

the child's loneliness was hers because of teaching her mother had given her before *six*! Would a familiarity with Peter Rabbit or the Little Red Hen have given the spiritual sustainment?

One need not emulate Susannah Wesley (mother of John and Charles—and of sixteen children besides), who upon the day that each child attained the age of five years started the little one in at Genesis, without even a primer to break the shock. But John and Charles Wesley were creditable sons. Though we do not go to her extreme, surely it is time to give our children something besides the trivialities with which their minds have been deluged.

The heroic appeals to little children; they love imagery. Even little children are far more susceptible to a high idealism than we think; I believe they need stronger and simpler food than that usually allotted to them. Try them, gentle reader! Daniel and his companions besought the king's eunuch to give them pulse to eat, and their countenances were fairer and fatter than any of their companions who were fed the more highly seasoned diet of "meat from the king's table."

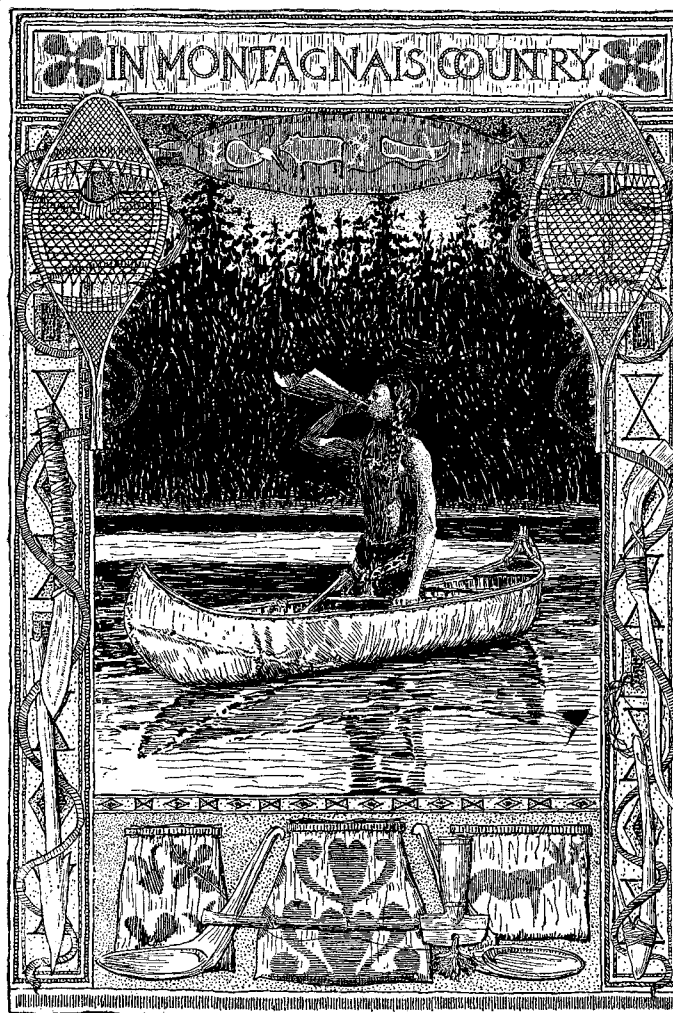
I am not urging that we make children old before their time, but that we give their minds a rest from the eternal drivel that is poured into them and return to what formerly constituted a large part of infant fare, namely, large portions of English poetry and the Bible. Why distress yourself about bedtime stories, dear sir or madam? Leave for the moment Tommy Titmouse and Johnny Woodchuck. Have Grimm and Hans Andersen, Robinson Crusoe—and for the rest dust off your Bible and begin at Genesis.

ROMANCE AND REALITY IN INDIAN LIFE

IN a handsomely printed and well-illustrated quarto volume¹ the editor and her contributors undertake what they tell us is a labor of love. They seek to make American readers who are not ethnologists acquainted with the nature, feeling, and imagination of the American Indian. The plan is a novel one. Here are some dozen or more professional anthropologists, ethnologists, and curators of museums who deliberately choose the medium of romantic relation as the best way of making us understand the Indian.

The reason for this plan is that, while there has been an immense amount written about the Indian, the scientific side (presented largely in dry monographs) has been too dull to get itself read, while the romantic side has shown us good Indians and bad Indians, but hardly ever the true Indian. Since the day

¹ American Indian Life. Edited by Elsie Clews Parsons. Illustrations by C. Grant La Farge. B. W. Huebsch, Inc., New York. \$10.



THE AMERICAN INDIAN

A drawing by C. Grant La Farge from "American Indian Life"

when Fenimore Cooper idealized the Indian and was followed by a long list of romantic writers, and the day when the early dime novelist described the "red devils" in a purely diabolical way, and was followed in this by writers of more elaborate and expensive but not more accurate sensational stories of our time, there has been little in the way of fiction that has not misled the general reader in one direction or the other. Thus the American Indian is fast becoming legendary and the actual knowledge about him is confined to the ranks of professional students. This book provides vivid and authentic pictures of experiences, tribal or individual, so that it may be recommended both to those who want to read vivid legends and tales of Indian life and to those who want to get correct views of how the Indians lived in village and camp, how they made love and war, and what their social and religious customs were.

The editor is herself one of the few white Americans who is a member by adoption of an Indian tribe (the Hopis), and she writes with special knowledge of the Zuni. In the same way the contributors write, each of a tribe or group of tribes of which he has special knowledge. It is quite notable how readily

these writers, who are almost all scientific specialists, accommodate themselves to the general plan of telling stories rather than of writing essays.

The planners of the book have been fortunate enough to secure the aid of Mr. C. Grant La Farge in its illustration. The many full-page drawings in black and white and the six full pages in color fit the text and the purpose of the work admirably. They are based on a thorough study of museum collections and show characteristic features of Indian art as well as illustrating the text specifically. One of these pictures we reproduce herewith.

The element of historical information and of scientific ethnology is provided by an extremely readable Introduction and by careful appendices and bibliographies. One interesting comment by the writer of the Introduction, Professor A. L. Kroeber, of the University of California, is the warning he gives the reader that any such effort to depict Indian life by story must be a little out of balance because it leaves the reader impressed with the ritual and ceremonial attitude of the Indians toward religion, while, on the other hand, it almost necessarily leaves out the factor of Indian humor, not because humor

does not exist among the Indians, but because it is so different from ours that the attempt to reproduce it would fall flat. He points out also that the greatest strength of the book is in dealing with the daily life, personal relations, and ambitions of the Indian individuals.

The only parallel to this kind of treatment of Indian life by archæologists through romance is Dr. Bandelier's novel "The Delight Makers." Professor Kroeber sums up the matter by saying:

The present book, then, is a picture of native American life in much the sense that a series of biographies of one statesman, poet, or common citizen from each country of Europe

would yield a cross-sectional aspect of the civilization of that continent. France and Russia, Serbia and Denmark, would each be represented with its national peculiarities; and yet the blended effect would be that of a super-national culture. So with our Indians. It is through the medium of the intensive and special coloring of each tribal civilization that the common elements of Indian culture are brought out most truthfully, even though somewhat indirectly.

We may cordially congratulate the editor, publishers, and printers in having produced a work of real value, of decided entertainment, and of notable beauty in form and appearance.

THE NEW BOOKS

BIOGRAPHY

LIFE OF DONALD G. MITCHELL (THE). By Waldo H. Dunn. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$4.50.

One is surprised to find that no previous life of Ik Marvel has appeared. But his gentle and cultured personality as shown modestly in his books appeared there clearly and intimately. The present Life will do good service if it directs readers to those books, which have that pleasant charm of good writing and admirable description rare in recent essayists. The Life is excellently done; in it we follow Mr. Mitchell through his Edgewood farm days (this book was partly written in the old farmhouse, now closely hemmed in by New Haven's growth, but with the name fitly preserved in Edgewood Park), in his experiences abroad, and in his comradeship with books and thinkers.

SCIENCE

OUTLINE OF SCIENCE (THE). A Plain Story Simply Told. Vol. I. By Professor J. Arthur Thomson. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$3.75.

This is the first volume of a popular résumé of scientific knowledge which apparently aims to do in its chosen field what the famous "Outline of History" has done for the more distinctively human aspects of the world's past. The chapters are short, divided into sections and sub-sections for easy reading, well printed in legible type, and copiously illustrated. The point of view is that of a frank acceptance of the evolutionary theory, which is interestingly and convincingly presented. The work, it may be confidently predicted, will have a large sale to "the intelligent student-citizen," for whom it is written, and will do much to introduce accepted modern theories among people (like Mr. Bryan and his sympathizers) to whom these ideas have been unwelcome as controverting traditional views.

POETRY

VEIL (THE). By Walter De La Mare. Henry Holt & Co., New York. \$2.

Alone among that group of not-so-much-younger English poets called the Georgians the work of Walter De La Mare stands as a definite individual expression. The rest of the group write so much alike that it is difficult, without the tag of a name, to tell whether a

poem issuing from this band is by Mr. Squire, Mr. Shanks, or Mr. Turner. They all eat out of one platter. Mr. De La Mare is different. He plays upon a small violoncello and from his bow come tender, wistful, eery strains. A suggestion of the impalpable surrounds his poetry, and the exceeding delicacy with which he handles his themes conveys a fairy-like spirit to the reader.

"The Veil" is quite on a plane with the volumes that have preceded it. Here again are the faltering rhythms, the Blake-like purity of spirit, the faint perfume-like suggestions of unseen figures and rustling forms. All is atmosphere rather than direct utterance. No one but De La Mare could have handled a poem in quite this way:

Isled in the midnight air,
Musked with the dark's faint bloom,
Out into glooming and secret haunts
The flame cries, "Come!"

Lovely in dye and fan,
A-tremble in shimmering grace,
A moth from her winter swoon
Uplifts her face:

Stares from her glamorous eyes;
Wafts her on plumes like mist;
In ecstasy swirls and sways
To her strange tryst.

It should be perceptible that a note a trifle deeper than any shown heretofore by De La Mare is to be found in "The Veil." It is not so much that the poet suffers from a metaphysical unquietude as that his spiritual curiosity is creeping beyond fairies, fancies, and twilight-colored things into human fluctuations. With age comes a note that is more analytic and brooding.

FICTION

RED HOUSE MYSTERY (THE). By A. A. Milne. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2.

A murder and detective story by the author of "Mr. Pim" and "The Dover Road," better written than most crime stories, as might be expected from the authorship. Its peculiarity is that the mystery is, not who committed the murder, but what were the cause and the method of the crime.

OPPIDAN (THE). By Shane Leslie. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

The real hero of this story is Eton College, not Peter, the rather colorless

"oppidan" boy whose adventures at Eton are here related. The customs, traditions, and unwritten law of the famous English public school are described with elaborate minuteness. The method is the opposite of Hughes's "Tom Brown at Rugby," and one result is that Eton is much clearer in depiction than was Rugby in that story.

TRUTH ABOUT VIGNOLLES (THE). By Albert Kinross. The Century Company, New York. \$1.50.

There is something fascinating and Kipling-like in these adventures of an old soldier of the Camel Corps who deserts in order to get to the front. The glamour of the East is strong. The author knows just how Egypt and Mesopotamia seemed to the English soldier in the Great War, and flavors his realism (sometimes a bit strong) with imagination and Oriental mystery.

CONTRIBUTORS' GALLERY

JOSEPH DANZIGER even before the war had an established reputation as a popular writer on financial and economic subjects. In 1915, by obtaining an appointment as war correspondent, he was able to get behind the German lines and investigate conditions in Belgium and Germany. Mr. Danziger has published a series of articles on Belgium, which were heartily commended by editors for their fairness and accuracy, and compiled an exhaustive bulletin on the German economic situation.

CLIFFORD A. TINKER is a lieutenant in the United States Navy and a former aide to Admiral Moffett. From Washington, where he is associated with the Bureau of Aeronautics, Lieutenant Tinker sends us an account of the actualities and possibilities of radio control.

HILDA CONKLING is the younger daughter of Mrs. Grace Hazard Conkling, Assistant Professor of English at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. Of Hilda's first book of verse, published in 1919, when she was only nine years old, Miss Amy Lowell wrote: "I know of no other instance in which such really beautiful poetry has been written by a child." Hilda's new book, "Shoes of the Wind," will be published by the F. A. Stokes Company in the autumn.

ELON K. JESSUP and **E. K. PARKINSON**, both lovers of outdoors, treat in this issue of two widely different aspects of nature. One deals with the wildness and ruggedness of the forest; the other, with the peaceful domesticity of the house garden.

FRANCES DUNCAN (Mrs. John Manning) writes us that she is "living on a farm in Cornish, New Hampshire, miles off from anywhere, chiefly occupied with three very lively youngsters." She is well known as a writer on gardening and horticulture, and is the author of several books.