

# CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

## BIOGRAPHY

ALGER. *A Biography Without a Hero.*

By Herbert R. Mayes.

\$3.50 9 x 6; 241 pp.

Macy-Masius

New York

Mr. Mayes almost succeeds, in this book, in convincing the reader that Horatio Alger, Jr., was more idiotic than the Alger stories—almost, but not quite. The man was a truly shocking compound of sentimentality and hypocrisy, but there was in him, nevertheless, a certain yearning for intellectual integrity, and if he never wrote a decent book he at least always aspired to write one. His great days ran from 1870 to 1900: the era during which the youth of America was taught to admire such heroes as Commodore Vanderbilt, Dwight L. Moody and Allen G. Thurman. Mr. Mayes has recovered his obscure and somewhat pathetic story from oblivion, but finds it difficult to make the man interesting. Curiously enough, though he survived until 1899, no photograph of him seems to be known.

## THE LOW-DOWN

By Charles G. Shaw.

Henry Holt & Company

\$2.50 7½ x 4¾; 289 pp.

New York

"By their idiosyncrasies," says Mr. Shaw, "ye shall know them." Here he selects twenty-four men and women who have interested him, and by setting forth their tastes in clothes, wines and entertainment, their political prejudices, their feelings regarding God and the Flag, and their adventures in surgery, sport and holy matrimony seeks to show precisely what sort of creatures they are. The experiment is interesting, and Mr. Shaw carries it out with unflinching shrewdness and wit. Some of his discoveries are surprising and even shocking, but all of them are amusing. Among his subjects are Clarence Darrow, Deems Taylor, Lillian Gish, Ernest Boyd, Ralph Barton, Gene Tunney, Hermann Oelrichs, Herbert Bayard Swope, Sinclair Lewis, Robert W. Chanler, Adele Astaire and Tex Rickard. Each study is accompanied by a caricature by Peter Arno.

## CAVOUR.

By Maurice Paléologue.

Harper & Brothers

\$5 10 x 6¾; 307 pp.

New York

M. Paléologue, who was formerly ambassador at St. Petersburg, traces the career of Cavour from the days of his youth, through the national crisis of 1848, the Crimean War, the death of Orsini, the interview at Plombières, the marriage of Princess Clotilda with Prince Napoleon, and Solferino and Villafranca. But, in spite of his enthusiasm, it is an indifferent piece

xiv

of work in a sluggish translation. There are numerous illustrations and an index, but a bibliography is lacking.

THE YANKEE OF THE YARDS. *The Biography of Gustavus Franklin Swift.*

By Louis F. Swift.

The A. W. Shaw Company

\$3 9 x 6; 218 pp.

Chicago

Mr. Swift, who had the aid of Arthur Van Vlis-singen, Jr., in writing this biography of his father, is naturally somewhat discreet, but he doesn't go far enough in that direction to conceal the rough and picturesque contours of the man. The elder Swift was one of the epic figures of Chicago in its palmy days. It was he who first shipped dressed beef to the East, and he who led the campaign to break down the early prejudice against it. His methods were seldom refined, but there is no doubt that a hard New England rectitude was in him, and that his influence upon the packing business was mainly for the good. The younger Mr. Swift offers many anecdotes of him, most of them illustrating his furious economies and his vast delight in his sanguinary trade. It gave him as much joy to slaughter steers and hogs as Beethoven ever got out of writing symphonies. He had, indeed, a gift for their profitable assassination that amounted almost to genius. His son's account of him is extremely interesting and instructive. Among the illustrations is a photograph of "the original windlass used by G. F. Swift for hoisting steers after killing." This was in the years 1861-69, during his apprentice days at Barnstable, Mass.

## W. E. GLADSTONE.

By Osbert Burdett.

The Houghton Mifflin Company

\$4 8¾ x 5½; 307 pp.

Boston

Mr. Burdett has attempted to extract the substance of Morley's two-thousand page Life of Gladstone, and present it in a readable form. He offers few new facts, and his writing could be more attractive in places, but he has done an able job nevertheless.

## MUSSOLINI. *The Man of Destiny.*

By Vittorio E. De Fiori.

E. P. Dutton & Company

\$3 8¾ x 5½; 222 pp.

New York

Mr. De Fiori has been a personal friend of Mussolini for years, and was one of the founders of the Fascist movement in this country. The book is precisely what one would expect: a piece of hero-worship of the crassest sort. The blackguard who is now the enemy of all that is worth being proud of in Italy comes out of it a home-loving worthy, possessed of

*Continued on page xvi*

# THE AMERICAN MERCURY



## Cromwell

By G. R. STIRLING TAYLOR

In this penetrating analysis of Cromwell and his Protectorate, the author shows wherein lay the fascination of Cromwell's character, and illuminates those dark questions that have always arisen around him and his period. It is written with a richness of atmosphere and feeling characteristic of the new biographical method. With 8 illustrations. \$4.00

### \*The Stump Farm

By HILDA ROSE

The poignant story of her stump farm failure and of her heroic attempt to begin anew. \$2.00

### Pirate's Face

By NORVAL RICHARDSON

How a Spanish adventurer subtly dominated a romantic young girl's mind. \$2.50

### Politicians and Moralists of the Nineteenth Century

By EMILE FAGUET

Brilliant essays by a great French critic. \$4.50

### \*The Virgin Queene

By HARFORD POWEL, Jr.

An advertising man, inspired by the spirit of Shakespeare, sets England by the ears. \$2.00

## Crusade

By DONN BYRNE

The romantic tale of how Sir Miles O'Neill fought and loved in Araby the Blest. \$2.00

## \*Red Rust

By CORNELIA JAMES CANNON

A novel of the wheat lands that is arousing nation-wide acclaim. 40th thousand. \$2.50

### Four Plays

By SERAFIN AND JOAQUIN ALVAREZ QUINTERO

Plays of Spanish life by the Quinteros. \$2.50

### Florian Slappey Goes Abroad

By OCTAVUS ROY COHEN

How Florian Slappey acted as interpreter, knowing no word of a foreign tongue. \$2.00

### \*Hamiltonian Principles

### \*Jeffersonian Principles

Edited by JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS  
Selections from their writings. Each \$2.00

### \*Smiley's Haven

By BLANCHE CROZIER

An irresistible, whimsical vagabond, cast upon a tropic island, marries into the gentility. \$2.50

## \*Business the Civilizer

By EARNEST ELMO CALKINS

A remarkably original contribution to the new literature of business, by a man whose lifetime of adventure and experience in advertising has made him world famous. With 38 illustrations. \$3.00



\*Indicates An Atlantic Monthly Press Publication.

These Books are For Sale at All Booksellers

Boston

LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY

Publishers