



He Was Good as an After Dinner Speaker ~but at his best after an Oyster Dinner!

Offhand you wouldn't say there is any connection between oysters and oratory.

But look at old Cicero!

Of his day he had no peer on the platform. His eloquence was flawless. His irony matchless. He was followed by some and feared by others.

Naturally his time was in great demand. Naturally he found it desirable to keep himself fit.

Naturally, too, he was quick to discover that his remarks after an average Roman banquet, heaped high with the choicest viands of an entire world, were sometimes laborious or a trifle stilted.

But when oysters—as happily happened often—were the feature of the feast—his tongue was free and easy; his language sparkled like crystal; his voice was rich like music and his hearers were wrapped as in magic.

Just why oysters were so good and so good for him, perhaps Cicero couldn't tell. It remained for the scientific skill of a later day to disclose and catalog their digestible qualities, their nutritious values, their vitamin Cs, and their heavy content of iodine.

All he knew was that he liked them—and that they likewise liked him. Through experience alone he found that it paid—to Order Oysters Often.

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charming hospitality of the upper classes, do not blind him to the high percentage of illiteracy, the superstition, and evils inherent in the plantation system. That benevolent paternalism which flourished in our own ante-bellum South has its counterpart in Central America.

"Life is one long service to your *mozos*," says a young Guatemalan aristocrat. "You have to nurse them, marry them, get them out of jail, and if you aren't good to them you haven't any hands to pick your coffee, while if you hit one you get killed."

Especially interesting are the chapters entitled "Ways of Thought" and "The Path to Education." In the latter the author advocates a survey of the physical and mental development of the children by psychometric tests as a prerequisite to determining methods of education, assuming that American and European curricula are not applicable to the tropics.

The traditional love of letters in the English ruling class is exemplified in a sheaf of seven essays entitled "Fallodon Papers,"³ by Viscount Grey. With one exception they deal with nature and books. Originally given as addresses without benefit of notes and reduced to

³Fallodon Papers. By Viscount Grey of Fallodon. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$2.50.

manuscript by a shorthand writer, they bear, despite revision, the mark of oral delivery. Thus, though the author apologizes for their "roughness of expression," they have a certain freshness, a conversational quality as rare as it is agreeable. One gathers that Lord Grey's tastes are both sporting and literary. He confesses to a passion for salmon and trout fishing, but owns that books are the most satisfactory recreation, and of these he has most to say. Urbanity being a characteristic of English statesmen, it is not surprising that his prejudices are left to inference, nor is it surprising, considering his love of nature, that among the poets his preference should be for Wordsworth. Next to poetry he rates the great novels of character, which must be long, he declares, to be great, for it requires a long book to present a full-length. Apropos of novels which depend on their humor for their permanency, such as "Pickwick" and "Tristram Shandy," he remarks:

"Any pleasure to be lasting, so that we wish to return to it and to think of it again and again, must have its hold, not only upon the intellect, but upon the affections. There is a great deal of humor and wit which appeals only to the intellect, but gets no hold on the affections."

Fiction

MRS. SOCRATES. By Fritz Mauthner. Translated by Jacob W. Hartmann. The International Publishers, New York. \$2.

After John Erskine's success with *Helen of Troy* we suspect that the private life of many ladies of antiquity will be given us. "Mrs. Socrates," translated from the German of Fritz Mauthner by Jacob W. Hartmann, must be taken seriously enough, however, to feel the human tragedy of the Athenian Jane Welsh Carlyle, who, like that Scots martyr, found the rôle of a philosopher's wife not an easy one to play, and gained therein, not wholly justly, the reputation of the world's classic scold. The portrait of the inventor of the art of annoying conversation is not the best thing in Mauthner's story, and the pictures of Socrates's famous friends, Alcibiades, Plato, Xenophon, are only faintly sketched. The really moving thing is the loving, practical woman who understood the man who did not care to understand her, and loyally served and protected him to the end. This novel of twenty-three hundred years ago is by no means dull, and its repleteness with modern issues is carried out through its surprising conclusion, to which those familiar with the story of the son of another genius, Shelley, will find a parallel.

THE CHINESE PARROT. By Earl Derr Biggers. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. \$2.

One of the thousand pearl necklaces familiar to readers of detective stories is the pivot around which revolves an entertaining tale of lawlessness. Bob Eden, son of the best-known jeweler west of the Rockies, accompanied by Detective-Sergeant Chan of the Honolulu Police, undertakes to deliver the Phillimore pearls to a

client, P. J. Madden. Madden's sudden decision to have the pearls delivered to him at his lonely ranch in the California desert, instead of in New York, arouses vague suspicions. They agree to delay turning over the pearls to Madden, and while Bob enters the front door of the Madden household as a guest, Charlie Chan comes in to do some detecting via the cook-house. The night they arrive the Chinese parrot speaks for himself. His cries of "Help! Murder! Put down that gun!" sound like the echoes of recent foul play. From the moment, next morning, when poor Tony, the parrot, is found dead from an overdose of arsenic the little Chinese detective's work is cut out for him. It appears that murder has been done, but it is "a murder that marches backwards," since there is no body. Charlie Chan has neither the grand manner nor the assurance of his great predecessor, Sherlock Holmes, but he has the patience of the East. The situations which arise during the uncovering bit by bit of a gang of crooks are mildly exciting; the love affair between Bob and a young lady "location finder" for the movies sparkles; and the solution of the mystery is one that not many readers will guess.

Biography

THE HEART OF EMERSON'S JOURNALS. Edited by Bliss Perry. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$3.

From 1820 to 1875, from seventeen to seventy-two, Ralph Waldo Emerson kept a journal; irregular, informal, as a mere chronicle full of gaps and omissions, but of deep and fascinating interest as the spiritual autobiography of a piercing intellect

In writing to the above advertiser please mention The Outlook

and a seeking soul. In this, of course, lies its primary and greatest value, but it is rich throughout in memorable pages of philosophy, observation, and portraiture. Published in full in 1909-14 in ten volumes, under the joint editorship of Dr. Emerson and Edmund Waldo Forbes, it has hitherto been available in this massive form only, demanding more than many persons limited in time, purse, or shelf-room have been able to afford. Professor Bliss Perry, selecting and eliminating with admirable judgment, has succeeded in retaining in a single volume, not only the best separate passages which their crystalline completeness of construction makes a comparatively simple matter, but, what is more difficult, the unspoiled portrait of Emerson himself. Here in all his aspects may be found the philosopher and the man; from the charmingly tender indication of his baby in the study—"kissed fingers cannot write"—to the hard, straight manliness of the entry concerning the Fugitive Slave Law: "This filthy enactment was made in the 19th century by people who could read and write. I will not obey it, by God;" from the high and sweeping thought, "God builds his temple in the heart, on the ruins of churches and religions," to the quaint recognition, "This old Bible if you pitch it out of the window with a fork, bounce it comes back again."

Professor Perry's book is likely to prove more of a delight to those who already know their Emerson well than to those who do not, but desire a better acquaintance.

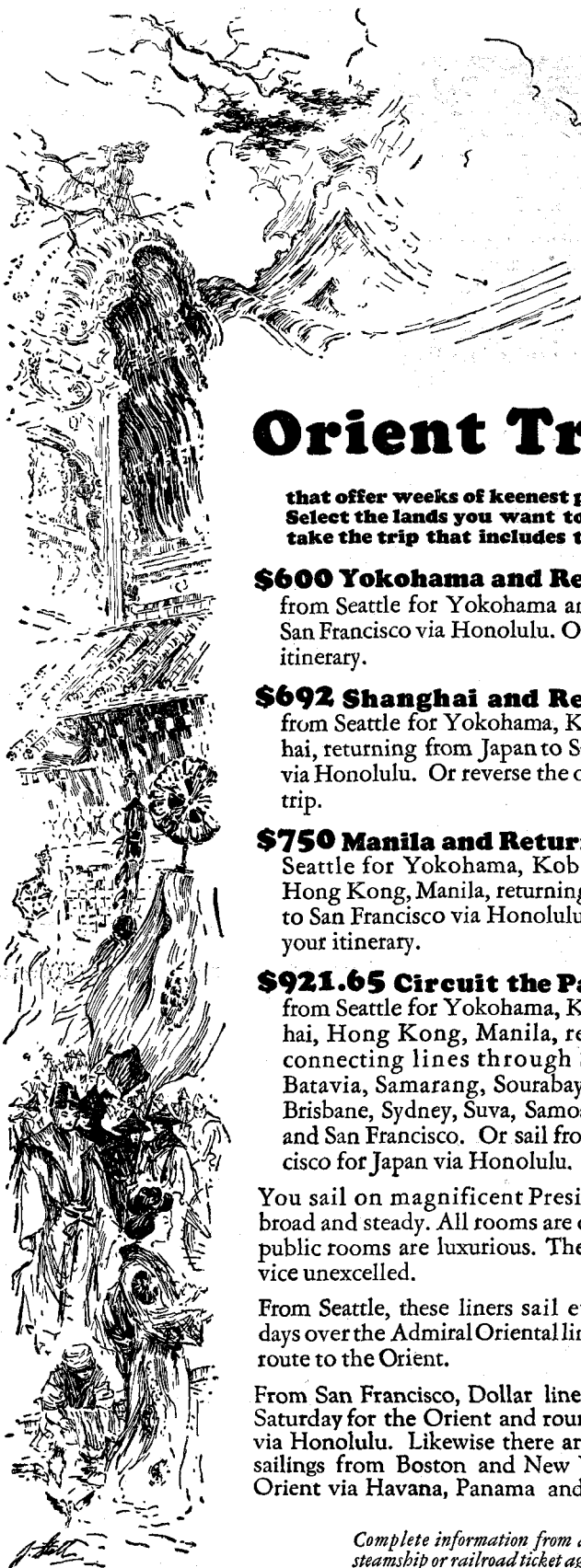
MORE UNCENSORED RECOLLECTIONS. By the Author of "Uncensored Recollections" and "Things I Shouldn't Tell." Harper & Brothers, New York. \$3.50.

Readers who accept this book at its face value will wonder whether Europe, Asia, and parts of America would not have collapsed if the author of this book had died in infancy. Princes, presidents, emperors, and queens relied upon him; pretenders, old and young, actresses, social favorites, and heirs apparent sent for him and begged him to rescue them and the scheme of things from ruin. Edward VII was his hero, though he could be nice to Napoleon III and patronizing toward Abraham Lincoln. It is a book which might have been written by "Beau Nash" (the fashion editor of the theater programs) in collaboration with the late "Marquise de Fontenoy," and almost any owner of an Almanack de Gotha. The number of blunders in some sections is large; the book is written in curious, rather slipshod diction, which gives the illusion of an aristocratic author who believes it hardly well-bred to be correct in his English usage.

A MUSICIAN AND HIS WIFE. By Mrs. Reginald de Koven. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$5.

It was Reginald de Koven who demonstrated that America could produce an operatic composer, if not of the first rank, one who became exceedingly popular and gave music lovers much to be thankful for. Did he not give us "The Begum" and "Robin Hood," which remain joyous memories? Especially do we look back with pleasure to "Robin Hood" as sung by the tuneful choir singers who became the "Bostonians," a company that sang light opera better than any ever assembled on this side of the ocean. Moreover, it was wholesome as well as charming.

Besides the chronicle of accomplishment Mrs. de Koven's volume gives much detail of social life in Chicago, New York, Washington, and abroad. The former Miss Farwell, who became the composer's wife, had exceptional opportunity for meeting people of consequence, and there is no lack of interesting memories in her chronicle. Congressman and Senator, her father filled a considerable place in public life. This his accomplished daughter shared. Biography



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Satire and Humor

PLATO'S AMERICAN REPUBLIC. By Douglas Woodruff. To-Day and To-Morrow Series. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$1.

Socrates, brought to life, visits America, studies its ways, gives a luncheon talk to the business men of Hootsville, Iowa, returns to the coast and criticises the "movies," whereupon he is deported as an undesirable citizen. On an Athenian pavement, in the presence of Agathon, who had accompanied him, he tells his experiences to Lysis and Phaelon. No doubt the unfriendly reception given him had soured the good man's disposition, for he found little or nothing to praise. Xanthippe, on the other hand, had received in America a tumultuous reception from the womenfolk, and was known to have declared that the Americans were, of all people in the world, the truest lovers of the good. The philosopher covers a wide range of American faults and closes with the optimistic hope that our people, reading what he has to say of them, will amend their ways. The style imitates that of the Dialogues and is not without a degree of cleverness, though here and there this cleverness sags dismally. "Your countenance," says Agathon, "is one that grows upon people." "It grew upon me," replied Socrates. For an end man of a minstrel troupe in the period of the middle fifties this would have been fairly bright, but in its present setting is what the Thespians know as a "flop." How much of the satire expresses the presumed reactions of a philosopher of ancient Greece and how much expresses merely the pet irritations of the author cannot be guessed.

Poems

EAST WIND. By Amy Lowell. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$2.25.

The second posthumous volume of Amy Lowell's poems is well named "East Wind," since New England's chill wind is no small factor in the formation of its character—and characters, for it is with these that Miss Lowell has to do. She penetrates into remote corners of New England, where most of the people are dead and others old, and where for those still extant life is so meager as to develop strange twists of mind that lead oftentimes to lunacy. Miss Lowell shows an understanding of the starved lives of these people—particularly the women,

... maiden ladies left alone

With still things on the walls and mantelpieces—

and these old wives' tales recount their fears, superstitions, weird fancies, and queer hobbies. There were Amos and his wife, who could not agree about the lawn—

He set by a straight slope and she wanted terraces,

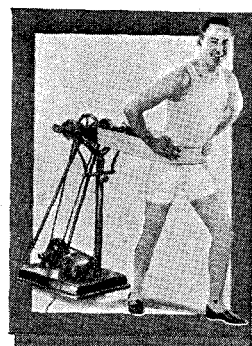
So they had a straight slope to one side and terraces to th' other.

There was Minnie, the farmer's daughter, so tired of routine—

Nothin' done that ain't to do over again—

that when the cat was taken sick she was ready to drink a cup of wood alcohol. There was the tombstone underneath grandfather's stairs, chiseled, by mistake, Joseph instead of James. For economy's sake it was kept until the death of Joseph, but he was lost at sea and did not need it, and, as no one was named Joseph in that family again, it was never needed.

Miss Lowell misses none of the humor in these stories, but she is more alive to the gruesome, with which she seems to have a kinship. It is as though she supped on horrors. An example is "The Note-



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