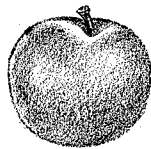


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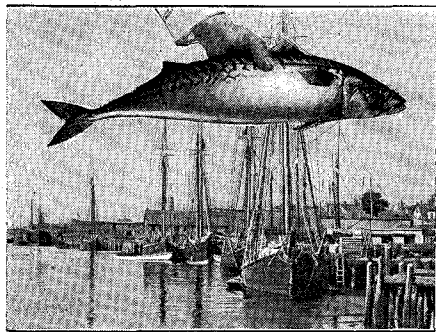
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The illustrations are beautiful. Any garden-lover or home-builder will be sure to get from the book suggestions and ideas which will inspire him to attempts and achievements in his own garden.

**Camehl, Ada Walker. The Blue China Book.** Pp. 309, with 200 Illustrations. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$5. Postage, 20 cents.

This book does not undertake to cover the entire field of blue china, but makes a special study of the wares known to collectors as "Staffordshire Historical Pottery," for the fact has been discovered "that this group of English pottery is not only a valuable record of American country-places and cities as they appeared a century ago, but it is, at the same time, a surprisingly complete history of the first three centuries of our national life." It is not a book that one can describe except to say that it is large, beautiful, comprehensive, and exhaustive. Even collectors may be astonished at the multiplicity of subjects and sketches which the English potter reproduced on his plates, pitchers, and platters. We find natural scenes, noted buildings, portraits of statesmen and war-heroes, steamboats and railroads, the commemoration of epoch-making events, and tributes to the New World's great men and cities. Then there are some supplementary chapters on the White House collection of Presidential china and the correct stories of the "Willow Pattern," "Doctor Syntax," "Don Quixote," and "Wilkie" series. It is an interesting and edifying work, making us place a higher value on some of our own possessions and long for others which we lack.

**Wood, Grace, and Burbank, Emily. The Art of Interior Decoration.** Pp. 341. Illustrated. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.50. Postage, 16 cents.

It would be difficult to find any one who has not, at some time, faced the problem of furnishing a home, or even one room, so as to get the best and most satisfactory results. The authors of this book have used the didactic method in offering clear and terse suggestions, aiming at clearness and brevity, and have urged all would-be decorators to observe the laws of harmony and simplicity, and to insist upon spaces, which, "like rests in music, have as much value as the objects in the room." By illustration and detailed description the furnisher is cautioned against the usual glaring faults and encouraged to consider the use of the room, the position as to light and heat, and especially whether one aims at comfort or formality. "One flower, carefully placed in a room, will have more real decorative value than dozens of costly roses in wrong vases against mottled, line-destroying backgrounds." In reference to textiles for draping and covering, ornaments, lamps, candlesticks and fixtures, pictures and frames, all points are carefully considered, but with this advice: "When in doubt, always err on the side of simplicity." We find the usual exposition of period furniture and its value, but the main principles accented throughout are: (1) Good Lines; (2) Correct Proportions; (3) Harmonious Color Scheme, and (4) Appropriateness. For all these, self-education is necessary by reading and by seeing beautiful furniture and furnishings.

**Burnap, George. Parks, Their Design, Equipment, and Use.** Pp. 328. Illustrated. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$6. Postage, 20 cents.

Mr. Burnap, the landscape-architect of public buildings and grounds in Washing-

ton, D. C., has made radical changes in connection with small parks, his idea being "to make them striking as focal points of the street system and of interest to the residents of the neighborhood"; and, in order to discover the best things that can and should be done for all parks, he traveled widely in this country and abroad, so that parks that he praises as well as those he censures are illustrated by photographic reproductions. It is a book especially adapted for members of city park boards, to park superintendents, and to all landscape-architects, and any one interested in the beautification and healthfulness of municipalities. The points considered are practical and of real value toward enlightening the public "in whose interest all parks are created and whose support is indispensable to a realization of all park projects." It is a beautiful, big book, profusely illustrated, and dealing intelligently and logically with park problems, the use and abuse of park effigies and monuments, and the proper disposition of flowers and seats.

**Tryon, Lillian Hart. Speaking of Home.** Pp. 203. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$1. Postage, 10 cents.

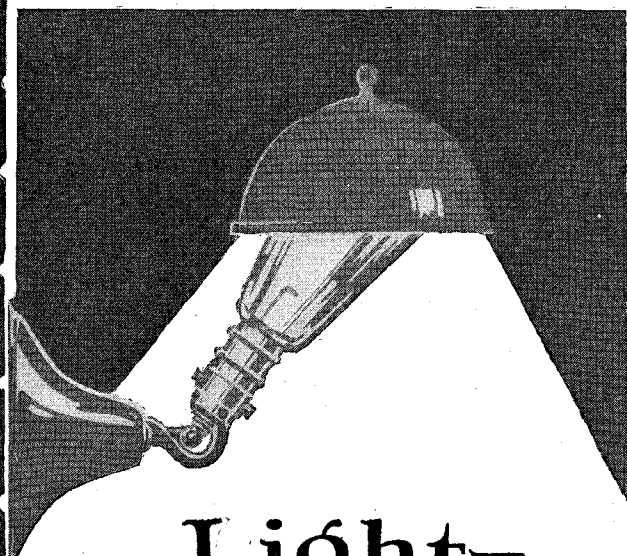
These essays of a "contented woman" would go a long way toward making any woman contented if she could get the same satisfaction and delight out of homely domestic tasks. They are humorous and graphic descriptions of the daily tasks of housewifery, of constantly recurring events in every-day life. They call attention to the attractive side of unalluring duties and lay especial stress on the executive ability, brain-power, and tact necessary for successful home-building and directing. The style is brilliant. Best of all, the author takes her reader back to vivid scenes of her own childhood, home experiences, and daily problems. The chapters on "Keeping House by Ear," "On Buying at the Door," "The Conservation of Shabbiness," and "Rag-bags and Relics" are especially fascinating. Now and then we are charmed by a brilliant characterization of personality or a critical saying that is illuminating as well as entertaining.

## AS TO BERNARD SHAW

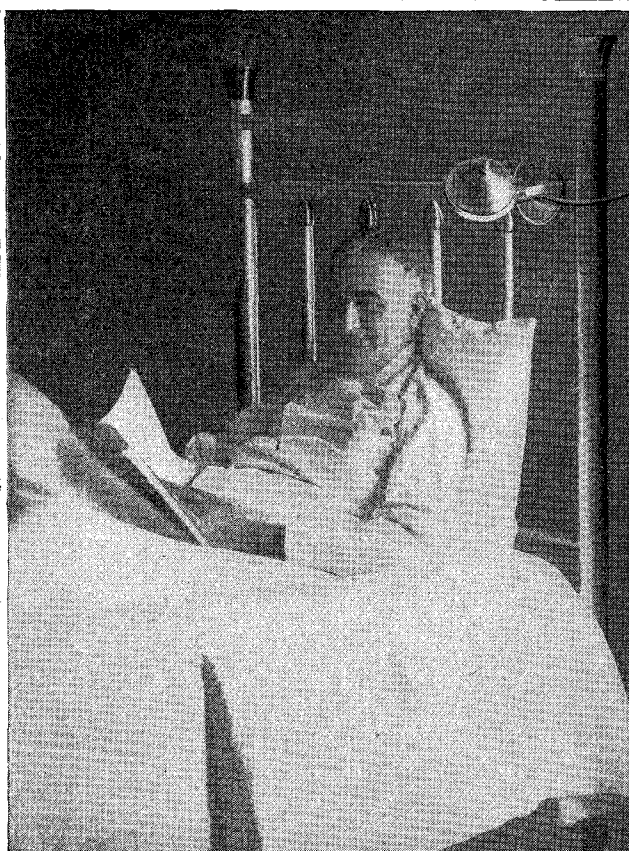
**Burton, Richard. Bernard Shaw: The Man and the Mask.** Pp. 305. New York: Henry Holt Company. \$1.50 net. Postage, 12 cents.

A recognized authority on the modern drama here presents a critical study, with wealth of detail, of Shaw, the dramatist. An analysis of his plays in chronological sequence is given, emphasis being laid on the dramatist's technique, as well as upon the teaching and literary quality of the work. Shaw's craft as "an artist of the theater" and his intellectual significance as publicist and philosopher are studied. His extraordinary vogue as a dramatic author is of course accentuated. Whatever one may think of this strange and fantastic apparition in current literature, it must be admitted that his vogue is imposing. Many books have been written about the man. Shaw, asserts his latest biographer, first suffered from the darkness of obscurity; now he suffers from "that excess of light offered by newspapers: which is darkness visible." If the mountebank still hides the man, Mr. Burton observes, he has himself largely to blame for it by putting "an antic disposition on." The present volume, therefore, essays to find "the man behind the mask, and to exhibit





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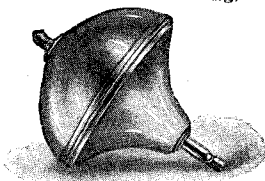
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the true lineaments of a forceful and serious satiric thinker, whose skill in dramaturgy places him with the ablest playwrights of his time." Readers who are interested in the recent evolution of the drama and in its foremost protagonist will find much that is entertaining and genuinely interesting in Mr. Burton's pages.

While the author has given up the larger portion of his book to discussion of the plays, he has by no means neglected to describe the personality of his hero. A chapter is devoted to Shaw in his character of poet and mystic. Even as philosopher he bulks large in his admiring biographer's view. He believes, we are here told, in the will to live of Schopenhauer, the will to power of Nietzsche, and the wish of Freud. But "he adds an altruistic aspiration in the service of others which is absent from their teaching."

#### HEATON, THE POSTAL REFORMER

Porter, Mrs. Adrian. *The Life and Letters of Sir John Henniker Heaton, by His Daughter.* With twenty illustrations. Octavo, pp. viii-295. New York: John Lane Company. \$3 net. Postage, 18 cents.

Sir John Henniker Heaton, England's great postal reformer, is not so well known in this country as are other Englishmen of distinction whose fame has transcended national limits. Yet his work was such as to deserve some notice in a country where captains of industry are rated so high. He was one of Britain's empire-builders, and was so well recognized as such by his countrymen that he earned from Lord Curzon this tribute, which his daughter in her biography of her father uses as motto for the title-page: "In my opinion, the work of Sir John Henniker Heaton has done more to draw the Empire together than all the speeches of all the statesmen on both sides of the ocean."

The biography has been issued in sumptuous form and with many illustrations. Prepared "by loving hands," as the preface notes, the book gains the attention of the American reader from the first. "A man of Kent," Sir John Henniker Heaton was born at Rochester, England, in 1848. He was the son of Lieut.-Col. John Heaton, of Lancashire, and was of "gentle birth," as the saying is. His daughter gives some interesting details of his early life. The happiest memories of her father's boyhood, she writes, were those of "the long summer hours he spent bathing in the Medway and, after a swim, lying on the banks reading and re-reading his favorite books, 'The Pathfinder' and 'The Last of the Mohicans,' and dreaming the long, long dreams of boyhood." The future man of action, who was to attain to distinction in a practical domain, was hardly foreshadowed by the traits discernible in early youth. At the age of ten, his daughter says, he knew by heart the whole of Pope's "Essay on Man," and could write page after page of Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic." At the age of sixteen, "adventure lit her stars for him," and he was free "to roam the world at his will." Australia beckoned to him, as it did to so many Englishmen bent upon adventure. There he found employment in the great sheep-stations, and there, as his daughter says, he built up the iron constitution for which he was noted. There he knew hardship, and it was during his solitary rides from one isolated station to another "that the seeds were sown of his future campaign in the cause of cheapening postal and telegraphic communication throughout the world."

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