

erly and amusingly; the political ebullition when Weaver and the Populists raged is touched upon. The plot turns upon an unusual provision in Iowa law under which an illegitimate son might inherit from an intestate father if the father had in general talk admitted his paternity. This gives the author opportunity to deal both realistically and humorously with the lawyers and courts of that time.

As to the characters, the reader rejoices heartily in the re-entrance of Mr. Quick's old-timers—Jake Vandemark, Magnus Thorkelson, Buck Gowdy (the devilish but engaging villain), and Uncle Surajah, poorhouse inventor and as great an optimist as Colonel Sellers. Frankly, we take more interest in the old characters than in the new, and think that Mr. Quick has been only moderately successful in his purpose of making his Christina interesting as a type of the early self-reliant, successful business woman. She was all that, but what was once a wonder is now commonplace; and we don't care a picayune for either of her would-be lovers, or the crazy wife who believes she is Empress of America and tries to "execute" Christina. Yet, be it added, the pleasurable part of the story is far more than enough to balance the less engaging features.

THE PURPLE SAPPHIRE. By John Taine. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2.

There is such a thing as overworking the possibilities of invention and mystery. The actors in this story penetrate into the depths of the Himalayas, discover the remnant of a lost race which once knew more about science than any one now living, find out how immensely big sapphires can be manufactured, and return with a bag full of sapphires and incidentally a lost English girl. We can readily forgive the story for being improbable; but what we cannot forgive is the author's elephantine attempts at humor.

THE GOLDEN JOURNEY OF MR. PARADYNE. By William J. Locke. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$1.75.

Mr. Locke turns for a moment from the construction of whimsical novels to give us a charming bit of imaginative story-telling. Every one dreams from time to time of escaping from the rut of commonplace daily experience and wandering foot-loose and free from care. Mr. Paradyne actually does this, with strange and pleasing results. We say "actually does"—but the action does not take place in a dream, neither does it take place literally. Neither Mr. Paradyne nor the reader knows just how this tired and bored London lawyer found himself in the south of France in the

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possession of a caravan, but in some way he did; and he certainly enjoyed to the full his strange experiences.

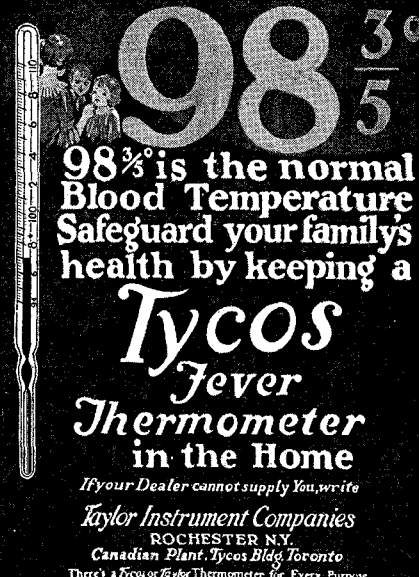
BEST BRITISH SHORT STORIES OF 1924 (THE). Edited by Edward J. O'Brien and John Cournos. Small, Maynard & Co., Boston. \$2.50.

This is the third year for which the editors have done for British short-story writing what Mr. O'Brien alone has done for this kind of American fiction. Naturally most of these twenty-six stories will be unknown this side the Atlantic—indeed, some of the writers' names are unfamiliar. Among the best known are those of McFee, Maugham, Marshall, Katherine Mansfield, and "E. M. Delafield." An amusing, clever dialogue discussion on the Short Story, between the Critical Reader and Mr. Cournos, makes a capital Introduction.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE MANORS AND HISTORIC HOMES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY. By Harold Donaldson Eberlein. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$10.

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By WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD

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