

the devil. In his relations with the world at large he was a junker, arrogant, inconsiderate, impudent, and dogmatic; in his relations with family and friends he was *ganz bürgerlich*, kindly, fussy, homely and, of course, dogmatic. Oscar Levy has compiled his "Selected Letters of Friedrich Nietzsche" (Doubleday, Page) from the five-volume German edition of Nietzsche's private correspondence with both these attitudes in mind. He seeks to portray not merely the philosopher *en pantoufles* but the intimate life and thoughts of his hero. The reader profits greatly by this method. He is able to follow Nietzsche's ideas from their inception to their final crystallization, and thus by easy stages he arrives at the entire system of philosophy. And it is no small revelation in itself to see this great mind troubled at one and the same time by the probable future of mankind and the reported chilblain of a fellow thinker.

"Flash-lights from the Seven Seas" by Reverend William L. Stidger (Doran) gives graphic and illuminating word pictures of the east,—of scenes and people, of fears and superstitions, of the hopes that can be centred in the Asia of the future.

The unconventionality of "A Virgin Heart" by Remy de Gourmont (N. L. Brown) is its great merit. By avoiding the well worn grooves of fiction and by narrating simply and without description, the author has made his novelette (which is barely more than an incident) real and vivid. It is not the physiological study of a "virgin heart" that he intended but an unaffected story of love in France. The translation is by Aldous Huxley.

Many attempts have been made to explain humor, both on philosophical and physiological grounds. And some progress has been made. Yet humor, *per se*, is just as remote, just as evanescent as ever. Max Eastman's treatise, "The Sense of Humor" (Scribner), is perhaps a trifle less scholarly than that of many philosophers. Just how far the author succeeds in explaining the sense of humor is problematic. Those versed in the lore of Kant, Hegel, Plato, and their ilk, will find Mr. Eastman's disquisition most absorbing. Such persons it will leave with the feeling that they have studied the complicated anatomy of an intricate mental function, and can more fully appreciate it in view of their intimate knowledge of its physiological aspects. As for the rest of us,—well, Mr. Eastman says in his preface, "Although I have tried to make this book enjoyable—my prevailing purpose has been scientific." And who wants to be scientific about humor?

Mr. Chesterton has argued that the difference between the great and the petty, the tremendous and the trifling, lies in the point of view. Thus he brought a microscope to the insignificant things of life and presented them in an inordinate bigness. We doubt not that W. H. Hudson would pronounce this method as untrue to art as it is to life, for this "Traveller in Little Things" (Dutton) is an honest "commercial". He retails his anecdotes; he does not interpret them *à la* Falstaff. He uses no sophistry to make the little seem as important as the great; but he need not argue to convince us that it is no less interesting. The reader, on finishing this book, will be minded of an evening stroll in English meadows.

FICTION IN DEMAND AT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

COMPILED BY FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE IN COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The following lists of books in demand in January in the public libraries in the United States have been compiled from reports made by two hundred representative libraries in every section of the country and in cities of all sizes down to ten thousand population. The order of choice is as stated by the librarians.

NEW YORK AND NEW ENGLAND STATES

1. If Winter Comes	<i>A. S. M. Hutchinson</i>	LITTLE, BROWN
2. Her Father's Daughter	<i>Gene Stratton-Porter</i>	DOUBLEDAY
3. The Pride of Palomar	<i>Peter B. Kyne</i>	COSMOPOLITAN
4. Helen of the Old House	<i>Harold Bell Wright</i>	APPLETON
5. Main Street	<i>Sinclair Lewis</i>	HARCOURT
6. The Brimming Cup	<i>Dorothy Canfield</i>	HARCOURT

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

1. If Winter Comes	<i>A. S. M. Hutchinson</i>	LITTLE, BROWN
2. Helen of the Old House	<i>Harold Bell Wright</i>	APPLETON
3. Brass	<i>Charles G. Norris</i>	DUTTON
4. Her Father's Daughter	<i>Gene Stratton-Porter</i>	DOUBLEDAY
5. The Pride of Palomar	<i>Peter B. Kyne</i>	COSMOPOLITAN
6. The Obstacle Race	<i>Ethel M. Dell</i>	PUTNAM

NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1. If Winter Comes	<i>A. S. M. Hutchinson</i>	LITTLE, BROWN
2. Helen of the Old House	<i>Harold Bell Wright</i>	APPLETON
3. Her Father's Daughter	<i>Gene Stratton-Porter</i>	DOUBLEDAY
4. Main Street	<i>Sinclair Lewis</i>	HARCOURT
5. The Brimming Cup	<i>Dorothy Canfield</i>	HARCOURT
6. The Pride of Palomar	<i>Peter B. Kyne</i>	COSMOPOLITAN

SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1. If Winter Comes	<i>A. S. M. Hutchinson</i>	LITTLE, BROWN
2. Helen of the Old House	<i>Harold Bell Wright</i>	APPLETON
3. Main Street	<i>Sinclair Lewis</i>	HARCOURT
4. Her Father's Daughter	<i>Gene Stratton-Porter</i>	DOUBLEDAY
5. The Brimming Cup	<i>Dorothy Canfield</i>	HARCOURT
6. Three Soldiers	<i>John Dos Passos</i>	DORAN

WESTERN STATES

1. If Winter Comes	<i>A. S. M. Hutchinson</i>	LITTLE, BROWN
2. The Pride of Palomar	<i>Peter B. Kyne</i>	COSMOPOLITAN
3. Helen of the Old House	<i>Harold Bell Wright</i>	APPLETON
4. Her Father's Daughter	<i>Gene Stratton-Porter</i>	DOUBLEDAY
5. Main Street	<i>Sinclair Lewis</i>	HARCOURT
6. The Brimming Cup	<i>Dorothy Canfield</i>	HARCOURT

FOR THE WHOLE UNITED STATES

1. If Winter Comes	<i>A. S. M. Hutchinson</i>	LITTLE, BROWN
2. Helen of the Old House	<i>Harold Bell Wright</i>	APPLETON
3. Her Father's Daughter	<i>Gene Stratton-Porter</i>	DOUBLEDAY
4. Main Street	<i>Sinclair Lewis</i>	HARCOURT
5. The Pride of Palomar	<i>Peter B. Kyne</i>	COSMOPOLITAN
6. The Brimming Cup	<i>Dorothy Canfield</i>	HARCOURT