

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from page xix

icans, is not a comic character, but simply a malicious libel; this is preëminently true, certainly, of Elmer Gantry. Miss Rourke herself seems to take little delight in humor as such. Her interest is always in its psychological connotations. Sometimes her judgments are priggish and absurd, as when she says that "for nearly twenty years after the publication of Robinson's 'The Children of the Night' in 1896 poetry comprised the only notable American literature." This for the period which produced "McTeague," "Sister Carrie," "Java Head," "My Antonia" and "Jurgen!" There is a somewhat elaborate bibliographical note at the end of the book, followed by an index.

HEINRICH HEINE. *A Critical Examination of the Poet & His Works.*

By H. Walter. *The Bloch Publishing Company*
\$4.25 8 7/8 x 5 1/2; 322 pp. New York

Admirers of Heine will find nothing here that is new either as biography or as criticism, but they will find a well-rounded, fully informed and workmanlike book about the greatest lyric poet Germany has yet produced. Mr. Walter treats at length the various phases of the man: the lawyer, the revolutionary pamphleteer, the historian, the philosopher, the journalist, the poet, and the lover. He is scrupulously fair and sensible on all counts. He has the courage—now that Goethe is the darling of the professors—to rate Heine greater than Goethe as a man, and, in some respects, as a lyricist. The author of "Faust" was something of a bootlicker, as Beethoven knew very well, but Heine compromised so little that he is hated in wide circles in Germany even today. A magnificent man, who wasted his love upon some of the trashiest women who have ever afflicted an artist, and who fought uncompromisingly for ideals that boys dedicate themselves to, men disdain, and women laugh at. Mr. Walter appends a brief bibliography and an index.

HISTORY

IOWAY TO IOWA: *The Genesis of a Corn & Bible Commonwealth.*

By Irving Berdine Richman.

The State Historical Society of Iowa
\$4 9 3/8 x 6 1/2; 479 pp. Iowa City

Mr. Richman does not offer a formal history of Iowa, but contents himself with presenting a series of episodes from the chronicles of the State. He has made good selections, and they include a great deal of unfamiliar matter. The first white man to see

what is now Iowa was probably the celebrated Father Marquette, who arrived in 1673. For many years the hostility of the Indians made the area forbidden ground, but it was gradually penetrated by trappers and prospectors, and in 1808-09 the United States built Fort Madison on the upper Mississippi and settlement was begun. By 1840 the population was 43,000. By 1870 Iowa had risen to second place among the corn-producing States, and by 1890 to first place. It is today one of the richest of American States, and has begun to busy itself with cultural matters. In the early days it was swept by furious revivals, and to this day there is a high percentage of church membership, but the clergy have begun to lose their grip and antinomianism is rife. Mr. Richman's book is beautifully printed by the Athens Press of Iowa City and has four full-page illustrations in color. It is heavily documented.

THE MARTIAL SPIRIT. *A Study of Our War With Spain.*

By Walter Millis. *The Houghton Mifflin Company*
\$4 8 3/4 x 5 1/2; 427 pp. Boston

Curiously enough, this seems to be the first formal history of the Spanish-American War—that is, the first of any historical dignity. Mr. Millis has gone to the sources. More, he has gone beyond them—to the psychological state of the American people in the years between 1891 and 1898. What made them ready for the war was unquestionably the launching of the White Squadron. Once it was in the water it went about the world looking for a brush. After attempts upon Chile, Germany, England and various other nations had failed it was the turn of the poor Spaniards. Mr. Millis shows what part demagogues had in the business, ranging from Roosevelt to Hearst, and what part mountebanks played in the actual war. It was, in the main, a low comedy affair, and there was little real glory in it for either the Army or the Navy. But out of it came a gang of professional heroes who were to afflict the United States for a generation, and pave the way for many of its present woes. Mr. Millis is by no means a mere debunker. His facts are carefully arranged, and he lets them point their own moral. His book is well documented and has a good index.

TEXT-BOOKS

MAGAZINE MAKING.

By John Bakeless. *The Viking Press*
\$3 8 1/2 x 5 1/2; 323 pp. New York

Mr. Bakeless, in his day, has been on the staffs of the *Forum*, the *Independent*, and the *Living Age*;

Continued on page xxii

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