

Miscellaneous

LUCK by *Lothrop Stoddard* (LIVERIGHT. \$2.50)

THE intent and energetic effort behind this volume are worthy of a loftier but not of a more entertaining theme. Armed with data acquired by extensive reading, far-flung questionnaires and many interviews, Mr. Stoddard attacks the matter of Luck's rôle in world and in personal events with skill. He reviews age-old luck-superstitions; he examines the frowning of scientists at so uncontrollable a factor as chance. He constructs causal connections between obscure events (such as an attack of indigestion or a tantrum) and outstanding historic developments (such as the French Revolution and the World War). To support his opinion, Mr. Stoddard quotes the beliefs of many others, among them being some famous American authors and actors, a few well-known business men, an aviator or two, several critics and a press agent. In conclusion, he urges his readers to "give their silent partner (Luck) a chance".

TARZAN AND THE LOST EMPIRE by *Edgar Rice Burroughs* (METROPOLITAN. \$2.00)

THIS latest account of Tarzan's exploits has all of the qualities that made the author's other books so popular. The son of a friend, Eric von Harben, goes in search of a lost Roman province but is deserted by his followers. The ape-man then sets out to rescue him, and their adventures provide enough thrills and romance to please even the most avid excitement seekers. Apropos of Mr. Burroughs, it is interesting to note that the demand for his books has been so enormous, not only here but abroad, that a publishing house, Metropolitan Books, Inc., has been formed to produce his books exclusively.

THE HUMAN SIDE OF SCIENCE by *Grove Wilson* (COSMOPOLITAN. \$4.00)

TEN years of research have gone into this volume, which tells in excellent fashion the story of the world's greatest scientists, from Thales to Einstein. It is not so much the story of their scientific accomplishment as it is a biographical account of their lives, an examination of their

relationship to their times. Democritus, Galen, Gutenberg and Kepler move familiarly through the narrative; Galileo, Newton and Faraday appear as essentially human figures who had their own petty problems. The book is written in a smooth, semi-colloquial style.

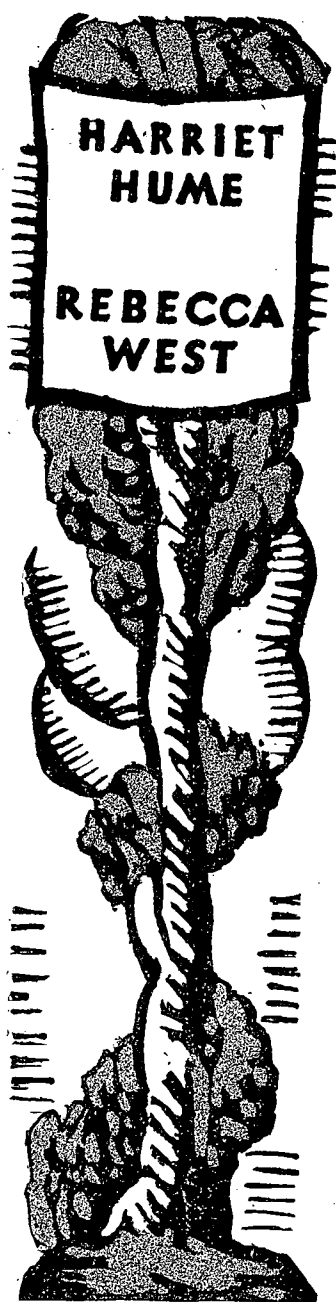
MY HOUSE AND I by *Mary Eliza Starbuck* (HOUGHTON MIFFLIN. \$3.50)

NANTUCKET is preserved in the odor of tradition. Its formative period was not long; probably five generations measure its rise to real glory as the home of sea-captains and its slower withering with the end of the sailing ships; but the forces that shaped it were intense: geographical loneliness, pride of independent command in the men, anxiety, responsibility, and a close circle of action for the women. All these influences are powerfully shadowed forth in Miss Starbuck's chronicle of memories reaching back to the time of the Civil War and people who were then already old. Her father was one of the last of the old sea-captains, of a famous seafaring and ship-building family. We see her shaped from childhood to a fastidious delight in the details of home-making, to a sober rectitude, courage, a cut-glass whimsicality kept strictly within the pattern of custom and correct upbringing, and a view of the world outside the island as a place properly tributary, which should come to Nantucket in barrels through its representatives, fine silks, porcelains, and exotic fruits.

EARLY CANDLE LIGHT by *Maud Hart Lovelace* (JOHN DAY. \$2.50)

THERE is an unusually competent historical point of view behind this romantic tale of the Mississippi. The pioneer, the trader, the army post, the squatter and the *voyageur*—above all the *voyageur*—stand boldly forth in vivid and effective relationship with one another. The Indians, Sioux and Chippewa, emerge in almost flesh and blood. The geography too is skilful. Old names are woven so dexterously with modern ones that when at last on the final page the little old settlement of Pig's Eye is transformed into St. Paul, one feels inclined to call for "three rousing cheers for our side".

The story draws a picturesque contrast be-



HARRIET HUME, Rebecca West's first novel in five years, is a fantasy so beautiful, so vivid with things intangible, that it belongs to the world of immaterial enchantment from which came *Memoirs of a Midget* and *Thunder on the Left*. It is the passionate history of Harriet, projected through the imagination of her lover who knows that he will betray her and yet be haunted by her always, defeated by her and perhaps reclaimed. Harriet, with her billowing dust-gold skirts, her hands full of cherries from the fruit man's cart, and her sleek black head poised like a listening bird's, is a figure to haunt one's memory of beauty.

HARRIET HUME

A NOVEL

\$2.50

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

REBECCA WEST

Rebecca West is one of the most arresting figures in contemporary literature. Her reputation as a distinguished novelist rests upon her only two novels, *The Judge*, and *The Return of the Soldier*. As a critic she has, by her witty, incisive, and brilliant comment, made and unmade literary history.



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