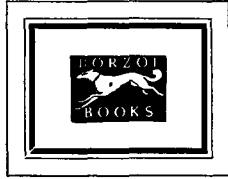


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All information contained herein relative to publication dates, prices, format, etc., is as accurate as possible at date of publication. Later changes, however, may be made without notice. For the latest possible information, see your bookseller.

Crane and His Biographer: A Shop-talk

IT IS obvious, even to the general reading public, that a series of paragraphs about those Borzoi books which retain a special significance long after publication will have to take account of *THE MAUVE DECADE*, *Thomas Beer's* inimitable account of how pink tried to be purple in the literary and social America of the 1890's.

What the general reader does not so readily descry is the place which *Mr. Beer's* *STEPHEN CRANE: A STUDY IN AMERICAN LETTERS* has quietly made for itself. A good many months after its publication the author was occasionally heard to utter wry comments on the rewards of authorship. Nevertheless, it seems that this book had, and has, a life of its own, and would not consent to be written down on the red-ink side of the ledger. Today, with no concerted public outcry to help it, without even the advantage of a popularly accessible edition of the works of the strange genius who is its subject, it is in its fourth printing. It is manifestly no more than a question of time when this brilliant portrait and re-creation of the least-known American writer of top rank will force itself, by its innate and vivid power of life, into a final edition incorporating the miscellaneous beguiling odds and ends of information about Crane which have come

lviii

to *Mr. Beer's* notice since October, 1923. In *Thomas Beer's* pages the actual Crane is made to live again the twenty-nine years of his chaotic and mysterious life. Here is biography with the vividness of fiction—of, say, *THE FAIR REWARDS* and *SANDOVAL*—in addition to the strict truth which is its own: for this narrative portrait has none of the factual looseness and guess-work of the newer modes in "fictional biography," and *Mr. Beer* has made Crane live in terms of valid documents and sources, not produced him from a novelist's inner consciousness.

If there is any one purely American achievement of recent years for which this house can fairly claim the grateful recognition of students of the national letters, that achievement is the rescue of the whole body of Stephen Crane's work from the status of a collector's item, its presentation anew in a twelve-volume collected edition worthy of its intrinsic greatness and of the lasting major importance of its author. Toward ensuring the dignity and serviceableness of this fine memorial, no single person has done so much as *Thomas Beer*.

Bouquet

TO THE fellow countrymen of Volstead, this chronicle may make thirsty reading; but it is safe to assure the victim of prohibition that he will never find it dry. It is the record of a motor journey made by *Miss Stern* and her husband, at the invitation of two friends, through the wine country of France, from south to north and back again. So far as appears in the narrative, they did not reach a definitive settlement of the long-standing dispute about the relative merits of Bordeaux and Burgundy—despite the consumption in quantity of both Exhibit A and Exhibit B. But for five glorious weeks the pilgrims drank—and ate—of the best that France can provide, rolling from one famous vineyard to another in province after province on their quest, not for a grail, but for its contents.

Other excellent treatises exist about the wines of France; but none comes to mind that has the same gusto, the same *gourmandise*, the same wise delight in the bounty of the grape. *Miss Stern* has more than repaid her debt to the French wine-growers. Besides being a delight to read, the chronicle will serve as an admirable handbook of *vintages* for those happy mortals who are going to be in a position to use the knowledge.

BOUQUET. By G. B. STERN, author of "*The Mair'arch*," "*A Deputy Was King*," "*The Dark Gentleman*," etc. Illustrated. \$3.50 net.

Under the Skull-and-Bones

JACKY JACKA lived to sail the Seven Seas; but it was his first voyage that he remembered, always. He used to tell the story of it to his son, Johnnie Jacka, as it is set down in the book *MOONRAKER* for all the world to read. The *Moonraker* was a pirate brig.—“She looked a real lady when she was all dressed up in her best, clad in snowy muslin from head to heel. Her bowsprit, with the jibboom and flying-jibboom, was the hell of a length, and it was steeved right up so that the tip of the flying-jibboom looked to be above her foreyard. She was painted black with a white band and square black gunports, and she flew the Jolly Roger from her spanker-gaff when in action, just like the pirates in the story-books. Her lines were as sweet and her heart as sound as any vessel’s afloat. Poor Billy Constant couldn’t have loved the *Piskie* better than Captain Lovel loved his illgotten *Moonraker*.”



This Captain Lovel was the last successful pirate on the seas. He was “a handsome young man, with a long lean brown face and a high nose, and deep wrinkles around his eyes, which were bright blue and innocent as a babe’s. He looked as little like a bloody murderer as anyone you could think of.” But a bloody murderer he was. He sank the *Piskie*, and of all her people saved only Jacky Jacka, for a cabin-boy. Then there was adventure.

The *Moonraker* sailed for San Domingo, where Jacky met Toussaint l’Ouverture, the little black, ugly, and very great Governor-general of the island, who would not be saved from the plots of Napoleon, and whose face, in the end, grew too sad to be borne. Jacky followed Toussaint’s dwindling army against France; he saw the voodoo worshippers, and battles in the wilderness between white men and black. He saw Christophe, afterwards the cruel black emperor, and beautiful Pauline Bonaparte, who

feasted in a pest-ridden city. At last he came back again to the *Moonraker* and to the strangest part of all the strange story. On that northbound voyage Jacky saw Captain Lovel’s lean, reddened face above the white shoulders of a figure in billowing silk, holding mutiny off at a pistol’s point.

Long after, when Jacky was married and settled, “he would see again, in the bowl of troubled water which was his memory, a black face and a white one that was sun-reddened; and they were the faces of the two most real people he had ever known.” They were the faces of Toussaint and of Captain Lovel of the *Moonraker*.

MOONRAKER: OR THE FEMALE PIRATE AND HER FRIENDS. By F. TENNYSON JESSE, author of “Tom Fool” and “Murder and Its Motives.” \$2.50 net.

Another “Voyage to India”

IN A period when the Anglo-Indian question is inveterately to the fore, AN INDIAN DAY has the merit of timeliness in addition to its intrinsic effectiveness as a picture of life and character. Vincent Hamer, a civil servant, is demoted for taking the side of the native population in an important case. His new station, “a vile little hole” called Vishnugram, shows him such a cross-section of Indian life as few occidentals have ever seen at close range. Much of the burden of the book is suggested in one utterance of the Sadhu Jayananda, educated as a well-bred Englishman but now an ash-smeared Sannyasi:

(Continued on page lxii)

Denied a Country

THE Danish *Herman Bang* (d. 1912) is undoubtedly among the greatest of modern novelists, and it is to be expected that with the publication here of *DENIED A COUNTRY* he will be recognized as such by the English-speaking world. Center of a turbulent, a half-disappointed life, connoisseur of men, he gave his books the imprint of his personality; and his characters reflect their author. Not the least of these is Joán Ujhazy, protagonist of *DENIED A COUNTRY*, which is generally conceded to be the peak of *Bang’s* work.

This Joán, last of the Counts Ujhazy, is born

(Continued on page lxii)

A Novel of Modern Marriage

A SHADOWY THIRD is obviously a novel of modern youth, but the story of Evan and Virginia is told with such a delicate clarity that it becomes, rather, a modern comment on a universal dilemma. Two young persons, deeply in love, are separated through force of circumstance not long after their marriage. Evan is sent to Stockholm by his firm. Virginia stays in England, waiting for her child to be born. Without each other, they unconsciously grow apart. Evan, in spite of missing his wife sincerely, is happy in the new society which he finds in Stockholm; Virginia, wretched at first, adapts herself almost without awareness to changed conditions. When they meet again, full of eager anticipation, they fail to find in each other the old frail magic. Nor does it return. Their frank, friendly acceptance of the *impasse*, their sanity in dealing with it, closes the book on its highest note.

A SHADOWY THIRD. By ELIZABETH SPRIGGE. \$2.50 net.

Giraudoux's Novel of French Politics

JEAN GIRAUDOUX was graduated from a school where the humanities are esteemed and the classics taken gracefully. His first mentors were Fontenelle, Diderot, and Voltaire. A lyric perception urged his pen; a supple humor guided it. His infrequent novels have come from a reticent desk in the Foreign Office. Acute judges have ranked him with Proust and Gide.

BELLA, his most recent novel, caused a sensation in France, for the two statesmen whose antagonism gives movement to the piece are rather commonly assumed to be Berthelot and Poincaré in thin disguise. The son of one, Philippe, is loved by Bella, the daughter-in-law of the other; and the story leads Bella up to a heroic moment in which, because of her love, she tries "despairingly to clasp together the two different types of honor, courage, and generosity in the French character." The novel is extraordinarily subtle in its definition of these types; and for that reason it is important to all who have a generalized interest in the French temper, as well as to those who follow the intricacies of French politics.

BELLA. By JEAN GIRAUDOUX. Translated by J. F. SCANLAN. \$2.50 net.

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"Come Hither!" in Prose

"WITH so much to read, and so little time and opportunity in which to read it, the simplest and wisest thing to do is to choose the best book we can. But just as with food and drink, what is good and pleasant reading for one man is not always good and pleasant for another. We cannot all of us care for the same book; nor can every book please everybody. So in books we have gradually to discover what really interests *us*, what helps to make us happier and wiser; what, too, may help to make us better company for ourselves when we are alone and for others when we are not."

Thus *Mr. de la Mare*, in an introduction written specially for the American edition of READINGS. And if anyone is not made wiser and happier and far better company by reading in this book, he is not worth the having it. Old loved things are in it, and many that have gone uncherished only for lack of knowing them. Here for a child is treasure, whetting his taste for the best; here for the grown is greater treasure, sharpening a palate dulled by sophistries. Here you have Eliza Bennett and the flowers of Bacon's Garden, Rosemary and Sweet Marjoram, Wild Thyme and Gillyflower; here are Fionn the King of Ireland, and Prince Silvio the rabbit. Although nominally for young readers, this prose counterpart of COME HITHER! is something which, acquired in childhood, will always be "a good book . . . the next best thing in life to a true friend."

READINGS. Selected by WALTER DE LA MARE and THOMAS QUAYLE, D. LITT. With Woodcut Illustrations by C. T. NIGHTINGALE. \$5.00 net.

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

The BORZOI BROADSIDE for JUNE 1927

The Showman and the Show

(Continued from page lii)

any time Barnum himself had a fancy for including.

Nevertheless, what makes this two-volume reprint a perpetual delight is the number and variety of the sideshows. *Mr. Bryan* has unearthed a wealth of illustrational material and made it occupy over fifty pages. He has annotated personal and other allusions in the original text in a style the vivacity of which does not suffer by comparison with Barnum's own. He has found and authenticated many an anecdote about Barnum and his associates, and spread them upon the minutes. His introduction has a section on Barnum as the irrepressible practical joker; it has another on Barnum's friendships with Edward Everett, Dion Boucicault, Charles Kean, Thackeray, Mark Twain, Horace Greeley, and other notables. It rehearses Barnum's newspaper career. (Incidentally, the edition contains a facsimile of an issue of *The Herald of Freedom*, copies of which are well-nigh unprocureable.) It quotes *in extenso* a long article which Alexander Herten, the revolutionist, wrote in Russian about Barnum as a type of public success as early as 1856, Herten having evidently fallen foul of the first edition of the Autobiography. *Mr. Bryan* completes his task of editing by seeing to it that an appendix carries the essential documents relating to Barnum, other than those which are a proper part of the main text; and among these the chief is without doubt a narrative, entitled "The Last Chapter," written by Mrs. Barnum the year after her husband's death and never made really accessible to the ordinary reader.

"I got over the lickin' in course of time, but I've ben enjoyin' that cirkis fer forty year," says David Harum. (*Mr. Bryan* quotes him on a flyleaf.) These two volumes have been put together by a conscientious and skilful editor for all readers who have had David's boyhood experience, and for all who sigh because they never had it—and likewise for those of us who are old and saddened enough to consider that (as Kenneth Grahame remarks on another flyleaf) "... the showman walks between Spoof and Illusion, hand in hand with both."

STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS; OR, THE LIFE OF P. T. BARNUM, WRITTEN BY HIMSELF. Edited, with an Introduction, by GEORGE S. BRYAN, author of "Edison: The Man and His Work," "The Ghost in the Attic and Other Verses," etc. Illustrated from old prints. Two volumes, boxed, \$10.00 net.

The Borzoï Barometer



On June 4 the HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION SERIES receives three accretions: ANCIENT PERSIA AND IRANIAN CIVILIZATION, by Clément Huart, Member of the Institute of France, etc. (\$7.50 net); ANCIENT ROME AT WORK: An Economic History of Rome from the Origins to the Empire, by Paul-Louis, translated by E. B. F. Wareing (probable price \$7.50 net); and THE GEOGRAPHY OF WITCHCRAFT, by Montague Summers, the companion volume and completion of *The History of Witchcraft and Demonology* (\$7.50 net).

★

June 4, in addition to bringing out several important new publications, is one of the outstanding days in Borzoï annals in respect to books which have already made their share of history. Not only will the Pocket Books receive an addition, THE WORLD IN FALSEFACE, by George Jean Nathan, first published 1923 (\$1.25 net), but there will also appear three duodecimo reprints of extraordinarily important European works of the imagination, as follows:

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE. By J. ANKER LARSEN. Translated from the Danish by ARTHUR G. CHATER. Talisman edition. \$2.00 net.

THE PEASANTS. By LADISLAS REYMONT. Translated from the Polish. 4 volumes ("Autumn," "Winter," "Spring," "Summer") in one. Cracow edition. \$4.00 net.

GROWTH OF THE SOIL. By KNUT HAM-SUN. Translated from the Norwegian by W. W. WORSTER. Lofoten edition. \$2.50 net.

★

And, finally, the same date sees the postponed publication of THE WAR ON MODERN SCIENCE, by Maynard Shipley (see the Broadside for April), containing among other divertissements an account of how a great state tried to decree by statute that the value of *Pi* is not 3.14159+, but exactly 4.

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY

The BORZOI BROADSIDE for JUNE 1927

Denied a Country

(Continued from page lix)

and passes his boyhood on the hereditary estate of his outlaw forefathers, an island on the Danube precisely at the frontiers of Serbia, Roumania, and Hungary. Thus, surrounded by various nationalities, speaking all and none of their tongues, owing allegiance to no flag, the growing boy is made pitifully conscious, through cruel childish taunting, that he is *le Sans-patrie*, the Prince of No Country. (There is an interesting analogy in *Herman Bang's* own life: he was born a Schleswig Dane—one of that people whose territory was invaded by Germany in 1864 and which thereafter was forced to withhold its allegiance from Denmark, yet without being willing to give it to the conqueror.)

The scene of DENIED A COUNTRY finally turns to Denmark, where, after all, *Bang's* interest centered. Joán, become a great violinist, never includes Denmark in his tours—Denmark, his mother's country and therefore perhaps half his own. Once he says, "I'm keeping it—for the last of all." Finally he goes there and plays in a small frontier town, to these people who might so easily be his. The novelist's subtle skill reaches its utmost extension in this last third of the book; all the threads that have been followed before are gathered together; the mood is pointed into the bitterest and saddest arraignment of patriotism imaginable; and Joán Ujhazy, still *le Sans-patrie*, returns alone to his island.

DENIED A COUNTRY. By HERMAN BANG. Translated from the Danish by A. G. CHATER. \$2.50 net.

Our Neighbors and Ourselves

Thyra Samter Winslow collects, under the engaging title PEOPLE ROUND THE CORNER, fourteen of the very best of her stories, some of them withheld from her magazine audience and printed for the first time in the new volume. Readers of PICTURE FRAMES—it was published in 1923, but five or six of its stories stick in the mind more obstinately than many a tale read a fortnight ago—will remember *Mrs. Winslow's* peculiar felicity in making distinguished stories out of lives which would strike a lesser imagination as commonplace—lives which rise little above, and sink little below, the American average. "A Cycle of Manhattan" and "Grandma" have achieved a quasi-classic rank, to judge from the frequency with which they turn up in lists and public mention.

The new stories are of the same general substance. "Second Chance," "Her Own Room," and "When We Get in with Nice People" are three of them.

PEOPLE ROUND THE CORNER. By THYRA SAMTER WINSLOW, author of "Picture Frames" and "Show Business." \$2.50 net.

Another "Voyage to India"

(Continued from page lix)

"My countrymen will never understand yours. Kamala, listen! When our minds go bad, we commit suicide or take up politics. When the Englishman's mind goes bad, he drinks hard or takes to religion, or he saves himself from insanity by playing the fool and laughing at himself."

AN INDIAN DAY. By EDWARD THOMPSON. \$2.50 net.

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY



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Jagjit Singh
Maharajah de Kapurthala

TRANSLATION

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