

poet, who has color and no form, needs a technique to develop what in her shorter poems descends to a slipshod mention of barely evocative phrases. After all, suspension points are not all there is to expression.

"On a Chinese Screen" by W. Somerset Maugham (Doran) is a many colored and sometimes gorgeous record of the impressions gathered by this versatile writer on his recent visit to the East. The most gorgeous passages, though, are not descriptions of oriental embroideries, but of the people he observed with his sensitive and sympathetically analytical mind's eye—mandarins and missionaries, consuls, coolies, and casuals. Character studies, short narratives, tragedy, trivia are here, all delightful, though some may take exception to the few small pages which seem not quite successfully to be trying to be prose poems. Stouthearted readers will like "The Vice-Consul", a striking and horrible thing; everyone, surely, will feel the thrill in "Romance".

Three peninsulas of nearly equal area, but differing radically in contour and physical formation, project into the Mediterranean. They are Spain, Italy, and Balkania. The populations of Italy and Spain are homogeneous. Balkania's inhabitants are so dissimilar that the world wonders how so small a territory can carry peoples so opposed racially, politically, economically. The marvel has been, with wars and revolutions an almost daily occurrence, that a gradual unification has not resulted. But the fact is that discord and jealousy today are even more pronounced than at the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire. "The Balkan Peninsula" (Harcourt, Brace) by Professor Ferdinand Sche-

vill tells the interesting story of this centre of conflict from the migratory period down to the present time.

Fear for the ultimate destruction of state rights, in both theory and practice, has led Charles W. Pierson to write "Our Changing Constitution" (Doubleday, Page). He shows how, almost from the time the Constitution was adopted, the federal power has continually encroached on that of the states, so that our so called dual system "is fast losing its duality". Mr. Pierson particularly dwells on the manner in which the right of Congress to regulate interstate commerce has even been used to give it police power within the states, as in the Narcotic Drug Act, the White Slave Act, and the attempted Child Labor Laws.

"Star Dust", the first volume of collected verse by Power Dalton, makes its hesitant entry via the hand press of Will Ransom, in an edition limited to 259 copies. It deserves a much wider circulation, though many of the poems have already appeared in leading poetry magazines. As a first volume "Star Dust" is distinctly promising, though marred in places by that thinness of thought which sometimes results when the poet cultivates too intensively the limited acres of his own personal reactions. There is in this book, however, a vivid pictorial quality and a lyric sense which find their best expression in the sonnets.

"The Sporting Life, and Other Trifles" by Robert Lynd (Scribner) is not, of course, a handbook for sportsmen. Its reader must first have an amiable feeling toward the informal essay. The sportsman may find the vehicle not to his liking, for it is very

belletristic. The admirer of Mr. Lynd's adroit essays may on the other hand find himself wandering in very unfamiliar subject matter. As a respectable British essayist, Mr. Lynd has much to say about cricket and horse racing and Oxford boat races, and nothing at all about the baseball and football upon which our pink and green sheets subsist. In his "other trifles", he is on more familiar ground, as "On Wearing a Collar", "A Defense of Nonsense", and "Baths" indicate. Here he displays a moderate charm, and the tenuous strain of humor expected of an essayist well grounded in his essay classics.

"A Journey in Ireland" by Wilfrid Ewart (Appleton) represents the results of a tour of Ireland "undertaken with the single object of studying the state of the country and the state of feeling in the country, as to which the newspapers contradicted each other and propaganda and partisanship persistently vied". The author proceeds primarily by the narrative method, reporting numerous incidents and conversations from his experience in Ireland; and, as a result, the book is not only vivid but interesting. It loses somewhat in value, unfortunately, owing to the fact that it is concerned largely with remarks and prognostications concerning Ireland of the days prior to the agreement with England; but it has the merit of presenting material which, if not directly related to contemporary problems, is at least of historical interest.

It is to be hoped that "Rollo in Society" (Putnam) will introduce Rollo to many potential friends who did not meet him when he appeared in the pages of "Vanity Fair". Here the splendid little fellow with his cricket

and his tippet and his clam shell from Atlantic City has moved into the City — into Society, with all its complicated demands upon the individual. But Rollo threads the maze successfully, though not uneventfully, under the skilful guidance of his polished Uncle George. In uniting, in his happy way, Rollo and Broadway, George S. Chappell flicks two generations with amusing neatness.

For people of importance, "Getting Your Name in Print" by H. S. McCauley (Funk, Wagnalls) will prove a very useful little volume. It suggests any number of ways of getting publicity and provides some valuable "don't's" as well as "do's". However, Mr. McCauley emphasizes the fact that the news you want published must be of general interest to your fellow men, and obscure seekers of the limelight get little encouragement. The book is written in a bright, amusing style and gives a very clear idea of general newspaper practices.

When a crowd of literary protestants get together and shout, they make considerable entertaining noise. What good it can do is questionable when one remembers the band that formed the press committee of the Bull Moose party. That did not prevent the publication of "Nonsenseorship" (Putnam), however, and here is offered the cries of the oppressed against the restriction of press, liquor, and other things. Entertaining it certainly is, from the introduction of Mr. Putnam himself to the very end. Moreover, the protestants found such a diversity of things against which to holler that there is not even a monotony of theme. Contributing to the collection are Heywood Broun, George S. Chappell, Ruth Hale, Ben Hecht,