

hasten the peaceful progress of the economic and political integration of the world." It is a book that will make for far-sightedness, for clarity of thought and sanity of judgment in the deciding of many of our problems, and the direct-

ing of our course. "Nor, although it is so much taken up with material concerns, is it without that insight into the heart of things, that gleam of the spirit, without which we shall surely die.

EVENING

BY POWHATAN JOHNSON WOOLDRIDGE

BELOVED! Let us rest
 Where the water lilies glow,
 And idly watch the river flowing past.
 Our day is at its best
 For the lengthened shadows grow,
 Sure promise that the night is near, at last.

The livelong summer day
 We have worked and thought apart,
 But sun-set brings an end to lonely toil;
 A little time for play
 Comes to ease the work-worn heart,
 A moment that the world of care can't spoil.

We'll watch the sunset fade,
 And, as night comes on a-pace,
 Forget the world and all its warring art,
 Beneath the willow shade,
 As I gaze upon your face,
 I'll press you close and closer to my heart.

AN ANALYSIS OF FICTION IN THE UNITED STATES 1911 TO 1916

BY FRED E. WOODWARD

THE publication of fiction in the United States presents a fascinating problem, alike to the publisher, book-seller, the librarian and the student of affairs, but to each one from a different point of view. The two first mentioned are apt to view the question with a commercial eye, while the latter are more or less utilitarian in their ideas and approach to the question.

"THE FLOOD OF FICTION"

There is a well-founded belief, prevalent in cultured centres of population, that we are in danger of being swamped or submerged by "the flood of fiction," which issues from the presses of our publishers in an unremitting stream. The stigma of reproach which attaches to the publication and reading of fiction is a survival from an earlier prejudice, and with it we have no quarrel. It is well, however, to be reminded that even in fiction there is such a thing as *quality*, as well as *quantity*, and while we may be a trifle uneasy concerning the seemingly large quantity of fiction which is placed before us, we may also take heart and rejoice in the fact that the flood bears some choice cargoes, and in fact, the measure of good fiction is constantly improving.

FICTION IS DECLINING

It will surprise those who have not

kept in close touch with the statistics of the book trade, to be assured that while the population of the United States has increased from seventy millions in 1895 to one hundred and one millions in 1916—and while the total number of books published in the United States during the same period has increased from 5,469 in 1895 to 10,445 in 1916, the publication of fiction has not kept pace, either in percentage or in actual numbers, with the publication of books in the remaining classes. This statement is so clearly at variance with the general belief that actual figures are appended.*

A glance at the table shows that, including the year 1911, and to the present time, the proportion of books of fiction, issued in the United States, has been less than ten per cent. of the whole output, and that of every one hundred books, more than ninety are in classes other than fiction. The combined figures for these years 1911-1916 are as follows: total books in all classes, 66,445; total fiction, 6,094; percentage of fiction to whole 9.17.

One is constantly reminded that many works of fiction are issued in large and repeated editions, while the more substantial books have a materially smaller issue and circulation, and this cannot be well denied. We maintain, however, that the comparison is a legitimate one, as we are comparing the records of

Year	Total number of new publications	Fiction	Percentage of fiction to whole
*In 1895	5,469	1,114	20.3
1896	"	"	"
1899	"	"	"
1903	"	"	"
1906	"	"	"
1907	"	"	"
1911	"	"	"
1913	"	"	"
1914	"	"	"
1915	"	"	"
1916	"	"	"