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ing—produced on the readers' mind by the leisurely, nonchalant commentaries on English social life that carry the name of Anthony Trollope on their title-pages. . . . It is almost irritating that books so lustily prosaic should be so hard of definition."

All good Trollopians owe thanks to Mr. Sadleir. It may move some of them to interesting comment and comparison to learn that he thinks the three perfect novels of Anthony Trollope to be "Dr. Thorne," "The Claverings," and "Sir Harry Hotspur of Humblethwaite."

### Fiction

**COMRADE JILL.** By Herbert Adams. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$2.

A tale of London in 1931 on the verge of a general strike, with a young labor leader, his "comrade Jill" (daughter of a press magnate), and a powerful revivalist as the chief characters. As with most stories of the economic future, its purposefulness injures its fiction value.

**THE MYSTERY OF THE ASHES.** By Anthony Wynne. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$2.

Mr. Wynne's amateur detective, Dr. Hailey, is fit to compare with Sherlock Holmes in his facility of deduction from slight clues. Yet he only learns the truth of these mysterious murders when he hears the villain recite the crimes before an intended victim. So that the reader's chance of guessing the solution is slight indeed! That the story is a bit too lurid (as we used to call it) is its fault, but it is otherwise a notably good crime and detection tale.

**THE BAND PLAYS DIXIE.** By Morris Markey. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. \$2.

An amateurish story of Civil War times, in which two Northern soldiers, cousins, fall in love with the same Southern maiden, and become enemies. Luckily, the right one falls in battle at the right time.

**THE LONGEST SHADOW.** By Jeffery E. Jeffery. Little Brown & Co., Boston. \$2.

"You have the sort of mind that's always painting pictures for itself—fanciful, exaggerated pictures," says Cathleen to Philip, "and you get more out of those pictures than you do out of the facts of your life. The grown-up person—what I mean by a grown-up person, anyway—can't do that. He's practical." Philip, however, is practical enough in mere external affairs; he is no helpless dreamer. But he is romantic, and at the end of the six determining years between twenty-four and thirty, though he

has grown up, he still remains so. His illusions vanish, blotted out by the Longest Shadow, which is Reality, and his first love and dearest hopes go with them; but he does not lose his ideals, nor that inner glow of the spirit which enables him to meet trouble gallantly, be generous to those who disappoint him, and find in life still the joy of adventure and new possibilities of happiness. Mr. Jeffery is one of the younger English novelists, and is the more to be congratulated in himself escaping that darkest threat of the shadow of reality, mere ugliness, which has marred the work of so many of his contemporaries, who seem to feel beauty, grace, and sunshine incompatible with truth. He is further to be congratulated upon a novel soundly constructed, finely finished, and as satisfying to the potentially Ungentle Critic as to the Gentle Reader.

**TWILIGHT.** By Count Edouard Keyserling. The Macaulay Company, New York. \$2.50.

"Twilight," a tragic love story set in a somber background of hidebound tradition which eventually claims the new generation, is remarkable for its quiet tone and its sustained mood of retired grandeur and unruffled peace. "Harmony," the second story in the book, is the tragedy of a super-aesthetic woman whose outward life as mistress of her estate is as harmonious as her separate spiritual existence, in which she secures herself against her passionately devoted husband. The first story expresses mood in environment, the second spiritual supremacy, and the third, "Kersta," is based on the entirely physical concept of life of the Lithuanian peasant girl. Each story is well done.

**THE MARRIAGE BED.** By Ernest Pascal. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. \$2.

This novel is one of the curiously mixed bag recently brought back from their moral hunt by the police authorities of

Boston. In this case, it seems hardly likely that they looked beyond the title. The book could almost elicit praise as a moral tract on the ground that it makes infidelity seem such a gloomy and forbidding pastime that no married reader in his or her senses should ever care to engage in it. Mr. Pascal rings the changes on the theme with no less than three couples, driving the parallel stories with skill and fertile invention. Of these poor squirming victims, none engages the sympathies more than George, wrested from his sensible wife and comfortable home and forced to set up light housekeeping in a Greenwich Village apartment, "almost a studio," with a lovely incompetent. The novel does not overstep the modern limits of frankness and seems in most respects an honest and sincere piece of work.

### Biography

**THE PASSING SHOW.** By Henry Russell. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$5.

An impresario who began as a teacher of the voice and had as pupils artists like Duse, Caruso, Melba, and many other famous *prime donne* is likely to have much that is interesting to say when he comes to review his career in England, the Continent, and America. Nor will the reader be disappointed. His style is lively without being obstreperous; he has a pretty fund of humor and tells an anecdote well. People interested in songsters of the stage will enjoy the chapter on stars and their foibles; where he refrains from names they are pretty sure to guess whom the joke fits. Caruso, spoiled by success over here, trembles when he returns to Italy before the ruthless frankness of his countrymen. "The English and American peoples are kind and tolerant; but the Italians are merciless. Because I am Caruso, higher prices are charged for the seats when I sing; they expect me therefore to be perfect; they expect value for their money. Every time I sing in Italy it is a new début—it may be a triumph or it may be a failure." The frontispiece is a mild caricature of Russell by Caruso.

What Russell says of d'Annunzio is often to the point. "The attractive side of his personality is little known to the world, and it is difficult not to be prejudiced against a man who caused such unmerited suffering to a woman like Duse." It was at Porto d'Anzio, in the playwright's villa, that he came to know Eleanore Duse and began to care for her voice, which ill health had nearly ruined.

"The Passing Show" keeps the interest from first to last. A book for which to be grateful; one to recommend to one's friends.

### Religion

**A MODERN PLEA FOR CHRISTIANITY.** By Louis De Launey. Translated by Selden P. Delaney, D.D. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.25.

M. De Launey is a member of the French Academy of Sciences, a mining engineer with wide technical experience, the author of numerous books on geology, travel, and philosophy, a frequent contributor to the leading French reviews. His "Plea for Christianity" is that valuable one of the man convinced of the approximate truth of modern science, but yet remembering two facts—that science itself is built on faith, and that the most it can hope to do is describe, not explain, the universe. The form of Christianity which M. De Launey knows best is, naturally, the Roman Catholic, but he sincerely sympathizes with and hopes to help what to him are more partial Protestant approaches. He wears his faith freely and winningly, smilingly assuring the reader now that he is about to fall into heresy, now into intolerance, but managing to keep his sympathy and understanding of many attitudes at their best at just such moments. Roman

Catholic thinkers are giving us some of the best contemporary reconciliations of modern thought and faith, and here is an interesting French example. The translation is well done by Selden P. Delaney, D.D.

### Travel

**SPANISH ALTA CALIFORNIA.** By Alberta Johnston Denis. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50.

Here is a historical sketch of California from the first discoveries to the close of Spanish rule in 1822. It is written by one who has read assiduously the old chronicles and is not unacquainted with modern criticism. But as a narrative it is somewhat rambling and disconnected as well as lacking in perspective, and as a piece of English composition it is not what one could wish. The arrangement and writing are, indeed, amateurish to a degree that is often amusing and sometimes irritating. Nevertheless, if one can overlook the faults of manner, the book can be read with profit and entertainment. No reader will fail to get from it a sense of the colorful drama of the Spanish period.

### War Books

**AIR SERVICE A. E. F.** By H. A. Toulmin, Jr. Formerly Lieutenant-Colonel, Air Service, A. E. F., Chief of the Coordination Staff of the Air Service. With an Introduction by Jacques Louis Dumesnil, Formerly Under-Secretary of State for Aeronautics and Minister of Marine, Republic of France. The D. Van Nostrand Company, New York. \$6.

This weighty tome of 388 pages full of charts, graphs, air photographs of aviation depots, tables of organization, reports, and memoranda to and from the Chief of Air Service, General Mason M. Patrick (to whom it is dedicated), is not to be recommended to any but the hardest student of military aeronautics, one whose passion is for the intricate problems of organization and supply rather than for the thrill of aerial combat. One marvels at the author's industry in collating the mass of information that has gone into its preparation. It must indeed have been a labor of love—the object being to show that the failure of the Air Service was not due to its personnel, but to the lack of support at home, the failure of the Government to forward planes, cameras, and other material, thereby utterly crippling our program.

For example, the Rothermere-Foulois agreement signed in January, 1918, by which we engaged to manufacture Handley-Page planes to be used by our aviators especially trained in England for night bombardment work, resulted as follows: "On November 11, 1918, only eleven sets, more or less complete, of Handley-Page parts had been received at the factory in England. The lack of preparedness of the United States resulted in its humiliating failure to live up to its part of the program, and prevented the fulfillment of the night bombardment plans." Nevertheless, the forty-five squadrons in the field at the Armistice made a record of which we may well be proud, and the account of their exploits quoted from the official summary is one of the bright spots in a book that suffers from a plethora of statistics.

### Miscellaneous

**BOYS THEN AND NOW.** By William Allen White. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.25.

Somebody seems to have made a remark about the "good old days" in the presence of Kansas's most distinguished citizen, and in this slender book the m. d. c. very properly rips him up the back, while saying such nice things about the younger generation as might easily swell its giddy head. "The test of a civilization," says Mr. White, "is its treatment of youth. What did the good old days of the sixties, seventies, and eighties do for the boys of that time? And what are the new days doing

now?" He answers with a very well written sketch of his own childhood in Butler County, Kansas, and compares the dreary, dusty stupidity of a frontier town of the seventies with the bright fields and pastures new open to the modern boy through the kindness of the Y. M. C. A., the Y. M. H. A., the Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Clubs, the Boy Scouts, the State universities, and Carnegie libraries—all of which leaves the reader feeling as though he had just finished a brilliant and scathing denunciation of the practice of wearing bustles; that is, if any one has suggested that the average boy or girl, or man or woman, is not immeasurably better off than he would have been forty years ago, it has not been within range of any of the shell-like ears employed by *The Outlook*. There is a class of men, of course, for whom life can never again be as comfortable as it was between 1880 and 1900, when art was bad and food was good; that class which we must call, for lack of a less objectionable name, the gentry. In those days, if one had the money to buy and the breeding to know how to choose, life was easier, pleasanter, more leisurely—if, as we have said, one belonged to a certain class, and lived, not on the frontier, but in the midst of civilization.

"Boys Then and Now" takes up 43 pages of a 68-page book. The remainder is a biographical sketch of William Allen White, which should interest those who would like to know more about a man who has become a National figure by minding his own business and speaking his own mind.

### Books Received

**THE CITY WITHOUT JEWS.** By Hugo Bettauer. The Bloch Publishing Company, New York. \$2.

**THE THIRD BRITISH EMPIRE.** By Alfred Zimmern. The Oxford University Press, New York. \$2.

**NEIGHBORS NORTH AND SOUTH.** By Walter Lefferts. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$1.50.

**EDUCATION FOR A CHANGING CIVILIZATION.** By William Heard Kilpatrick. The Macmillan Company, New York.

**REALITY.** By Burnett Hillman Streeter. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

**ADVENTURES IN HABIT-CRAFT.** By Henry Park Schaffer. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.

**THE COMPLETE PLAYCRAFT BOOK.** By Patten Beard. The Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. \$2.50.

**STORIES IN STONE.** By Willis T. Lee. The D. Van Nostrand Company, New York. \$3.

**POVERTY AND DEPENDENCY.** By John Lewis Gillin. The Century Company, New York. \$4.

**THE OLD MAN IN THE SHADE.** By Malcolm J. Waldron. The Times-Mirror Press, Los Angeles.

**CENTURY READINGS IN THE ENGLISH ESSAY.** By Louis Wann. The Century Company, New York. \$3.50.

**THE AMHERST MEMORIAL VOLUME.** By Claude M. Fuess. Published by the College.

**THE HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT.** By Clarence Winthrop Bowen. Privately Printed by the Plimpton Press, Norwood, Mass.

**THE TIRED CHILD.** By Max Seham and Grete Seham. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$2.

**POLITICAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY.** By W. Jett Lauck. The Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York.

**A PERMANENT FAITH.** By William E. Hammond. The Judson Press, Philadelphia. \$2.

**FOAM.** By Mary Dixon Thayer. Dorrance & Co., Philadelphia. \$2.

**A WORKING FAITH.** By Charles Reynolds Brown. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C. \$1.50.

**WHEN THEY SHALL LEAD US HOME.** By George Klinge. The Morehouse Publishing Company, Milwaukee. \$2.

**SOCIAL PROGRESS.** By Ulysses G. Weatherly. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$3.

**GEORGIA AND THE UNION IN 1850.** By Richard Harrison Shryock. The Duke University Press, Durham, N. C. \$4.50.

**OMAR KHAYYAM, THE POET.** By T. H. Weir. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$1.50.

**STEPS IN INDUSTRY.** By Edmond E. Lincoln. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.



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