

THIRTY FABLES IN SLANG.

By George Ade.

The Arrow Editions

\$3.50

6¼ x 8¼; 210 pp.

New York

These fables are selected from Mr. Ade's early volumes, and some of them go back to 1899. They hold up very well. It is obvious enough, re-reading them, that they belong to the pre-automobile age, but nevertheless they are still pungent, and not a few of them promise to last for a long time to come. Certainly such things as *The Two Mandolin Players*, *The Visitor Who Got a Lot For Three Dollars* and *The Honest Money-Maker* and the *Partner of His Joys* are not to be set down as transient newspaper jocosity. They rank, in fact, with the best humor ever produced in this country. The present volume is beautifully printed and bound, and there are some excellent illustrations by Peggy Bacon.

PHILOSOPHERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

By T. V. Smith.

The University of Chicago Press

\$4.50

6½ x 9¼; 800 pp.

Chicago

This work, which Professor Smith subtitled "Guides and Readings for Greek, Roman, and Early Christian Philosophy," forms an excellent one-volume anthology of original philosophic writings from Thales to Augustine. The brief introductions to the different chapters, and the biographical, translators' and editor's notes make it easy to use even for beginners who have "been graduated from the story-of-philosophy stage." There is a bibliography, but, unfortunately, an index is lacking.

TRAVEL

FIRE ON THE ANDES.

By Carleton Beals.

The J. B. Lippincott Company

\$3

5¾ x 8¾; 482 pp.

Philadelphia

Mr. Beals, who is known for his illuminating books on Mexico, now tells the story of Peru — the country where flourished one of the oldest and greatest civilizations in the world. The whole history is here, and it is presented in a thrilling narrative of considerable depth and understanding. During his stay in Peru, the author crossed the Andes three times and lived both in the primitive regions and in the more populated cities. His book abounds in vivid descriptions of peasants, landowners, bandits, artists, politicians, and revolutionists. And there are separate chapters devoted to an examination of the social, political, and economic life of the country. A bibliography and an index are appended.

DESERT WIFE.

By Hilda Faunce.

Little, Brown & Company

\$3

5½ x 8¼; 305 pp.

Boston

Setting out from Oregon in a wagon, Mrs. Faunce and her husband follow the Old Oregon Trail to Salt Lake City and then proceed to a trading post on the Arizona desert where they establish their home among the Navajo Indians. Although her husband is a seasoned veteran of the desert, Mrs. Faunce herself is new to the primitive conditions she finds there, and her book is an interesting record of her first impressions and later experiences. For four years she remains at the trading post, studying the customs and characteristics of the Navajos, and finally winning their confidence and respect. The book is valuable not only as entertaining reading but also as a dependable guide to the tribal manners of an ancient Indian civilization.

CAPE FAREWELL.

By Harry Martinson.

G. P. Putnam's Sons

\$2.50

5½ x 8¼; 215 pp.

New York

The interest in this book of travel pictures lies almost as much in its highly imaginative prose as in its vividly colored realism. The author is a Swede of considerable literary ability who has served for a good many years as a ship's fireman. His descriptions of life at sea, of cyclones, of scenery around Swedish lakes, of Indian landscapes and Brazilian landscapes, are rendered with the touch of a true artist.

THE INVISIBLE INFLUENCE.

By Alexander Cannon.

E. P. Dutton & Company

\$1.50

5¼ x 7½; 168 pp.

New York

This book is a rather involved description of a trip through India and Tibet with detailed accounts of long conversations with various mystics in these countries. It reads like a religious tract with frequent references to *Destiny*, the *Soul*, and the *Invisible Influence*, all in capitals. The author wants us to believe that Eastern Adepts live to the age of 900 years, that it is possible to see the inner organs of people (a sort of x-ray eye), and so on and on. He relates an experience in Tibet where he came to an angry river fifty feet wide, that could not be crossed in a boat. He then proceeded to make himself lighter than air, by certain breathing manipulations, and thus transported himself safely through the air to the other side of the river. The book should have been illustrated by Ripley: it would sell better.

MISCELLANEOUS

IN THE DARK BACKWARD.

By Henry W. Nevinson. *Harcourt, Brace & Company*
\$2.50 5½ x 8¼; 282 pp. New York

Mr. Nevinson is one of those enviable rarities: the man who has been everywhere, read everything, and knows how to put words together on paper. From boyhood, he says, it has been his intellectual privilege to live in two ages at the same time: the past and the present. This book is in part the fruit of that privilege. In the Syrian desert beside the Euphrates, he sees the King of Babylon return from the wilderness. Again, while journeying through Jerusalem, he sees the Roman soldiers, assisted by a group of Jews, leading Christ to Calvary. Or, while walking in Aldersgate, he meets Milton and accompanies him to his home. Altogether there are seventeen of such chapters in which present events merge with events of the past. Perhaps the most interesting is the one in which the author revisits the sites of the World War and witnesses scenes which he himself lived through at the time of the conflict. A delightful book. It has an index.

I SPEAK FOR THE SILENT.

By Vladimir V. Tchernavin.
Hale, Cushman & Flint
\$2.50 5½ x 8; 368 pp. Boston

Vladimir Tchernavin was employed by the Soviets to assist in the development of the fishing industry. Like many another distinguished scientist, when the failure of certain branches of the Five Year Plan became evident to the Russian government, he was shouldered with the blame and shipped off to prison. Forty-eight officials and specialists in the food industry had already been slaughtered by the politicians, eager to punish others for their own incredible blundering: Tchernavin was to be the forty-ninth. The book records the story of his sudden arrest, the brutalities of the GPU, the insanitary prison conditions, the mediaeval methods of torture, the sacrifice of the intellectuals, and the disruption of the entire fishing industry by the Com-mies; it closes with the dramatic escape into Finland — so excitingly and vividly described by the author's wife in *Escape from the Soviets*. A straightforward, unsentimental history of political oppression. There are maps and illustrations.

I COMMIT TO THE FLAMES.

By Ivor Brown. *Harper & Brothers*
\$2 5¼ x 7¾; 240 pp. New York

A conservative iconoclast, equipped with bludgeons of wit and invective, Mr. Brown attempts to destroy a few of the current menaces to the welfare of science and art, and at the same time to show that what is wrong with us today is a tame surrender to last-minute reputations. Although he frequently weakens his own arguments by over-statement, his book affords the reader an amusing and curiously detached view of the modern scene with its apostles of unintelligible poetry, its Lawrentian sentimentalists, its Youth Movements, and its Blood-and-Guts literature. The author makes it plain throughout that he is no Puritan; he is anything but a mouth-piece for Mother Church. But he is a man who has held fast to his sense of values and who sees in the present-day flight from reason little more than a foolish scamper to the hooligan's heaven.

SPIDER WOMAN.

By Gladys A. Reichard. *The Macmillan Company*
\$3.50 6 x 8¾; 287 pp. New York

This is a story of Navajo weaving, relating the way in which an Eastern white woman acquired a knowledge of this fascinating but extremely complicated art. It is also an informative study of Navajo manners and customs, Dr. Reichard having long been interested in the American Indians from a purely ethnological, and therefore unsentimental, point of view. Her style is distinctly literary, and her portraits of individual Navajos are clearly defined.

THE SECRET WAR.

By Frank C. Hanighen. *The John Day Company*
\$2.75 5½ x 8½; 316 pp. New York

This is a popular account of the struggle for oil which has been raging for years among the Deterdings, the Rockefellers, the Sinclairs, the Teagles and others. Mr. Hanighen's story of the most incredible power of these interests, their buying up of kings, emperors, prime ministers and other officials of governments everywhere, the extremes to which they have gone and are still ready to go, is dramatically told — possibly a bit too much so. There is not much really new information, but Mr. Hanighen presents a fairly good summary of the known facts.