THE AMERICAN MERCURY



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are of primary importance, and have been underestimated. Large parts of his book are platitudinous, and he has burdened it with questions and exercises in the most depressing pedagogical manner, but on the whole it is a useful work. There is a good index. The bibliography is rather scanty.

AMERICAN SOUNDINGS.

By J. St. Loe Strachey. D. Appleton & Company \$2.50 8 x 5 1/4; 256 pp. New York

The former editor of the Spectator came to the United States in an immensely amiable mood. He was determined, it appears, to take home a good report, and here it is. Even Prohibition fares gently at his hands, though he is conscientiously against it. Very few thoughtful Americans, it is probable, will share his affable optimism.

WHAT IS NEWS? A Tentative Outline.

By Gerald W. Johnson.
Alfred A. Knopf
\$2.
73% x 47%; 98 pp.
New York

The first volume in the Borzoi Handbooks of Journalism, edited by Nelson Antrim Crawford, and one of the few texts that has appeared that achieves an adequate definition of news and news value in general. Mr. Johnson is a member of the staff of the Baltimore Evening Sun, and was formerly professor of journalism at the University of North Carolina; he writes with authority and distinction.

SEX AND THE LOVE-LIFE.

By William J. Fielding. Dodd, Mead & Company \$2.50 7½ x 4.34; 322 pp. New York

This book has little value. Mr. Fielding pretends to a scientific knowledge of the subject, but what he has to say is known even to professors of social ethics and newsboys, namely, very little.

FAMILY DISORGANIZATION. An Introduction to a Sociological Analysis.

By Ernest R. Mowrer. The University of Chicago Press. \$3 7½ x 5¼; 317 pp. Chicago

An analysis of the problems of family disorganizations, particularly those of divorce and desertion, through the materials in the records of social agencies and in the archives of the courts. Mr. Mowrer's main thesis is that modern marriage in the United States is in the hands of the young people and therefore organized upon the basis of romantic love, but that the romantic impulse in and of itself is not always, and perhaps never, a sufficient guaranty of permanence. In "The Diary of Miriam Donaven" he presents some interesting case material in support of his contention, XVIII

but, as he suggests, the subject has not been sufficiently investigated to warrant any hard and fast conclusions. The book has numerous charts, a map of Chicago spotting cases of divorce and desertion, appendices presenting statistical data and the factors in family disorganization, a selected bibliography, and an index.

DIE BEDEUTUNG DER RASSE IM LEBEN DER VÖLKER.

By Count J. A. Gobineau.

M. 3.80

7 ½ x 4¾; 110 pp.

Munich

This essay, now first printed in full, was written by Gobineau in 1879. There is little in it that will be new to readers of his other works. His ideas have had their day. Now they seem to survive only in Germany. The translation into German is by Dr. Julius Schwabe.

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

By Robert C. Dexter.
\$5 9½ x 6; 424 pp.

Alfred A. Knopf
New York

An exhaustive review of the causes of social maladjustment and of the agencies employed to combat it. Dr. Dexter seldom has anything new to say, but he has fashioned the familiar materials into an interesting and valuable book. There are long bibliographies at the ends of the different chapters, and a good index.

BIOGRAPHY

VICTOR HUGO. The Man and the Poet.

By William F. Giese.

The Dial Press

\$4

9½ x 6; 315 pp.

New York

An excellent and much wanted biography of Hugo, the poet. "I have attempted to analyze Hugo's genius," says Mr. Giese, a professor in the University of Wisconsin, "to show its essentially lyric trend, to exhibit its nature and its range, and at the same time to show how the man, omnipresent in the work, has always colored and often marred it. In studying Hugo's poetry I have also attempted, incidentally at least, to show that larger phenomenon Hugo so brilliantly represents, romanticism." He succeeds admirably. Unfortunately, the book lacks both a bibliography and an index.

NAPOLEON.

By Emil Ludwig. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul.

Boni & Liveright 3 9¼ x 6¼; 707 pp. New York

A biography of the first order: an account of Napoleon that is complete, accurate, well written and felicitously translated. "In this book," says the author, "I have tried to write the inner history of

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MEAD MEAD MEAD MEAD MEAD

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Among the books that will be in demand this spring may be mentioned *The Magic Man*, a novel by Hallie Erminie Rives about a man who "came back"; *The Hurcotts*, by Muriel Hine; *Travel in Europe Made Easy*, by Georgia Grant Chester; *The Cultivation of Shrubs*, by Katharine M-P. Cloud; *The Magic Casket*, another Thorndike mystery book by R. Freeman Tilden.

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