

brought the great "finners" within his grasp and thus restored attractive profits to a calling threatened with economic extinction. If whaling were primarily a sport rather than an industry, there would be much to be said in favor of the sentiment against shooting into the whale from a fair-sized cannon an enormous billet of steel attached to a cable five inches in circumference. But since the taking of the whale is and must remain primarily an industry, such applications of modern scientific invention as will maintain it on a sound financial footing are both inevitable and unobjectionable. The reader of this volume will be convinced, however, that not even Svend Foyn's powder-driven harpoon has taken the rugged romance out of the business.

Previous to the development of the new method, the enormous rorquals, commonly called "finners," were virtually beyond the power of the whaler to capture at all. Not only were they too strong to be handled with the tackle available to the old style harpooner, but even if one should finally be killed its heavy body could not be kept from sinking. The smaller types which could be handled, such as the Greenland right whale and the Southern right whale, had ceased to offer sufficient profit, because of an increase in working expenses, a diminution in the average catch, and a decrease in the price of oil. The diminution in the catch is attributed not wholly to a decrease in number in the seas, but in no small degree to increasing wariness in the whales, in face of persistent hunting. The author does not regard the extinction of any of the types as seriously threatened. The new method has been the source of prosperity to a large part of the population of southern Norway, and of considerable fortunes to some. Svend Foyn died a millionaire. In the older days the whalebone and blubber were removed and the rest of the body was turned adrift. To-day an ever-increasing portion of the catch is towed to shore factories where every part of the carcass is utilized. A whale-meat meal is manufactured which forms an acceptable cattle food. The residue of bones and flesh not available for other purposes is turned into a fertilizer rich in ammonia and phosphates. At the outbreak of the war Mr. Burn Murdoch seriously proposed to the British authorities to furnish whale meat in large quantities for army food, but the proposal was not accepted.

During these times of food economy the morning paper tells of the successful serving of planked whale steak on the menu of a prominent New York hotel. There is little doubt that a liberal supply of it would be readily accepted in Berlin to-day, if offered. A young scientist of Clark University has proved beyond cavil the possibility of serving up the hated dog-fish in a form both nutritious and palatable, and it is probably safe now to say that one of the most promising sources of relief from undue strain upon the limits of productivity of the soil, through increasing population, lies in the immeasurable food possibilities of the sea. Where the requirements of healthful nutrition are demonstrably present, modern culinary art and science will sooner or later find a way to the elimination of objectionable tastes and odors and the application of such relishes and seasonings as will satisfy any palate not under the domination of immovable prejudice. The tons of steak in every big finner brought to the whaler's side may soon serve by its competition to keep the price of salmon within easy reach of the poor man's table. The author gives his personal testimony that "the best whale meat is better to eat and tastes better than the best beef"; but the time will hardly come when

the authority of one palate can settle a matter of taste for another. A process has already been devised by which whale oil can be hardened and turned into a product suitable for cooking.

The interesting personality of Mr. Burn Murdoch is a welcome embellishment to the subject-matter of his book. On the practical side he is a genuine whaler, in the business for the profit which it offers, with a keen eye for efficient methods in its prosecution, and yet with that larger outlook that would have his own success only an element in the success of all. But he has also in his make-up a well-developed æsthetic element which finds in the sea something more than the whales which are to fill his oil vessels and thereby fatten his bank account. An artist of no inconsiderable ability, his text is liberally enlivened with his own drawings of whales, seals, icebergs, dolphins, harpoonings, bear-las-soings, and other incidents and *Realien* of his sea-roving experience.

## Notes

MR. E. T. HURLEY has again issued a little volume of reproductions of his etchings, "For Old Acquaintance," illustrating scenes in Cincinnati and its surroundings. The thirty illustrations emphasize the old truth that picturesqueness and interest can be found at home, provided the artist's heart and sympathy are behind his eyes. The text by Sara Sax gives facts of local interest.

FROM the Macmillan Company comes "Navigation," a short, compact, well-printed octavo by Prof. Harold Jacoby (\$1.25 net). The work is designed to meet the wants of hundreds of young officers recently taken into the navy, as well as of more yet to enter that service, who know little of mathematics and less of astronomy as applied to the daily problem of determining the position of a ship at sea. The ordinary astronomer is hardly fitted for this humble task, so far beneath his customary intellectual plane; but the author enjoyed unusual opportunities of studying the question during a cruise on the U. S. S. *Pensacola* when, in 1889 and 1890, she took him and his fellow astronomers to South Africa to observe a total eclipse of the sun. It is this practical experience which gave him the point of view of the seaman for whom this little book is written. Assuming no mathematical knowledge on the part of the reader and using simple language, he defines the ship's position, describes the methods of finding it by dead reckoning, by observation of a heavenly body or of objects on shore in coasting. These he illustrates by specific examples. The volume contains all the tables necessary to such calculations, so that, with it and the "Nautical Almanac," which gives for any date the location of all the navigational heavenly bodies (and which is supplied by the Government to every vessel), nothing more in the way of books is required by young navigators, who, doubtless, will welcome it as warmly as it deserves.

"CLEANINGS from Old Shaker Journals," compiled by Clara Endicott Sears (Houghton Mifflin; \$1.25), relates to the life and experiences of the defunct Shaker settlement at Harvard, Massachusetts. From their early days the Shakers believed that the Christ Spirit, having once been

revealed in the person of a man, must appear again and in the body of a woman, in order that humanity might have a complete revelation of the divine nature. When, therefore, Anne Lee, an English woman of strong personality, appeared among them, they took her for the expected Messiah and made her their head. To their questions in regard to her nature she said: "I am Anne, the Word," which satisfied their trusting natures. They followed her to North America, where, after some wanderings, they settled in Harvard, thenceforth the centre of the Shakers of New England. The peculiar forms of their worship aroused the countryside against them, and bitter persecutions followed. As long as these troubles lasted the sect prospered, but when tolerance came, about the middle of the nineteenth century, religious fervor decreased, and the Shakers were gradually absorbed in "the world" that lay round about them. They are now a thing of the past, and the compiler of this interesting little volume, who has had the art to win the confidence of a few survivors, has been allowed to draw freely from records which have hitherto been withheld from public inspection. Her story consists of long excerpts united by short comments of her own. It is a sympathetic treatment of people whose many virtues atone for their eccentricities. The major part of the extracts deal with persecutions, and are written by the Shakers themselves. Others deal with the mystical belief of the people and their singular ceremonies, while still others illustrate the economic and social life of the Shaker community. It is a book to be read by those who appreciate the spirit of the early-nineteenth-century New England, and for such persons it is alive with human interest.

THE American Sociological Society, in its last Christmas meeting, devoted its attention to the Sociology of Rural Life, and we have before us the set of papers and discussions presented (Volume XI of the Publications of the American Sociological Society, edited by Scott E. W. Bedford, University of Chicago Press; \$1.50 net). President Vincent leads off with a paper on "Countryside and Nation," and there follows a series of presentations that makes a well-balanced survey of the most important aspects of the general subject, as these have been revealed during the comparatively few years since this brand of sociology came to be recognized. Professors Gillette and Vogt, whose recent works on Rural Sociology have been noticed in these columns, appear on the list of speakers. It is hardly possible to present any brief conspectus of the proceedings of the annual meeting beyond saying that in all probability the general subject has never before received so comprehensive an airing; and it is an important subject whose understanding will have much to contribute towards the wholesome prosecution of our national purposes and destiny.

MR. ARNOLD BENNETT has one attainment obviously needed by any one aspiring to *causerie*—he has read omnivorously. That was the secret of Andrew Lang's charm when he talked on the new publications. Mr. Bennett has also reflected, but not profoundly. He is provocative as a critic, seldom convincing. In short, he was excellently equipped to conduct the columns on "Books and Persons" in an English review for which he wrote under the name of Jacob Tonson in the years from 1908 to 1911. Many of his papers have now been collected in book form and pub-

lished by Doran (\$2 net). While not affording any consistent body of criticism, the book ranges pleasantly over the lights of the literary world in England and on the Continent during the years mentioned. The volume is always readable, it is often *intime*, and it is nearly always baffling. Perhaps this last characteristic was consciously cultivated as a part of the author's stock in trade: paradox and surprise had come to be the *sine qua non* of London's literary set. So, without further qualification, he says of St. John Hankin: "The least of his works is infinitely more important in the development of the English theatre than the biggest of the creaking contrivances for which Sir Arthur Wing Pinero has recently received honor from a grateful and cultured Government." But Mr. Bennett professes no competency in criticism save as a "creative artist," and he is at pains to enforce the point repeatedly. He can describe for you the authentic feeling shared by artists in the presence of Art's new offsprings. One is reminded of Swinburne's efforts at literary criticism. The two have this at least in common: their tributes, even to minor writers, are generous to the point of exaggeration. Mr. Bennett is the more discriminating, yet his judgments seem often to issue from a mind that is constitutionally fussy rather than judicial.

FOR his doctoral thesis in Columbia University William Haller has chosen "The Early Life of Robert Southey" (Lemcke & Buechner), that is, the first twenty-nine years of the poet's life, ending with his settlement at Keswick. In the main this is a good piece of work. The narrative parts are sufficiently vivacious, and the analysis of Southey's character, in itself and in comparison with the characters of Coleridge and Wordsworth, is sound and not without penetration. There is good psychology as well as sociology in such an observation as this: "Near Villa Franca [in Spain], for instance, where nature seemed a paradise, but where Church and State kept the people in poverty and ignorance, he [Southey] saw such a sight as Wordsworth had beheld in France—a woman carrying a heavy burden of wood on her head, which she had cut herself, and spinning as she went along; a melancholy picture of industrious wretchedness." In Wordsworth such an experience helped to confirm the revolutionary spirit. In Southey it turned loyalty back to England." Southey's part in the romantic scheme of pantisocracy is brought out distinctly, and the practical reasons for his withdrawal, while Coleridge was still skirting "the precipices of distempered sleep," are stated clearly, if with a little too much repetition. This vice of repetition, with an occasional plethora of useless details, is the weakness of the book, a weakness not uncommon in such treatises. Particularly in dealing with the sources of Southey's poems, the need of appearing learned leads the author now and then into the bog of tautological pedantry. In the larger matters of literary criticism, Dr. Haller is sound, if not brilliant; if he errs, it is certainly not on the side of unduly magnifying the importance of his author. Perhaps a little more appreciation might be shown of the joys of bookishness, although this is a theme belonging more emphatically to the later years of Southey's life. We should like to hope that Dr. Haller, in his own maturer years, would continue his study of an author who, after all, stands for something distinct in English letters.

QUESTIONS of fundamental importance in political theory are reopened for discussion in Harold J. Laski's