

CHECK LIST

(Continued from page 377)

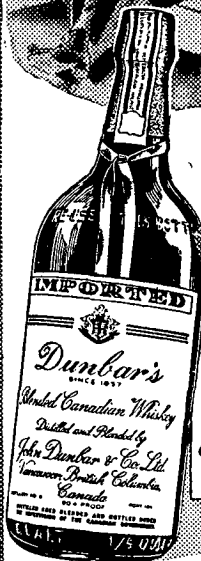
deserved publication for their high quality. Among the selections are novelettes, short stories, plays, poems, and one critical essay, and among the authors represented are some well known (Richard Hughes, Ira Wolfert, Edita Morris, Paul Peters, Langston Hughes) and some who seem to be total newcomers (Henry Stone, Jay Williams, Edwin Honig and others). The volume as a whole is almost incredible in its sheer poverty of talent. The novelettes by Richard Hughes and Ira Wolfert, who have written presentable things in the past, are embarrassingly inept. Mr. Hughes doesn't seem to know what he's aiming at, and Mr. Wolfert apparently can't make up his mind whether he wants to write like Ernest Hemingway, Walter Pater, or the *Daily Worker*. Of the nearly twenty short stories, only one is readable, "American Gothic," by Betty Baur, and of the batch of poems only the three very short ones by Langston Hughes reveal power — "Madam and the Minister," "Madam and Her Might-Have-Been," and "Madam and the Wrong Visitor." The lonely critical essay, something on current war fiction by Stanley Edgar Hyman, is written like a night-school prize composition.

ALIBI FOR ISABEL, and other stories, by Mary Roberts Rinehart. \$2.50. Farrar and Rinehart. Nine stories which are pleasant and easily read, ranging from the tribulations of married love to catching a murderer.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON, edited by Christopher Morley. \$2.00. Harcourt Brace. Five stories by Doyle including "A Study In Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four" with amusing notes and introduction by the editor.

THE VISITOR, by Carl Randau & Leane Zugsmith. \$2.00. Random House. Long lost son returns home and the reader is kept on tenterhooks wondering if the boy is telling the truth or is an imposter. A quiet, easily believable story which at the same time has its full quota of horror.

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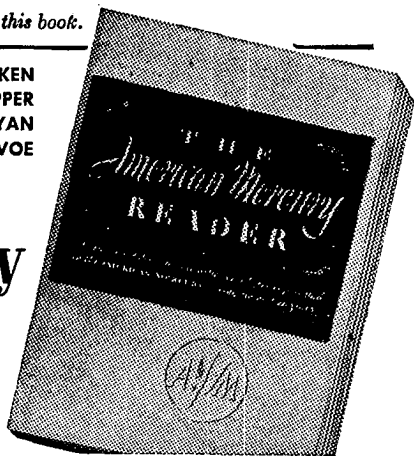
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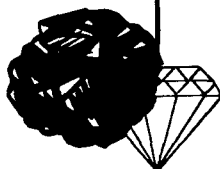
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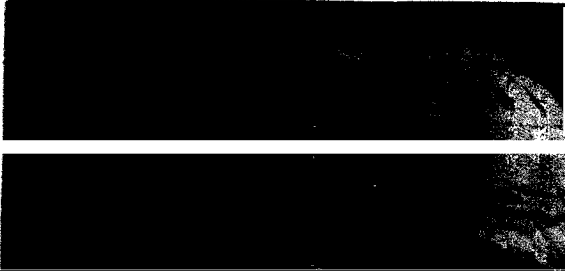
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