

sional lapses from responsible critical judgment—the book is impressive of America's poetic development through

the past half-century, and that development is presented in a manner illuminative of its significance.

## The New Books

### FICTION

**HIGH FIRES.** By Marjorie Barkley McClure. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$2.

In theme as well as in title this book resembles another recent novel about the Church in modern life, "The High Way," by Caroline Atwater Mason. Both stories defend the "orthodox" Protestant faith against the assaults of modern doubt and materialism. The leading champion in "The High Way" is a youth who sees hope for the world only in clinging to the Bible as the word of God. In "High Fires" the cause is defended by an old Presbyterian pastor in a growing American city. New ways and new doctrines encompass him. He is defeated and shelved; but his influence lives on. The rôle of the "younger generation" is vigorously taken by his pleasure-hungry daughter and her rationalist lover.

**HIGH ROAD.** By Janet Ramsay. The Century Company, New York. \$2.

This is a sensitive and intelligent "first" novel, by a musician about a musician. Our only American masterpiece of this kind is Miss Cather's "Song of the Lark." That dealt with a girl singer of genius who was, after all, only a generation from the European stock. Peter Adams of "High Road" is as "Anglo-Saxon" as his name, and of long American descent. This is the story of him as a person, and also as a type of the American musician of high powers, struggling for development and recognition in an unfriendly or indifferent atmosphere. Peter's father, a college professor, gives him no encouragement. All his musical nurture comes from overseas—in Brandt, the violinist; Krause, the musical conductor; and, finally, Menoffsky, the great teacher in Berlin. And in the end (the end of this narrative) his ambition to be conductor of the excellent orchestra of his native city is denied, not because he isn't worthy of the post, but because he is Peter Adams, American.

As a living male Peter Adams is not much more real than the men of women novelists usually are. The real people are the women of the story: Peter's mother; Mrs. Tinkham, the American music patron; Lady Glencannon, the British music patron; the Frau Doktor, who was once an opera singer and cannot forget it; above all, Peter's love, who to the world is the distinguished English pianist Judith Hamilton. Peter's love affair represents, among higher things, that purple patch of sex business which

seems almost obligatory in the best-regulated current novels. You go along quietly and decently for chapter after chapter till you feel, "Well, this is more like the old times, when spades were spades—but mostly kept in the toolshed." And then the usual thing happens, and you find yourself an intimate and uncomfortable spectator of certain manifestations and happenings on which in "real life" you would not choose to look. It's a matter of taste, of comely manners, not of morals. Do our storytellers infer too hastily that we have undergone a radical change in taste, in manners? Or do they rightly hold a mirror up to nature in this regard?

**PRISONER WHO SANG (THE).** By Johan Bojer. The Century Company, New York. \$2.

This story, which from the publisher's notice we take to be really a "new book" and not merely a new version in English of an old book, expresses the Norwegian novelist at his best. Like most storytellers of Northern race, Bojer is always turning over the moral and spiritual problems of human existence. He has no interest in man as merely an animal or as merely a chaser of delight. Man, for him, is the blundering, purblind creature with "the great hunger;" with the piteous and glorious desire to find and fulfill his highest destiny. His "prisoner who sang" is a prisoner of life. He has come meanly into the world, the nameless son of a hunchback peasant woman in an obscure Norwegian forest. There is nothing to hearten him but his taste for effrontery and his gift of secret mirth. So he makes the most of these things. A brief experience of acting shows him the possibilities of impersonation, and he becomes a criminal with half a dozen personalities. One after the other he so identifies himself with these assumed characters that presently he finds difficulty in detaching any sort of intelligible self from them.

Then comes the experience that shifts this situation from comedy to tragedy. Andreas Bojet—alias Sorenson the evangelist, alias Iversen the bank messenger, Hansen the traveler, and so on—falls in love, loves really and deeply. As Adolph Willmann, Brazilian planter, he has met a Sylvia, a dear and lovely girl fit to mate with—whom? Who is he really? Not Adolph Willmann, though he has almost persuaded himself of it; nobody who can possibly marry a Sylvia. So a

week before the wedding he disappears—is supposed to be drowned. He takes up the old life, is caught and jailed several times. Always he is driven to tempt adventure under some new impersonation. But he cannot forget Sylvia. Again, this time as a laborer, he seeks her, and knows presently that he can marry her for the asking. But he loves her too much, and at last makes choice of death as the only certain way of safety for either of them. For its swiftness and simplicity, its perfect economy of method, and its deep and melancholy tenderness the book belongs with that unforgettable study of the human heart, "The Great Hunger."

### ESSAYS AND CRITICISM

**BOOKS IN BLACK OR RED.** By Edmund Lester Pearson. New and Cheaper Edition. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

This is a new and cheaper edition, and its exterior appearance has not been enhanced. Its contents, we are told, have in no wise deteriorated, but in the present busy season of book publication we have been unable to read it. Some time we intend to sit down and look it over, as it appears to be the kind of book which we regard with doting fondness.

**INNOCENCE OF G. K. CHESTERTON (THE).** By Gerald Bullitt. Henry Holt & Co., New York. \$2.25.

A brilliant criticism of Mr. Chesterton, considering him from half a dozen different aspects.

### BIOGRAPHY

**REAL SARAH BERNHARDT (THE).** By Mme. Pierre Berton and Basil Woon. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$3.50.

When Sarah Bernhardt died on March 26, 1923, there passed from this world a woman whose seventy-nine years had been lived to the utmost, who had experienced every degree of misfortune, and who had tasted the most dazzling success. In this book the world obtains a vivid picture of the life of that wonderful artist of whose real character, in spite of the widespread publicity she enjoyed, very little was known. Mme. Berton is the widow of Pierre Berton, the actor and playwright who more than any other man was responsible for Bernhardt's early triumphs. She was herself the actress's intimate friend and confidant for many years, and now, in accordance with Mme. Bernhardt's express wish, puts before the public "the real Sarah."

Sarah Bernhardt was born out of wedlock in Paris in 1844. Her father was a French law student by the name of Edouard Bernhardt, and her mother was a young Flemish girl who later, as Julie Van Hard, occupied a prominent position in the Parisian demi-monde, living for some time under the protection of the

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Duc de Morny, Louis Napoleon's half-brother. Sarah's early life was tempestuous. The story of her convent days has been told elsewhere. She studied art, but, though entranced by the theater, evidently did not at first realize her own talent in that line. She began to receive offers of marriage (she told Mme. Berton that during her life she had received more than a thousand), but she listened to none. It was the birth of her son, the outcome of an ardent love affair with a man of high rank, that changed Sarah's whole existence, giving her an object for which to live. From that day she worked unceasingly through discouragements that would have killed an ordinary woman and in the teeth of such adverse criticism as seems impossible to one who recalls her genius. Mme. Berton says little about Maurice Bernhardt. Before he was twenty his income from his mother was sixty thousand francs a year, and her sole stipulation was that he should dress properly and learn the art of fencing. Perhaps further comment is unnecessary.

Bernhardt's marriage was the most tragic episode of her life. Carried away by his good looks and his affected indifference to herself, she married Jules Damala, a Greek whose infidelities were the talk of Paris, who actually ill treated her, and who died of morphine after spoiling her life for seven years.

The book is extremely interesting. In spite of her artistic triumphs, which were many and great, the commonplace reader cannot help a feeling of regret that one so gifted, who gave so much pleasure to others, should not have experienced a little of the prosaic happiness that falls to the lot of her less talented sisters.

## POETRY

**CHILSWELL BOOK OF ENGLISH POETRY (THE).** Compiled by Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate. Longmans, Green & Co., New York and London. \$2.

Another anthology, but a distinguished one. The compiler is the Poet Laureate; the book is excellently printed and bound, and is presented at a moderate price for one whose *format* is notably good. It is a primer of English poetry, designed for the use of schools. Better still, it would make an admirable gift for any girl or boy of the high school or college age. The fine paper, printing, and binding make us wonder how so many cheap-looking books can be offered at an even higher price than this.

## EDUCATIONAL

**PSYCHOLOGY IN THEORY AND APPLICATION.** By Horatio W. Dresser. The Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. \$3.50.

In addition to the explanation of the usual and better-known aspects of psychology, this book (which is of consider-

able length) adds chapters on the newer subjects, like psychoanalysis, sleep, and dreams; a long section on vocational and industrial psychology; and a section devoted to the study and uses of psychology in social life. It is well balanced and clearly presented.

## TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION

**CHINESE LANTERNS.** By Grace Thompson Seton. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$3.50.

A description of modern China, and particularly of the position to-day of the woman of China in social life, in politics, and in the industries. Well illustrated.

**LIFE OF THE ANCIENT EAST (THE).** By James Baikie. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$4.

Descriptions of the excavations carried on in Egypt, Babylonia, Troy, and Greece.

**WESTWARD HOBOES.** By Winifred Hawkridge Dixon. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

First published 1921. Entertaining book about motoring adventures in the Far West and Southwest. Admirable photographic illustrations.

**WHERE TRADITIONS LINGER.** By Allan Fea. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$5.

Wanderings in little-known parts of England; history, legend, and superstition.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**CENTURY OF EXCAVATION IN THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS (A).** By James Baikie, F.R.A.S. The Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. \$3.

Beginning with the researches made by the savants who accompanied Napoleon on his famous Egyptian expedition, this book presents succinctly the story of the revelations that have been made of ancient Egypt up to and including the work of Lord Carnarvon in connection with Tutankhamen's tomb. The account is well written and well illustrated and is published at an opportune time.

**DIET FOR CHILDREN (AND ADULTS).** By Lulu Hunt Peters, M.D. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$2.

This is a practical book and should be helpful in aiding parents to feed their children properly and to understand the various elements that go into food and their part in nutrition. Not only are various diets and menus given thorough analysis, but there are ample suggestions concerning the actual preparation of many important dishes. In general, the book contains a broad and useful study of nutrition from its essential angles.

One mistake, we feel, however, was in introducing tables of average weights, and holding to the mistaken principle that only the average is normal, and that slender children necessarily are malnourished. The type of a child's build is a matter of heredity. Malnutrition, then,

cannot be discovered by weight, but only by a medical examination. And this is something every child should have.

**DANCE IN EDUCATION (THE).** By Agnes L. Marsh and Lucille Marsh. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. \$10.

Modern "interpretative" dancing is often beautiful, but sometimes silly. Of what it is interpretative, there is frequently a great confusion except in the mind of the instructor or the ballet master. If the dance is beautiful, this, of course, does not matter. If the dance is silly, it may still be a good exercise and an aid in the cultivation of bodily grace. But it should not then be inflicted upon spectators. As interpretative dancing has been somewhat of a fad, those persons who uncritically accept every new fad have willingly suffered, or made others to suffer, a good many rather painful exhibitions of solemn posturing, cavoring, and prostrating by young ladies in "classical" attire.

This book furnishes a short description, the music, and in many instances a pictorial illustration for a number of dances to be used in schools and classes. Some of them are beautiful, indeed. Some will be valuable as gymnastic exercises. The directions for some of them make us shudderingly remember certain moments of intense weariness which we have spent in theaters—as when (to quote this work) "Rumor, a malevolent figure, drawing her dark cloak about her, shrinks back to lurk in the shadow, her wicked gaze already fixed on the next victim." This recalls the dance of the Maiden and the Indian Savage, given by Miss Crummles, the Infant Phenomenon, and another member of the troupe, in which the Maiden "interpreted" something or other by a kick of her left leg. The full account may be found in "Nicholas Nickleby," by Charles Dickens.

**LEAD: THE PRECIOUS METAL.** By Orlando C. Harn. The Century Company, New York. \$3.

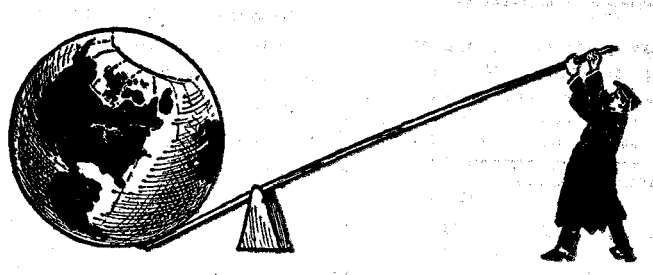
The mining and smelting of lead; its characteristics; its use in building, in type-making, in ammunition, in musical instruments, in the sports, and in a hundred other ways. A comprehensive and interesting book about one important metal.

**PRICE OF FREEDOM (THE).** Speeches and Addresses. By Calvin Coolidge. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

Addresses by Mr. Coolidge as Governor of Massachusetts, as Vice-President, and as President. A brief speech given when he received a medal for his action in the Boston police strike does not give much support to the charge that he accepted glory which rightfully belonged to others. He most explicitly and generously awards the major credit in the

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## Books Received

### FICTION

**HISTORY OF PENDENNIS (THE).** By William Makepeace Thackeray. Edited by Robert Morse Lovett. 2 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

### BOOKS FOR YOUNG FOLKS

**INFIELD RIVALS.** By R. H. Barbour. D. Appleton & Co., New York.

### ESSAYS AND CRITICISM

**SUMMER GHOSTS AND WINTER TOPICS.** By Felix E. Schelling. The J. E. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$2.

### HISTORY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY

**EVERYDAY PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.** By John T. Grennan and A. B. Meredith. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

**SEVEN QUESTIONS IN DISPUTE.** By William Jennings Bryan. The Fleming H. Revell Company, New York.

### POETRY

**JOHN DAVIDSON'S POEMS.** Boni & Liveright, New York.

### RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

**BUDDHISM AND BUDDHISTS IN CHINA.** By Lewis Hodous, D.D. The Macmillan Company, New York.

**CENTURY OF ANGLICAN THEOLOGY (A).** By Clement C. J. Webb. D. Appleton & Co., New York.

**CENTURY READINGS IN THE BIBLE.** By Cunniffe and Batterhouse. The Century Company, New York. \$2.