

Mr. Chesterton sees the forests as well as the trees, and although his book is deficient in detail it presents a clear idea of William Cobbett. He is shown as a man who was consistent despite many superficial changes of opinion, and Chesterton solves the riddle of his complicated political career by the neat and typical paradox that "in a sense he quarreled with everybody because he reconciled everything".

The "Selected Poems" of Chaim Nachman Bialik, who is said to be the greatest genius of the new Hebrew renaissance, have been translated from the Hebrew by Maurice Samuel, and from the Yiddish by Helena Frank, and published (New Palestine) on the occasion of Bialik's first visit to America. (He is a Russian who has lived in Palestine since the Soviet government.) It is difficult, peering through the thick glass of the shorter translations with their forced or obvious rhymes—to tell just what was the lyric quality of the originals. But in the longer, unrhymed poems the figure of a major poet emerges—a poet treating large and tragic themes with high imagination and majesty of line. "The Masmid", an account of the severe self discipline of boys studying to be rabbis, is new material to the Gentile.

The fact that the "History of Russia" by S. F. Platonov (Macmillan) was

a standard textbook in Russian schools for "more than two decades" is not sufficient to recommend it for use in American colleges. Even the Russian youth was learning history from sources that had not always been approved by the Czar's government. Our youth is virile enough to be able to study history, particularly histories of other countries, without having the facts sifted and made innocuous and anæmic by the joint efforts of an official historian and the Czar's censor.

The editors of "Oxford Poetry, 1925" (Appleton) assure their readers that they have chosen the poems in this slim volume "in meer simplicitate, and all for their delight". The poems themselves bear out this method of selection. They are fresh, quick with life, and marked with the unmistakable imprint of lucid thinking and sharp feeling. Without straining for new and bizarre effects, they present a variety of word contours that is without debt to the poets of any other age. Sometimes they are merely the lovely fleeting contours of a youthful mood. At other times they are terrible and perdurant, as in Harold Acton's "Hilarity" and "The Prodigal Son". The volume is mature, though slight, and there is a refreshing absence of the sophomoric attitude of plucking at the skirts of a current literary deity.

# THE BOOKMAN'S MONTHLY SCORE

Compiled by Frank Parker Stockbridge, Life Member of the American Library Association, in  
Cooperation with the Public Libraries of America

Once more contemplation of this mirror of the American public's reading tastes gives us a sharply limned reflection of the American scene. The picture is of an entire nation seeking new light on the old truths which in their traditional presentations fail to satisfy a new generation to whom miracles are daily commonplaces and the ancient mysteries no longer mysterious. They are seeking not so much new truths as some means of reconciling the facts of life as they know them with the innate human desire to believe in the unknowable. They are scrutinizing the old generalizations with keenly critical and skeptical eye and eagerly welcoming every new book which holds out the promise of throwing new light on the accepted beliefs of the past, in the hope of finding therein surer guidance for the future. That at least is the only conclusion the present reporter can draw from an attempt to psychoanalyze the collective mind which reads with equal avidity "The Man Nobody Knows", "The Fruit of the Family Tree", "Why We Behave Like Human Beings", and the revealing biographies which make up the rest of the current general list. — F. P. S.

## FICTION

1. Wild Geese	Martha Ostenso	DODD
2. The Perennial Bachelor	Anne Parrish	HARPER
3. Thunder on the Left	Christopher Morley	DOUBLEDAY
4. The Keeper of the Bees	Gene Stratton-Porter	DOUBLEDAY
5. The Private Life of Helen of Troy	John Erskine	BOBBS
6. One Increasing Purpose	A. S. M. Hutchinson	LITTLE
7. An American Tragedy *	Theodore Dreiser	LIVERIGHT
8. Soundings	A. Hamilton Gibbs	LITTLE
9. The Vanishing American	Zane Grey	HARPER
10. The Professor's House	Willa Cather	KNOFF
11. Glorious Apollo	E. Barrington	DODD
12. The Blue Window *	Temple Bailey	PENN

## GENERAL

1. The Man Nobody Knows	Bruce Barton	BOBBS
2. Twenty-five Years	Viscount Grey of Fallodon	STOKES
3. Life and Letters of Walter H. Page	Burton J. Hendrick	DOUBLEDAY
4. Abraham Lincoln *	Carl Sandburg	HARCOURT
5. Why We Behave Like Human Beings	G. A. Dorsey	HARPER
6. The Fruit of the Family Tree	Albert Edward Wiggam	BOBBS
7. Intimate Papers of Colonel House *	Charles Seymour	HOUGHTON
8. The Travel Diary of a Philosopher	Count Keyserling	HARCOURT
9. Anatole France Himself	Jean-Jacques Brousson	LIPPINCOTT
10. John Keats	Amy Lowell	HOUGHTON
11. Ariel: The Life of Shelley	André Maurois	APPLETON
12. Tolerance *	Hendrik Willem Van Loon	LIVERIGHT

\* This title has not before appeared in the Monthly Score.