

SHORT CUTS

The Advancing South. By Edwin Mims.
Doubleday, Page & Co.

In this study of the liberal elements to-day at work in the South the author is handicapped by what seems now timidity and now sympathy with certain of the less enlightened sentiments of the region, but he manages to make out a good case. If only the South can somehow tame its Fundamentalists and its racial purists and can get them on the side of civilization, not sourly against it, all that Mr. Mims hopes for, and rather more, may be accomplished.

The Cabala. By Thornton Niven Wilder.
Albert & Charles Boni.

Mr. Wilder is of the line of Norman Douglas and Aldous Huxley and Carl Van Vechten and Charles Brackett, but he has merits decidedly of his own. His story concerns a group of clever influential people in and about Rome, and is told with learning, wit, precision, and insight. It is also charmingly written.

Mantrap. By Sinclair Lewis. Harcourt, Brace & Co.

A brilliant novelist who has heretofore taken his fiction seriously here treats himself to a vacation with a tale of a tenderfoot in the Canadian Northwest. The story is of course vigorous and interesting, and some of the characters are drawn with an expert hand, but the book would be more satisfying if Mr. Lewis had not seemingly wavered in his mind between dutifully making it a document and joyful, making it a burlesque.

The Story of Philosophy. By Will Durant.
Simon & Schuster.

"The lives and opinions of the greater philosophers" have been digested and set forth by Mr. Durant for the general reader. John Dewey, in a Foreword, vouches for the scholarship of the book and praises its literary form. Better

judges of style than Mr. Dewey will find the book occasionally rhetorical.

A History of the United States since the Civil War. By Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer.
Vol. III. Macmillan Co.

In five hundred pages the record winds its slow useful length along through the years 1872 to 1878. Mr. Oberholtzer has now covered thirteen years of history since he published his first volume nine years ago. Supposing he spent four years in the preparation of that first volume, he is still exactly the same distance from his theme as when he began.

Art through the Ages. By Helen Gardner.
Harcourt, Brace & Co.

A compact, competent, orthodox survey, notable for the emphasis which it lays upon the minor arts of craftsmanship.

Dean Briggs. By Rollo Walter Brown.
Harper & Brothers.

A worshipful biography of the dean of Harvard College who has been one of the eminent teachers of his time. Not a great deal of his magic, however, will be found in the book except by those who have already felt it at first-hand.

The Dreadful Decade. By Don C. Seitz.
Bobbs-Merrill Co.

The decade in question is the seventies of the last century. Mr. Seitz gives an abundance of proof that it deserves his adjective. The Age of Innocence was an Age of Brass and Mud if any American age ever was.

The Selected Poems of Lizette Woodworth Reese. George H. Doran Co.
Delicate, sweet, soft.

The Paris That Is Paris. By Watson White. Charles Scribner's Sons.

The publishers call this book "a readable guide." It really is.