

THE NEW BOOKS

A year ago the biography of Richard Mansfield by Paul Wilstach was here reviewed. "The Life and Art of Richard Mansfield," by William Winter, now appears in two handsome volumes, profusely and valuably illustrated, chiefly by portraits of the subject of the biography. Mr. Winter makes use of all his exceptional knowledge and critical ability, and achieves a notable success. His estimate of Mansfield's personality is impartial, yet through it all glows the constant affection of a loyal friend. As Mr. Winter was authorized by the actor to write his life, it is presumable that the biographical facts are beyond question. The restless, imaginative, often ill-tempered artist was frequently in the wrong in his contests with rivals and even with his friends. Some of Mr. Winter's letters to him show that he did not spare the feelings of his friend if he felt that a question of justice was involved; but as a rule Mansfield's affection overcame his irritation, and his acceptance of rebuke is almost boyish in its submission. Mr. Winter is quite appallingly frank in publishing some of Mansfield's impulsive outbursts against the men with whom he was associated, but it is exactly this candor that completes the picture and gives extraordinary value to the analysis of character. Mansfield's letters show him to have been as moody and prejudiced as his detractors constantly assert, but they also reveal a man of deep affections, generous impulses, high ambition, and a sincere reverence for his art. The first volume is devoted to the life of Mansfield; the second gives a critical estimate of his art, in the forceful, picturesque style of which Mr. Winter is so great a master. He declares Mansfield to have been "one of the most extraordinary, versatile, and, above all, interesting actors that ever graced our stage." Mr. Winter analyzes his conception and presentation of his plays, criticising adversely the selection of some of them and commending with enthusiasm the consummate art with which he presented others. It is a temptation to quote some of Mr. Winter's phrases. Writing of Mansfield's rendering of Beaucaire, he commends a certain change, saying, "The lofty self-control of a sobered lover (and most lovers, whether male or female, eventually become sober) is a fine thing to read about, but it would be a gelid thing to see; and upon any theatrical audience such a spectacle would fall like a wet blanket. . . . In Beaucaire Mansfield added a bright and welcome figure to the stage, though he attained his greatest heights in characters of mind and imagination." The portraits of Mansfield, in character and merely "as a gentleman," are valuable additions to the book. His industry and capacity for hard work are evident when we learn that in about twenty-two years he produced twenty-seven plays, and, counting Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde as two, he acted twenty-eight parts.

86

He died in his fifty-fourth year, and as Mr. Winter sums up his life he says: "His career, while it was one of prodigious labor and of much trial and vicissitude, was one also of varied enterprise, striking novelty, and intrepid and brilliant exploit." (Moffat, Yard & Co., New York. \$6.)

About this time of the year there is always talk about "summer novels," and it is sorrowful to add that thereby are usually meant stories too light, aimless, and inartistic to be worth looking at, unless it be in hot weather. Now the real summer story should be quite a different thing. One should carry away for vacation reading a novel of goodly length, that it may not be done with before vacation has really begun; of pervasive and persuasive humor, that it may entertain a mind above the cheaply comic; of gentle flow in narrative, for the merely sensational gives no lasting pleasure; above all, a story whose characters are so real and friendly that the reader is content to spend his vacation's leisure hours in their company. Just such a book is "Nathan Burke," by Mary S. Watts. It has a story, but it is told without hurry or claptrap; it touches the history of the Middle West before the Civil War, but the history is a background rather than the chief thing in view. It assuredly has humor, but of the quiet rather than the boisterous kind. It is, in short, a cheerful reflex of the doings and sayings of Ohio town and country life a half-century or more ago, with a manly hero, and about him a group of well-presented and well-contrasted girls and boys, men and women. The Mexican War and its political effects furnish some of the story material, but in the main the novel is human rather than historical. The reader who wants to begin and finish a story on a day's railway journey will perhaps hesitate to undertake a six-hundred-page book, but there has undoubtedly been a recent reversion of taste toward the leisurely and circumstantial manner in fiction, and Mrs. Watts responds well to the only test for this kind of writing—that is, the reader's interest, once engaged, does in fact continue throughout, increasing rather than abating as the story slowly unfolds and its persons become more and more agreeable or pathetic realities. (The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.50.)

It is with keen regret that we must say good-by to Morris Mowgelewsky and Sadie Gonorowsky, either as Little Citizens or as Little Aliens. Their friend and interpreter, Myra Kelly, will tell us no more the funny, pathetic stories of their lovin' feelings and comical mistakes. The collection of tales entitled "Little Aliens" is in some ways more ambitiously planned than those preceding it, and just so far it is not quite as perfect. Still, in spite of some rather improbable plots, the children of the East Side are just as engaging as ever. They chatter

their "near-English" and carry out their queer misunderstandings of our American ideas as solemnly as ever. One of the best stories concerns the rebellion of Miss Bailey's class of First Readers when they were promoted to another room and left their dear teacher behind. Being convinced that the Principal had decided that Miss Bailey was not smart enough to be promoted, they succeeded in returning to her care. The ancient grandmother of Isidore Applebaum was interpreted as saying, encouragingly, "You don't have to care what nobody says over how you is smart or how you ain't smart. She says that don't make nothings mit her the whiles you is lovin' mit childrens." (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$1.50.)

It is with peculiar satisfaction that a new book by Anne Douglas Sedgwick is opened. One is certain to find a finished art, a tempered spirit, and a keen intellectual strength in all that comes from her pen. "Franklin Winslow Kane" is no disappointment. One of the two women about whom the story revolves is tellingly described as only "a well-educated nonentity with, for all coherence and purpose in life, a knowledge of art and literature and a helpless feeling for charm." This woman, who, by the author's art, we begin by liking and only gradually come to a real knowledge of her lacks, is engaged to an Englishman who possesses "charm," and is spoken of by a frank English spinster as a pleasant creature but very selfish. To balance these two we have a truly charming English girl and a very remarkable "drab-colored" American whose name gives the title to the book. The subtle reaction of character upon character, of worldly circumstance upon action, is perfectly traced, and we follow the lead of the author with a pleasure that refreshes the mind and awakens sincere admiration for her skill. We cannot help suspecting that the author saw through Althea Jakes, the nonentity, and gave her her dreadful name because she could not truly admire her. (The Century Company, New York. \$1.50.)

A richly interesting autobiography is Dr. Jessup's "Fifty-three years in Syria." In 1855 Mr. Jessup and his young wife sailed for Smyrna in a three-hundred-ton bark freighted with New England rum and eight missionaries. From then till now half-Christian! America has been exporting darkness and light to Asia, and the light has been gaining on the darkness. The story of the gain is told in these volumes. The best-selling book to-day in Syria and Egypt is the Bible in Arabic, one fruit of the Syrian Mission from its Beirut press, recognized by all scholars as the best Arabic press in the world. The one international college in the Levant is the Protestant College at Beirut, opened in 1866—another fruit of the Syrian Mission. In Syria, as elsewhere, Protestant missionaries have been the pioneers of Western civ-

ilization. From a wretched mediæval town Beirut has been transformed into a flourishing modern city. The villages for a hundred miles along the Lebanon Range show "beautiful homes with tiled roofs, glass fronts, and marble floors." The pioneers and their heroic toil and patience in foundation work till after the turning-point in the frightful massacre year, 1860, are fitly and lovingly commemorated by Dr. Jessup. One of them, Dr. Jonas King, was appointed United States consular agent, but that did not secure him from imprisonment. American had not then become the name of honor in the East that it is now. The story of the growing work during its darker and its brighter years is well colored with personal reminiscences, experiences in trying situations, anecdotes of peculiar people, humorous incidents, and tragic events. For his Syrian Mission Dr. Jessup refused tempting offers of important positions at home, and declined President Arthur's proposal to appoint him our Minister to Persia. He has been a maker of history. His example is an inspiration. Since this last sentence was written, word has come from Beirut that Dr. Jessup has passed away. (Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. \$5.)

Ephraim is still joined to his idols. They are of various categories and degrees. Some are educational idols. Among them is that very evident idol of certain university men—that their university should be always reflecting the public, and that it should be continually figuring in the public eye. To this idol, in his just published "Idols of Education," Professor Charles Mills Gayley, of the University of California, pays his respects. Another idol he entitles "The Academic Market-Place," a sobriquet for "quick returns." Another very common idol, of course, is pedantry. Another is the elective system; another discipline, and so forth. The result of the worship of these idols is that the graduates of our colleges and universities are characterized by lack of information, lack of grasp, and lack of culture. Most interesting of all are Professor Gayley's "Idols of My Own," for his idols seem like ideals. Carried out, they would radically and broadly change our present educational system. In the first place, Professor Gayley would differentiate our preparatory schools into industrial schools and academic schools. In the second place, he would provide bridges from one to the other. By such bridges the lad, beginning with the industrial school, yet developing an adaptability to the academic, may pass over to it; or the lad, beginning with the academic and either disclosing aptitude for the industrial or being compelled thereto, may prepare himself for it. In his programme for the academic schools—grammar and high schools—Professor Gayley would first of all economize time. We know how the German, French, and English educators economize time. "To object that American conditions are different from European is to beg the question." They are

different, but the difference is in our favor. Again, "to urge that the American purpose is different is disingenuous;" the purpose is everywhere the same—to get ready for life. To do this Professor Gayley would have the best high schools take over the first two years' work now covered by our colleges. Let no one think, however, that he advocates an addition of years in time to the high school course; he is advocating an addition of achievement! The school-boy of sixteen, he contends, should be doing work now being done by the college beginner of eighteen years of age. We need not longer schooling but better. This gained, the high school, occupying the pupil from twelve to eighteen years of age, would comprise two periods: the introductory period would take pupils from the twelfth to the fifteenth year; the advanced period would carry them to the university. Professor Gayley would have the fifteen-year-old pupil equipped with the fundamentals of two foreign languages and the elements of a science, of mathematics, history, geography, and civil government. He would have the eighteen-year-old graduate enter the university equipped with three foreign languages and with a significant knowledge of history, mathematics, and science. Moreover, when the student enters the collegiate department of the university, he should choose between two systems. One would be a liberal introduction to vocational studies; the other a vocational discipline in liberal studies. If the boy has already resolved upon a career in law, or medicine, or theology, or engineering, he would enter upon a liberal vocational system; that is to say, vocational in outlook and aim but liberal in breadth and method. If, on the other hand, the boy has not yet chosen a career, he should enter upon a vocational discipline in liberal studies. Such is the attractive outline. Not every educator will agree to overthrow all his idols and take up all the Gayley ideals; indeed, there may be violent disagreement. Yet if people will only disagree violently enough, they will themselves set up by friction a thinking, an investigation, and a reform. To this end our author's arguments are put tersely and vivaciously. Even if the suggestive volume accomplishes no other purpose, it will keep readers awake while they read it. (Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 50 cents.)

The appearance of "The Roman Republic," from the pen of a Cambridge scholar, Mr. W. E. Heitland, may suggest to many the question asked by the author himself, "Is there room for another?" He seems to attribute little value to any such rewriting of Roman history as Signor Ferrero's, but the work of the Italian scholar has roused a fresh interest in the subject that is not yet

satiated. The scope of the present work is wider and its specific aim more limited than Ferrero's story of "The Greatness and Decline of Rome." It is a political study of the practical working of Roman institutions from their formative period to "the foundation of the Empire." In dating this from the time when Octavian became Augustus, Mr. Heitland pronounces for the traditional view, which Ferrero declares "ridiculous"—that Augustus aimed to make himself an autocrat, retaining the old republican forms merely as a mask of monarchy. Among the downward tendencies that gradually carried the republic under, the worship of wealth is prominently noted: "money, however got, was become the dominant influence;" laws to secure honest juries and suppress corrupt practice in elections became farcical; the thirty-five tribes constituting the popular Assembly were mere bribery-units. "The influence of capitalists" in public policy is the subject of over forty references in the index. It is left to the reader to draw the parallels between ancient and modern times by which Ferrero gives point to his narrative. A cautious writer, wary of stock-in-trade material, careful not to exceed the line of fact, the most important particular in which he finds it desirable to rewrite the history is the affair of Catiline, "a mere anarchist," Sallust's account of whose plottings modern research has discredited—"a fine man wasted," says Mr. Heitland, "if we lay stress on the attachment of his friends, and blame the age for his crimes." As to Cæsar, on the other hand, as related to the age, "the world has seen no better autocrat," and Ferrero's Cæsar seems "an utterly impossible figure." What things interested educated men in the half-century of stress and strain from Sulla to Augustus appear in its literature; the reviews given of Varro, Lucretius, and Catullus are specially instructive. On the other hand, we are reminded of the irreparable defectiveness of a history whose contemporary records are concerned solely with the interests of the propertied class from which they proceed. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$10.)

"With the Professor" is a series of reflective essays by Grant Showerman, Professor of Latin Literature in the University of Wisconsin. They are not related except by the strong link of the author's temperament and style. The subjects are varied, but treated invariably from a certain angle. Common sense, some humor, an understanding of youth as seen through his instructor's eyes, and a pleasant rambling among more or less interesting thoughts make up the volume. The papers are collected from several periodicals in which they first appeared. (Henry Holt & Co., New York. \$1.50.)

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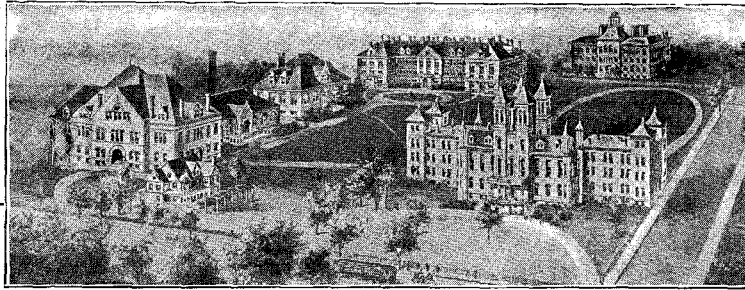
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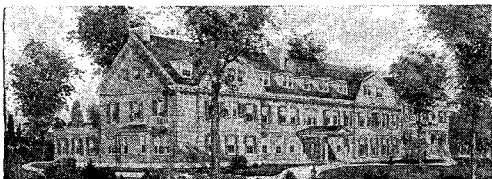
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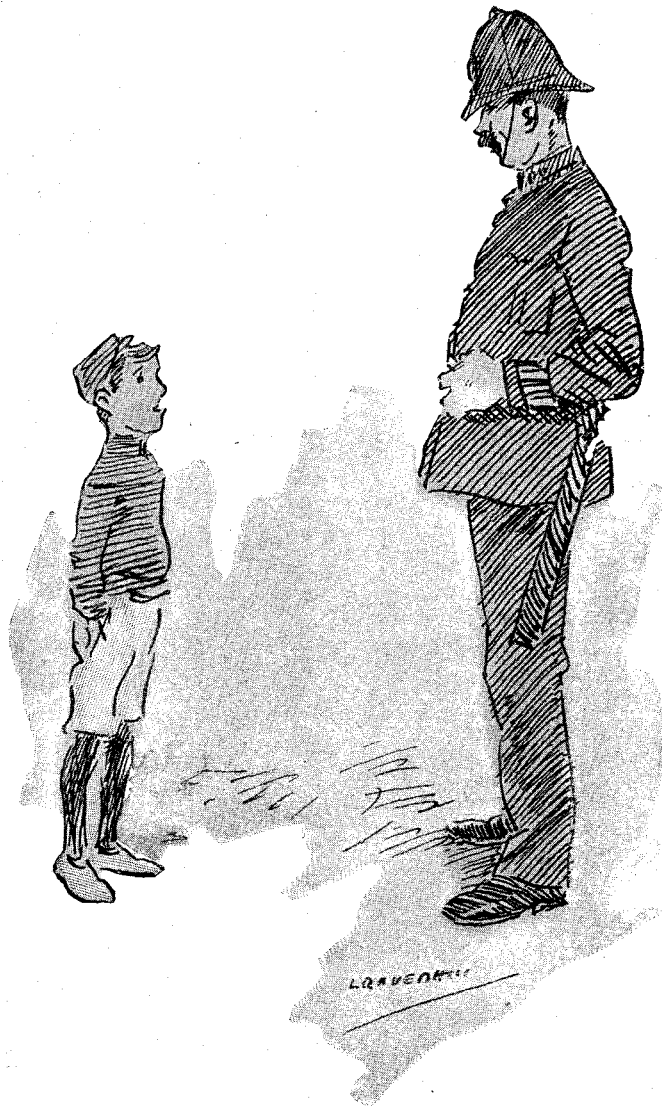
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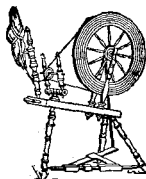
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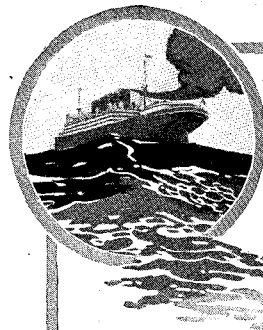


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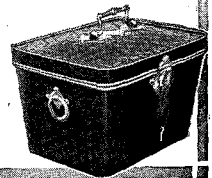
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