

his versification; these colloquial hexameters of his give speed to the swiftly moving story.

Nor are the quantitative hexameters that Mr. Ernle uses in his versification remote from the rhythms of folk-speech. As I read lines in *The Wrath of Achilleus* I am reminded of lines in the colloquial Abbey Theatre plays. For example this line out of Lady Gregory's comedy, *Hanrahan's Oath*, is in the measure of Mr. Ernle's lines:

You did not know he was taken and charged and brought to Tuam Assizes.

And here is another line from the same comedy that has something of the same form:

They would have no proof against him. It was a dark cloudy night.

The question as to whether the episodes selected formed the original Homeric poem is not discussed in the introduction to this translation which presents in a noble fashion the most heroic of poems. PADRAIC COLUM.

## Lectures by "Q"

*Studies in Literature*, by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.50.

"Q" admission in his preface that the word *Studies* may seem "an exorbitant one" for these familiar discourses cuts the ground from under the critic's feet. In atrabiliar moods I am sometimes inclined to put lecturers on literature into one of two categories: those who know that Gower's *Speculum Meditantis* was discovered a quarter of a century ago; and those who do not. The latter class is larger than casual readers might surmise; Sir Arthur belongs in it (see page 255). This ignorance is not insignificant in a professor who chooses Gower as the subject of a discourse however "familiar." Nor is a total indifference to the principles of Chaucerian pronunciation and prosody insignificant when the professor discourses thereon (see page 222).

But as a compensation for the want of exact scholarship in these lectures, Sir Arthur has certainly the gift of holding the attention of undergraduates, for even the dullest sophomore must have been held by these affable, ringing discourses that wander perpetually from the subject in hand to the question of compulsory Greek or of university politics or of war profiteers or of a possible "red" revolution. One is reminded of Crabbe Robinson's record of Coleridge's lectures—that he contrived to talk very entertainingly without saying much on the subject. It is indeed only with an effort that "Q" manages to force himself back from alluring tangents to the extreme circumference of the subject in hand. I had not read many pages when I made the marginal comment that there was more than a suggestion of Ruskin's manner, and I was not surprised later on to come upon what was an almost explicit acknowledgement of indebtedness to Ruskin, under whom "Q" sat in the lecture room at Oxford. The opening discourse on Byron, inaugurating a memorial lectureship at Nottingham, is more formal and in it "Q" shows himself curiously pompous and self-conscious. He is more at ease in Cambridge; and the lectures on Shelley and Milton and Chaucer are bright, amusing and individual in manner—and quite commonplace in matter. In a concluding lecture Sir Arthur undertakes to defend once more the now much-defended Victorians. S. C. C.

## What Is Child Labor?

*The Meaning of Child Labor*, by Raymond G. Fuller. *The National Social Science Series*, Frank L. McVey, Editor. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Company. \$1.00.

"GRÜNDLICH" is a descriptive term which should be applied only to thorough and fundamental expositions. Mr. Fuller's work on child labor is too much of an abridgment, due presumably to the limitations of the series of which it is a part, to be thorough, but it is fundamental.

*The Meaning of Child Labor* utilizes as its point of departure the humanitarian, emotional attitude of the reform movement of two decades ago and proceeds to construct a scientific basis which is far more convincing. Poverty and dissatisfaction with school are presented as the two chief causes of child labor. But, Mr. Fuller is aware that poverty is itself a result of other maladjustments; he is also fully conscious of the fact that to say that a child is dissatisfied with school places no onus upon the child. In short, Mr. Fuller goes beyond the usual cause and effect arguments with all of their superficiality in his analysis of the various factors involved in child labor. He very sensibly distinguishes between children's work and child labor, and when he states "not an unoccupied childhood, but a well-occupied childhood, is the aim of child-labor reform" he opens the door for a constructive rather than a merely negative program.

The discussion of child labor is peculiarly timely, for there are still well over a million children between the ages of ten and fifteen years who are gainfully employed, one sixth of all children between six and seventeen years of age are not enrolled in any school, six percent of the total population above ten years is illiterate.

Congress recently had before it an amendment to the Constitution which might have gone far toward making the inalienable rights of childhood a national concern. A considerable improvement of the public opinion needed to secure such an amendment will be necessary before a similar bill is again placed before Congress. In the meantime, Mr. Fuller's book will materially assist in changing our professed and sentimental interest in children into a real interest in the child. E. C. LINDEMAN.

## Contributors

ARTHUR FISHER was one of the organizers of the Non-partisan League in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and has also been manager and editor of a group of farmer-labor newspapers in Montana. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, and has been professor of law at the University of Montana.

WITTER BYNNER is the author of *The Beloved Stranger*, *A Canticle of Pan*, *Pins for Wings*, etc.

W. T. LAYTON is editor of *The Economist*, and was formerly Director of the English National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers.

C. E. AYRES was associate professor of philosophy at Amherst during the administration of President Meiklejohn.

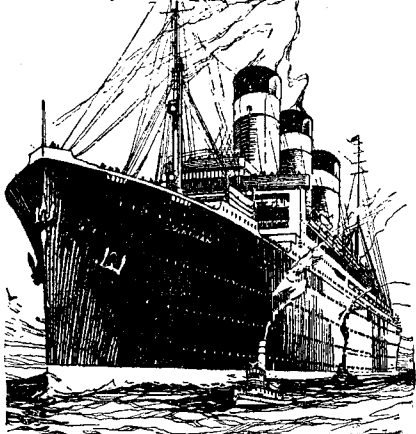
EDWIN BJÖRKMAN, a native of Stockholm, has published two novels, *The Soul of a Child* and *Gates of Life*.

JOHN BAILLIE has been professor of Christian Theology at Auburn Theological Seminary since 1919.

PADRAIC COLUM, Irish poet, author and reviewer, wrote *Children of Odin*, *The Children's Homer*, etc.

E. C. LINDEMAN was formerly a teacher of sociology and is the author of *The Community*, etc.

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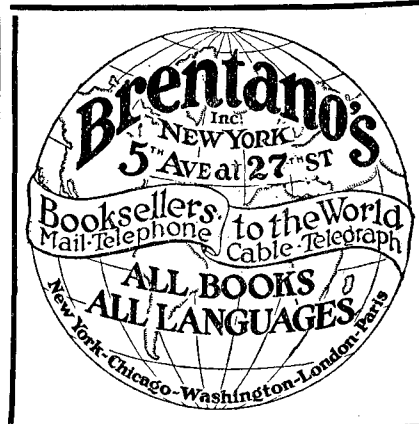
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