

modestly suggests that his task is "the literary equivalent of the Japanese art of arranging flowers." His material arbitrarily was defined as all English-speaking poets who died in the communion of the Church. Out of their work his choice is not limited to religious poetry. The material surely was ample. All our literature was Roman Catholic until the sixteenth century. Of poets since we will mention just the names of Dryden, Pope, Francis Thompson, Adelaide Procter, Alice Meynell, Oscar Wilde, John Boyle O'Reilly, to suggest the rich contents of this alluring anthology.

Gardening

MY GARDEN COMES OF AGE. By Julia H. Cummins. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.

The garden which Mrs. Cummins began twenty-one years ago lies among the foothills of the Adirondacks, where she and her family bought an abandoned farm, now converted into a charming all-the-year-round country home. True gardeners never weary of learning how somebody else has done it, whether or no the story suggests ideas that are practical for their own use. This simple and modest account of the success of an intelligent and persevering woman who started in ignorance and learned as she went along may well be helpful to some readers and interest many more.

Philosophy

THINKING ABOUT THINKING. By Cassius J. Keyser. (To-Day and To-Morrow Series.) E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$1.

All thinking, according to the author, is divided into two kinds—human and sub-human. The human kind is of course done only by *homo sapiens*; but it is of two markedly different varieties—first, the "autonomous or postulational" kind, and, second, the empirical, the sort with which all of us are most familiar. Though subhuman, otherwise subrational or hypological thinking, properly belongs to the lower animals, the human animal also uses it generously. Postulational thinking is the theme of the book. If so-and-so, then so-and-so, is its method, and Euclid was its first known demonstrator. Most of us, no doubt, believe that mankind has been using it in greater or less degree since the childhood of the race. Maybe so; but "as a thing come to maturity, as a full-grown procedure deliberately and systematically employed in the construction and criticism of doctrine," says the author, "postulational thinking . . . is a strictly modern activity." This stimulating little book will help you along the way of separating good postulates from bad ones and of handling both kinds to the ascertainment of valid conclusions.

Politics

THE AMERICAN SENATE. By Lindsay Rogers. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. \$2.50.

The main thesis of the author is that "the Senate is the only American institution so organized and articulated as to exert any supervision over the Executive, and this function would be impossible were the rules to provide for closure." The author means, of course, readily effective provision for closure; for closure may now be ordered by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The argument is presented ingeniously and with a certain vivaciousness. Of course, the idea that we must depend on Old Filibuster to exercise a salutary check on the Executive otherwise lacking to our system, is provocative of cosmic mirth; but no substitute is in sight. After all, the art of Filibustering is a genuine art, and it is one

of the arts in which we are supreme—the others being Murder and Sanctimoniousness. Washington hath desperate need of the Comic Spirit, with which the Art of Filibuster is informed. Moreover, the practice of that art makes for edification. The Senate could not be better employed than in listening to "Pilgrim's Progress." *Hoch* Old Filibuster!

THE TWILIGHT OF THE WHITE RACES. By Maurice Muret. Translated by Mrs. Touzalin. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$3.

M. Muret is a French representative of that school of writers, numbering Oswald Spengler in Germany, Dean Inge, and our American Lothrop Stoddard, which believes the supremacy of Europeans doomed; and in "The Twilight of the White Races" an exceedingly careful and comprehensive study is made of the many quarters where forces are at work to bring this result to pass—India, for instance, Africa, Japan, and the Mohammedan world. Americans must not miss this volume. It stresses our by no means slight share in the peril through the Negro question, the Monroe Doctrine, and the problems of the Pacific. But more than that! Again and again M. Muret cautiously asks if material supremacy is not eventually to pass from European hands because to-day the spiritual sanctions for political authority have been undermined—of which process he gives two crying examples, Russian Communism and our own President Wilson's democratic idealism. Did not the world publicity given to the latter help "the love of the universe to destroy the love of the country"? Always underlying the outward dangers to our supremacy, this wise Frenchman suggests the deeper plot working of the struggle in our own minds to keep the balance between the chief duty, firmness, and the cordial, Christian, friendly duties. This is a thought-provoking volume. If its author is a moderate, he will be found by no means a wholly hopeless follower of Valery's words, "Civilization is as fragile as life."

Biography

CRASHING THUNDER: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN INDIAN. Edited by Paul Radin. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$2.50.

This personal document appeared some years ago as an ethnological paper in a university publication. Its broad appeal has been recognized, and it is now given to the general public. A Winnebago Indian tells in his own way his life story, and Dr. Radin translates it just as it was told. It is an absorbing story as well as an important contribution to ethnology. Other autobiographies of Indians have appeared, but all of them have been dressed up to suit the white man's taste. This account is realistic and authentic, and for the first time the reader is enabled to see an Indian from the inside. He is not, it is true, a typical Indian, since he was until his conversion a rake and a scamp, ready for any adventure which promised him drink and women. He must have sorely grieved the more conventional members of his family and tribe. But his rearing, his environment, and his education were thoroughly Indian, and so is his intractable aloofness from the white man's thought and way of life. Converted to the cult of the peyote-eaters, and now blessed with a wife and a baby, he is still an "unreconstructed" Indian. A strange blend of the more amiable features of savagery, lighted up with the colorful visions induced by chewing the cactus "button"—the whole topped off with a few precepts and ideas from Christianity—is this peyote cult. But if *Crashing Thunder* is to be believed, it works nothing but good, and all its devotees "are getting

along nicely." This book ought to find a wide circle of readers.

THE LETTERS OF WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER. Edited by Charles Downer Hazen. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$5.

Letters of an American scholar. Author of "The Dawn of Italian Independence," the lives of Cavour, Washington, John Hay, and Roosevelt, as well as of other books. Thayer was a vigorous and refreshing writer of letters to his friends. The book will give no pleasure to those who believe that the Germans were a guiltless and martyred nation during the war.

Sociology

MAN IS WAR. By John Carter. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. \$3.50.

That man is by nature a bellicose animal, and that the world will find peace only when he is extinct, is the thesis of the book. It is an interesting thesis, and one eagerly scans the arguments and data for confirmatory evidence. It cannot be said that the evidence is convincing. Pretty much everything that man says and does apparently makes for armed strife. Capitalism is war; "proletarchy," theocracy, and a score more of "isms" and "ocracies" all tend in the same direction; and the activities of the League of Nations merely "befog the real issue." It appears that "the springs of conflict cannot be eliminated through institutions, but through reform of the individual human being, and that is a task which has baffled the highest theologians for two thousand years." Yet the thesis is not maintained with absolute rigor throughout; on page 15 is an implication that man may some time "master himself" and thus bring peace. One must regret the number of reckless generalizations and careless statements regarding known facts. The "two million members" of the Socialist Party of the United States at the time of its greatest strength before the war would be more in accord with the records of the party if they were whittled down to 117,984 (1912); and there are many more such blunders, including the date given for Debs's imprisonment and the statement regarding the present relations of the American Federation of Labor to the International Federation of Trade Unions.

The Drama

TRANSLATIONS AND TOMFOOLERIES. By Bernard Shaw. Brentano's, New York. \$2.

One play translated from the German, together with half a dozen amusing original trifles by Mr. Shaw, such as "The Admirable Bashville" and "Press Cuttings." A prophecy: Fifty years hence Bernard Shaw will be known as the most brilliant writer of farce and farce-comedy of his half-century in England. During part of his lifetime, by paradox and by invariably disagreeing with popular opinion, right or wrong, he succeeded in making thousands of gullible people acclaim him as a social and political prophet and a profound thinker.

THE BEST PLAYS OF 1925-26. By Burns Mantle. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$3.

For the seventh time the distinguished critic of the "Daily News" is bringing out his annual of the drama, this one differing little in make-up from its predecessors. Burns Mantle has reprinted, in greatly condensed form, ten plays that he considers outstanding hits of the season: "Craig's Wife," "The Great God Brown," "The Green Hat," "The Dybbuk," "The Enemy," "The Last of Mrs. Cheney," "The Bride of the Lamb," "Young Woodley," "The Butter and Egg Man," and "The Wisdom Tooth." There are photographs from each of these, and the usual tables giving the casts and brief summaries of the 263 more or less

fugitive pieces that invaded the New York stage in the past year. "Where and When They Were Born" tells us that Cyril Maude is a London contemporary of the Battle of Antietam, and other interesting facts, and there are, besides Burns Mantle's own summary of the New York season, brief articles on the past year in Chicago, San Francisco, and southern California. It is a book well worth the attention of people with more than a passing interest in the drama.

History

EIGHT YEARS WITH WILSON'S CABINET (1913-1920). By David F. Houston. 2 vols. Doubleday, Page & Co. \$10.

Ex-Secretary Houston's account of the Wilson Administration is largely a contemporaneous record, printed as the entries were set down at the time. It was Colonel House who chose Mr. Houston, a political unknown, and his reluctance to accept the place was such that it was overborne only by the repeated insistence of the President-elect. Perhaps it is true, as asserted by the publishers, that "no other living man knows so much about Woodrow Wilson" as does the author. Yet the contact of the two men, apart from that occasioned by their official duties, appears to have been of the slightest, and the account bears witness to the fact that Wilson had no real familiars. The only evidence of his personal affection that the author is able to chronicle is a fervent "Houston, old man, God bless you," spoken at parting. Of revelations regarding the inner politics of the Administration there are few. The evidence is plentiful that the author had an exceedingly poor opinion of Bryan, and there is enough to show that he had no high regard for the abilities of Mr. Lansing. Though the President's break with Colonel Harvey is treated at some length, that with Colonel House is dismissed with a mere reference. A considerable part of the book is given to an estimate of Wilson. The language is that of panegyric. The author does not, however, assume that his estimate will be accepted, either in full or in great measure, by others. It is admittedly tentative, and may be revised as he gets new side-lights from the President's other friends, from his critics, and from new materials.

Music

READ 'EM AND WEEP. The Songs You Forgot to Remember. By Sigmund Spaeth. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. \$4.

One of the jolliest books of the year: a history and compilation of the old sentimental favorites among American songs. The words, a few bars of music, and one or two amusing paragraphs about the song, its occasion, and its writer. Whether your recollection goes back to the Dreadful Decade of the '70's; to the Elegant Eighties; to the Mauve Decade of Mr. Beer; or merely to the 1900's described by Mark Sullivan, you will enjoy this book, and its illustrations. Excellent to take to a house party or to a summer camp.

MY ADVENTURES IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF MUSIC. By Henry T. Finck. The Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York. \$5.

Henry T. Finck, whose sudden death occurred on the eve of the publication of this book, was the author of many volumes, chiefly on musical themes, and for over forty years musical critic of the "Evening Post" of New York. His unique and courageous criticisms, often in the face of opposition, made his name one to "either swear by or swear at." Mr. Finck's hard fight to make Wagner popular in New York is well known, his success being largely due to his insistence in making Anton Seidl conductor of the opera. Seven years of German opera, however, were enough for New York, even though conducted by the great

Seidl, and the managers, Abbey and Grau, brought over a group of illustrious artists "to break the Wagner spell"—Jean and Edouard de Reszke, Lassalle, Eames, Melba, Nordica, Calvé, Sembrich, and others. Nor did they hesitate to present several prima donnas in one cast, courageously shouldering all-star casts, commonly with profit. Who can forget the ideal cast of "Faust," with Eames, the de Reszke brothers, and Lassalle; "Romeo and Juliette," with the same singers; Calvé in "Carmen," with an all-star cast; "Lohengrin," with Eames—the ideal Elsa—and Jean de Reszke; and "Tristan," with Nordica and Jean de Reszke?

Mr. Finck gleefully relates "the great Jean de Reszke joke." Jean, supreme in French opera, and brought over to throw Wagner in the shade, became a powerful champion of Wagner. "And now comes the joke—he made Wagner fashionable," and the special society nights were those in which Jean sang a Wagner rôle. The greatest Romeo became the "prince of Tristans."

Other opera fights Mr. Finck had. "I think I never fought harder for a thing than I did for the emancipation of 'Parsifal,'" he writes. It was denounced as an "immoral, irreligious, quite nearly blasphemous work." And it will be remembered that Wagner's widow, considering that she held the monopoly of the opera, charged Conried with theft in producing it in America, and brought suit against him, which he won.

Mr. Finck was a musical epicure, liking only the best and rejecting, without question, what gave him no pleasure. In these naturally told and delightfully frank reminiscences the reader comes to know well a unique and magnetic personality.

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Conducted by WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD

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per inquiry will be made for this special service. The Financial Editor regrets that he cannot undertake the discussion of more than five issues of stocks or bonds in reply to any one inquirer. All letters should be addressed to THE OUTLOOK FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, 120 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.

Two Letters

IN a kind of New Year's message to the readers of this department we tried to tell what this department is and what it is not. Now comes one of our good friends with a most illuminating letter to tell us what we *ought* to be of the greatest service to the typical investor. We are printing this letter and our answer to it because—

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