

SHORT CUTS

Count Bruga. By Ben Hecht. Boni & Liv-
eright.

A comical fantasia which takes for its hero the recognizable figure of New York's blond impudent Villon, sets him up as a bogus Polish count, cracks the satiric whip over him, and makes him perform according to his nature, as his satirist sees it.

The Abundant Life: Benjamin Ide Wheeler. Edited by Monroe E. Deutsch. University of California.

The platitudes of a university president assembled in a volume ugly enough to prove that it comes from an average university press. The platitudes, however, are above the average of their breed, as President Wheeler was above the average of his.

The Conquest of Brazil. By Roy Nash. Harcourt, Brace & Co.

An impressive study of the common life in a country absorbed for four centuries in the conflict between "too much land and too few people."

Lay Thoughts of a Dean. By William Ralph Inge. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

If the dean were a layman, not all these opinions would pass for thoughts.

The Worm Ouroboros. By E. R. Eddison. A. and C. Boni.

A romance in the manner of James Branch Cabell, longer than any of its models and inferior to them in charm, irony, and dramatic force.

The Exquisite Perdita. By E. Barrington. Dodd, Mead & Co.

This time E. Barrington has taken the career of Mary Darby, later Perdita Robinson and mistress of the pudgy prince who became George IV, to preserve in the familiar Barringtonian syrup.

The Sacred Tree. By Lady Murasaki. Translated by Arthur Waley. Houghton Mifflin Co.

The second part of "The Tale of Genji," dealing with the period of Genji's exile from the court, is as lucid and as interesting as the first part, and on the whole rather more substantial.

A Chapter on Autography by Edgar Allan Poe. Edited by Don C. Seitz. Dial Press.

"I have been unable to discover," says the editor, "that this curious study by Mr. Poe of his contemporaries was ever included in Poe's works as published in book form." A very little research would have discovered the study in the standard edition of Poe prepared by J. A. Harrison.

The Book of Troilus and Criseyde by Geoffrey Chaucer. Edited by Robert Kilburn Root. Princeton University.

What Mr. Root calls "the outstanding masterpiece of English narrative verse" has here been admirably edited from all the known manuscripts and beautifully printed.

The Diary of a Country Parson: The Reverend James Woodforde. Vol. II: 1782-1787. Edited by John Beresford. Oxford University.

Parson Woodforde was a respectable rural Pepys who lived in Norfolk and kept a minute account of all his doings, particularly of what he ate and spent.

The Torrents of Spring. By Ernest Hemingway. Charles Scribner's Sons.

An amusing attenuated parody of Sherwood Anderson's "Black Laugh-ter," which does not quite stand the test of its parodist's ridicule.

Daphne Bruno. By Ernest Raymond. George H. Doran Co. 2 vols.

A long thin novel.