

as the spenserian stanza to *The Faerie Queene*. Mr. Marsh is a bold original and should be encouraged to entertain more daring and more comprehensive conceptions.

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FICTION

How The Old Woman Got Home. By M. P. Shiel. Macy-Masius. \$2.50.

There are very few things in this world as perfect of their kind as the romances of M. P. Shiel. Mr. Shiel has a literary style that is as thick and rich as Devonshire cream. He has imagination, he has humor, he has, even, that tiresomely insisted-on *élan*. For those who like their romances full of plot, he is a godsend, but for those who like their plot served up with the complicated sauces of a fine prose style, he is even more directly and personally a gift from heaven. *How The Old Woman Got Home*, his latest novel, is a book to buy, a book to lend, a book to steal, for it is fairly certain that it will be another year or two before so much genuine enjoyment will be discoverable between the covers of a single tale.

The Return of Spring. By H. de Vere Stacpoole. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50.

There are several novel twists to this story of a sudden fortune and a marriage that keep it from being stereotyped, and the scene, shifting from England to Switzerland and back again several times, gives the author an opportunity for some good descriptive passages. The characters seem much of the time to be more dramatic than the occasion warrants, but the plot is sufficiently amusing to make one overlook the lack of intelligence in its chief actors.

Joshua's Vision. By William J. Locke. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

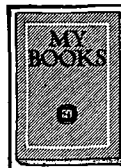
This new novel of Mr. Locke's concerns the development of the soul of a man who has spent his entire life furnishing the Brit-

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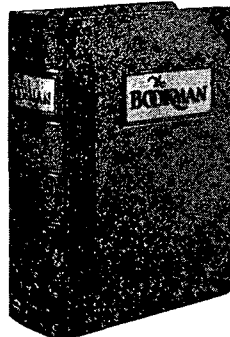
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Notes on New Books—Continued

ish nation with boots. Joshua Fendick's vision, the gradual awakening of an esthetic sense, his pathetic strivings after achievement in the artistic world, his relation to Susan Keene his model, make a good story.

Fire Down Below. By Margaret Irwin. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.

At the cost of three lives Peregrine Sark bought the goddess Cybele, a red clay image which he worshipped in return for the luck it brought him. Here we have a weird mixture of pagan idolatry and superstition and conventional English country life. This ambitious undertaking is naturally accompanied by some faults; the story is inclined to drag, there is a good deal of repetition of phrase, and at times the characters are fantastic and unreal; but in spite of these flaws, Miss Erwin has handled her difficult theme remarkably well.

The Land of the Golden Scarabs. By Diomedes de Pereyra. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.00.

Here has been recaptured the strange spirit of South America's jungles, with its native superstition, in a fanciful tale of the ancient race of Incas (woven about two engineers who explore this uncivilized territory). M. de Pereyra has travelled extensively through the jungles of the country. Descriptive passages of the unknown Montaña to the west of the Madeira river surpass the wildest imagination, and if the tale be incredible it is none the less fascinating.

Surrender. By J. C. Snaith. Appleton. \$2.00.

Three romantic novels about the Foreign Legion by Percival C. Wren have paved the way for Mr. Snaith's new book, but this time an American youth plays the leading part. Ambrose Dorland joins the Foreign Legion unaware of the physical hardship to which he will be subjected and, when he realizes that his company will not be sent to the French trenches, escapes in disguise with the aid of an English beggar. After suffering unbelievable privations in the desert, he and his companion finally reach England and start anew.

The Heretic. By Dan Poling. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.00.

From the pulpit to the church mission for river bargemen Bruce Jayne, the youthful

pastor of Old Central, wages a battle to better the lives of these men who are not strong enough to unionize and force a living wage from their owners. (It is of the days when labor first started to join the union movement.) Frankly religious and possessing a Galahadian nobleness this novel makes its point.

Mirror of Dreams. By M. L. A. Gompertz ("Ganpat"). Doubleday, Doran. \$2.00.

Hidden far away in the mountains of Central Asia is a spot where a new religion of life is taught. Tom Carruthers and his friend Major Oxley of the English Intelligence Office, making a long trek across India to Lahore, and thence into Ladakh-land, to seek out the meaning of this religion, learn of a plot to drive the English from India by sending arms to the natives through a long-lost mountain pass from Russia. In a tale of Oriental mystery, complicated yet fascinating, the exciting adventures of these two men are ably presented by the author who has spent much of his life in India, and who has drawn a colorful picture of Oriental superstitions and customs.

Penelope's Man: The Homing Instinct. By John Erskine. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

In his rôle of valet to the gods, Professor Erskine this time gives Odysseus a wash and brush-up, a cornflower for his button-hole and a fresh handkerchief scented with Chanel's No. 5, and packs the poor man off on errands and adventures to which he attends with no particular gusto. With a canny eye for business, Professor Erskine has set out to please his customers by putting Circe in a kitchen apron and Penelope in several different beds. And all this comes off much the same as the other tales have come off.

Second Cabin. By Mary Heaton Vorse. Live-right. \$2.00.

Mrs. Vorse, like Conrad Aiken, has chosen to bring into a more personal relationship than ordinarily maintains the ill-assorted, singular people one finds on board the transatlantic liner. Though there is sometimes brilliance in this book, one finds that brilliance rather "trick": a storm at sea and the

(Continued on page XXII)