

a further addendum, it must be noted that the indebtedness to Blake does not bankrupt this young poet of either her own ideas or diction. Mrs. Wylie's idiom is, for the most part, acerbically her own. Poems as vivid as *Sanctuary*, *The Church-Bell*, *A Crowded Trolley Car*, *A Proud Lady*, display a dramatic keenness, an angular originality.

This love of edges sometimes suggests Emily Dickinson. But Emily Dickinson's sharp delicacy was the result of emotion discovered, analyzed and restrained. Mrs. Wylie's firmness is the tight-lipped austerity of emotion too easily controlled. One of her sonnets begins significantly:

Down to the Puritan marrow of my bones
There's something in this richness that I hate.

She loves bare hills, crystal cups, frost-bitten fields, landscapes "drawn in pearly monotones"; her favorite words, one imagines, must be "hard," "cold," "silver," "scornful." She even writes of Beauty:

O she is neither good nor bad,
But innocent and wild!
Enshrine her and she dies, who had
The hard heart of a child.

And it is this tightening of feeling that limits the possibilities presented in such splendid projections as *The Tortoise in Eternity*, *Valentine*, and the vigorously epigrammatic *The Eagle and the Mole*. Mrs. Wylie has made more than an auspicious beginning. But to go farther she must give herself less reservedly; she will have to make more surrenders than are possible to "the hard heart of a child."

H. D. combines and heightens the qualities of both Mrs. Kilmer and Mrs. Wylie. She who was once accused of being a frozen Lesbian, refutes the characterization with the first poem in her new book. In *Hymen*, more effectively than in *Sea Garden*, H. D. accomplishes the miracle of fusing warm blood and chill stone. Her marbles palpitate with color; the smallest of her tanagras are flushed with life. More than any of the Imagists, H. D. has the sculptor's way of transfixing a gesture and yet not making it stiff and static; she can capture a movement without seeming to arrest it.

The mood of this new collection is richer as the scope is larger than anything H. D. has attempted. The opening poem, with its grave measures and its flexible rhymes, (a rich answer to those who still insist that the "new" poets have no music) is a marriage ceremony—half ritual, half pageant—crisp in outline, clean in a mounting exaltation. This tensivity is maintained through the tiniest of these poems, (the book itself is less than fifty pages) not one of which is careless or undistinguished. Every few lines discover for us a stripped beauty seen from a fresh angle. One can choose haphazard here; one cannot do better than select a picture as shimmering and tender as this song:

You are as gold
as the half-ripe grain
that merges to gold again,
as white as the white rain
that beats through
the half-opened flowers
of the great flower tufts
thick on the black limbs
of an Illyrian apple bough.

Can honey distill such fragrance
as your bright hair—
for your face is as fair as rain,
yet as rain that lies clear
on white honey-comb
lends radiance to the white wax,
so your hair on your brow
casts light for a shadow.

It is poems like this fragment which have led her critics to rate H. D. as the only true Imagist. And it is in such moments that she escapes not only the borders of Imagism but the technical boundaries of art.

LOUIS UNTERMEYER.

Selected Current Books

Toward the Understanding of Jesus, by Vladimir C. Simkhovitch. Macmillan. \$1.75.

"Problems of history are problems of understanding." Jesus, The Fall of Rome, and "Hay and History" are the three topics in this book.

The Spirit of the Common Law, by Roscoe Pound. Marshall Jones. \$2.50.

The Harvard Professor of Jurisprudence presents eight lectures on the common law.

The Secret Way, by Zona Gale. Macmillan. \$1.50.
A book of verse.

Essays in Freedom and Rebellion, by Henry W. Nevins. Yale Press. \$2.00.

Twenty-eight of Mr. Nevins's admirable essays.

The Friendly Arctic, by Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Macmillan. \$6.00.

Five years in Polar regions, with many illustrations.

Fairy Tales and Stories, by Hans Christian Andersen. Macmillan. \$2.00.

New edition edited by Signe Toksvig, illustrated by Eric Pape and prefaced by Francis Hackett.

My Diaries, by Wilfrid Scawen Blunt. Two volumes. Knopf. \$12.00.

With foreword by Lady Gregory.

The Russian Revolution, by William Z. Foster. Trade Union. 50 cents.

This book is the result of a fourteen weeks' stay in Soviet Russia in 1921. Mr. Foster has great hope of the eventual success of the Soviet Republic.

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