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(Continued from page XVIII)

experiences as Mr. Weale, and we gain almost no local or historical color. The mysterious love affair which threads its way thinly through the book is not convincing enough to justify itself, and the trick ending transforms it into a mere irrelevant detail about people who are no more than strangers to us.

Rembrandt (Globus Press, \$2.50) is the first book by the Hungarian writer, Sándor Bródy, to be translated into English. The work is not so comprehensive as its title suggests; for Mr. Bródy limits himself to a series of episodes which are supposed to have occurred in the last three years of the painter's life. Although the author casts little light on Rembrandt the painter, he does succeed in conveying, interestingly and humanly, something of the eccentric, puzzling character of Rembrandt the man. The mingled pathos and triumph of his last years is moving. More or less forgotten by a world to which he had been increasingly undiplomatic, he wandered into the Amsterdam Ghetto and stayed among sympathetic Jews who supported him for the sake of his genius. Here he was recognized and understood, and his gratitude was so great that on his deathbed he insisted that his last rites be Jewish, that he be buried like a Jew.

The life of Old Hickory, especially in his young days, is remarkably adaptable to sentimental fiction. Indeed, his character might have been shaped by just such a sentimental molder as Mr. Meredith Nicholson, who has written of his youth in *The Cavalier of Tennessee* (Bobbs-Merrill, \$2.50). The novel tells of his fiery courtship, his brief married life, his rapid rise in national favor; it ends dramatically with the death of his wife and his election to the White House. Mr. Nicholson is obviously devoted to his subject; he exalts the Cavalier's temper tantrums to a plane of heroism, and he blows the gentle breath of romance upon his over-heated sentimental declarations. Certainly this "biography" is far from being enlightening in any respect, but it is so consistent with the popular idea of Old Hickory, that it will ring with grateful familiarity in many ears.

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