

The Thousandfold Thrill of Life

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days; but they prove to be of a quite comprehensible kind, and emanate from an honestly inquiring mind, of conservative ideals, yet without intolerance of unaccepted modernities. Its lighter side, especially the biographies of the author's consecutive and highly individual cats, afford especially agreeable reading.

THE MINIATURE. By Eden Phillpotts. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.25. Mr. Eden Phillpotts is an author whose work falls naturally into three divisions, but not the usual Early, Middle, and Later Periods. They might, perhaps, be called Solid Devon, Ingenious Mystery, and Fanciful Greek; and they are so widely different that an admirer of any one of them might easily find the others not at all to his taste. We must admit that hitherto our own appreciation of the third variety has been no more than tepid. But "The Miniature" is an amusing satire—Greek, but not of Hellas; it concerns Olympus and the whole world-the wide, wide world as Man conceives it; the miniature toy, the experimental plaything, as it appears to the gods. "Only yesterday," reports Ares eagerly of our ancestral simian, "I saw one of the creatures beat his mate. That is nothing; but the significant thing was he took a stick to do it with! Here is a momentous happening, for when a living thing has learned to beat his wife with a stick, we may confidently affirm that Man is in sight." Thence, in 125 brief pages, the story of humanity is carried forward through the ages to the moment when the great German scientist, Herr Professor Stringer, successfully, finally, and conclusively splits the atom. The gods, in discussing the entertaining little earthly experiment of Father Zeus, often talk quite delightfully in character, but at other times their discourse, especially that of the Thunderer himself, is more Voltairean than Olympian.

SONG OF LIFE. By Fannie Hurst. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. \$2.50.

Before reviewing this group of short stories one finds it necessary to pause and pick over one's stock of adjectives with some care; and the more one picks and pokes, the more those two old time-worn standbys "vital" and "gripping" work up to the top of the heap and fit so exactly that if they were less familiar one would pounce upon them with exultation. Here are indeed nine vital and gripping stories, from which two rise pre-eminent—"Mada-gascar Ho" and "The Gold in Fish." Especially vivid are the Goldfish family, whom the successful and aspiring Morris Goldfish desires to transform into the Fish family because there are Stuyvesant Fishes and Hamilton Fishes and other choice breeds of Fish, and a Fish that wasn't conspicuously Gold might be supposed to belong to any one of them. Only one Goldfish rebels, and that is Birdie. Birdie Goldfish is a heroine to whom any reader ought to be proud to be introduced. She is big, awkward, tasteless, unbeautiful, common in her manners, but one could forgive her much more than that for the sake of the scene in which, summoning with heartbroken gallantry one comic reminiscence after another of their old days of happy poverty, she cheers and consoles the old father, homesick amid alien elegances, until he slips comforted and laughing across the threshold of another and a better world -a world where possibly not all Fish are angelically present as flying Fish, and Goldfish such as she sport golden halos.

THE EYE OF LUCIFER. By Frederic F. Van de Water. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$2.

This is a rattling good story. The mystery centers around that all-too familiar property, a magnificent Oriental stage jewel with a curse upon it; in this case it has also, like a rapidly increasing cabinetful of fictional gems, belonged to the un-

happy Imperial family of Russia. But the likeness to the usual thing ends there. There is, for one thing, no detective in the book, amateur or professional. The rookie hero and his friend the sergeant are both New York State troopers, fine fellows of a likable and credible sort. All the charac. ters stand out clearly-even the nice heroine is not colorless—and there is often a pleasant, unforced humor in their por-trayal. Mr. Van de Water has the advantage of ample first-hand knowledge of the State troopers, and his picture of their life and methods possesses verity as well as spirit.

History

THE WORLD CRISIS, 1916-1918. By the Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill, M.P. 2 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$10.

These are the concluding volumes of Mr. Churchill's remarkable history of the Great War. Chapters on Verdun, the Battle of Jutland, the entrance of America into the war, and of the final days, with the collapse of the German power, are written by an observer who was also a statesman possessed of a genuine literary style. The books will receive further comment either in this or another part of The Outlook.

THE RHINELAND OCCUPATION. By Henry T. Allen, Major-General, U. S. A. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. \$5.

It might almost seem that General Allen's main object in writing this book was to give full expression to an almost unqualified disapproval of French policy and methods with respect to the occupation of German territory. Doubtless the General had no such purpose; but there's not a great deal of importance in the volume outside the criticism of the French. The General seems temperamentally unsympathetic with the French. No doubt some of his strictures are just, but there was much to admire in the French conduct under his observation, and to this he must have been blind; else, being a fair man, he would have made some reference thereto by way of offsetting the strictures. The narrative lacks color, pictorial quality, and grace of style. Let us call it an able report, the value whereof is to be discounted upon a consideration of the temperamental defect noted.

Biography

REVERIES OVER CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH AND THE TREMBLING OF THE VELL. By William Butter Yeats. The Macmillan Com-pany, New York. \$3.50.

"The Trembling of the Veil" is well named. It is doubtful if for any other poet than William Butler Yeats the veil of the temple would sway in the same remarkable manner, "the evidence of things not seen" projecting itself so calmly upon things seen. The first part, "Reveries," is devoted to recollections of childhood and early boyhcoa, and of them he says "he has con-sulted neither friend, nor letter, nor old The Irish fishing village of newspaper." Sligo formed the colorful nucleus of those early days. As he tells the story of his youth, he does it in an old-fashioned and dispassionate way, rendering to every man his due, seemingly untroubled alike by good and evil. Passions he undoubtedly possessed, but they appear to have been submerged. Of the Yeats family he says: "We have ideas and no passions, but by marriage with a Pollexfen we have given a tongue to the sea cliffs." Much of the "Reveries" is given to Memory Harbor, to ships and the sea and his extraordinary old grandfather. And what more wonderful than the sea! "I have walked on Sinbad's yellow shore and never shall another hit my fancy."

In "Four Years" his discipleship with Henley began: "I disagreed with him about words." Oscar Wilde, too, enters the ring, and William Morris with his pictorial life

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and art, but the notable master of the group was Henley. With Ernest Rhys he founded the "Rhymers Club," "meeting in an ancient eating-house called the Cheshire Cheese," numbering among its members Lionel Johnson and Richard Le Gallienne. Yeats's growing interest in the Theosophists led him to seek out Madame Blavatsky, "a sort of old Irish peasant woman with an air of humor and audacious power." But, towering above Madame Blavatsky, rose the figure of Macgregor Mathers, author of the "Kabbala Unveiled." Through the symbolic system of this strange man, "the visible world would com-pletely vanish, and that world, summoned by the symbol, take its place." We feel the veil of that invisible world settling every minute more firmly on Yeats's shoulders. The next chapter contains the founding of the "Irish Literary Society," friendship with John O'Leary, head of the Fenian Brotherhood, and the doings of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, rival of the Society. George Russell (Æ.) is described with tenderness. "He was always surrounded with a little group of infirm or unlucky persons, whom he explained to themselves and to others, turning cat to griffin, goose to swan."

In "Hodos Chameliontos" is some of the most exquisite writing in the book, mainly on the subject of visions. "I had not taken up these subjects willfully, nor through love of strangeness, nor love of excitement, nor because I found myself in some experimental circle, but because unaccountable things had happened in my childhood, and because of an ungovernable craving." Here, too, Yeats gives that incomparable definition of genius: "I know now that revelation is from the self, but from that age-long memoried self, that shapes the elaborate shell of the mollusc; that genius is a crisis that joins the buried self for certain moments to our trivial daily mind."

It is on that high note of mystical beauty that the interesting part of the reminiscence draws to a close. The last two chapters move one far less. This one is the very embodiment of the Celtic spirit— "such vision as is old enough to have been sung by men half asleep or riding upon a journey." Yeats and Lady Gregory are notably among those who revived that sleeping spirit, and Yeats moves gently and wistfully throughout the whole book.

SAMUEL BUTLER AND HIS FAMILY RELA-TIONS. By Mrs. R. S. Garnett, E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$3.75.

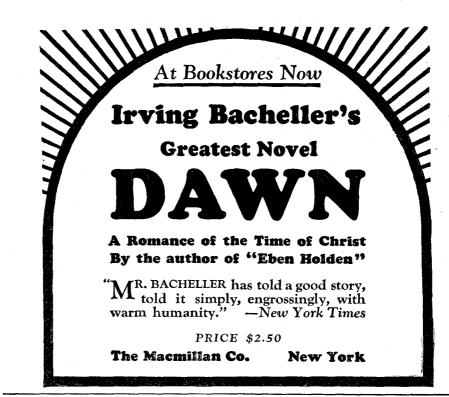
More about the author of "The Way of All Flesh," presenting the family's side of the controversy between the author and his kinsfolk.

THE GREAT GOOD MAN. By W. E. Barton. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. \$2.50.

This one-volume life of Lincoln is written for boys, and so Dr. Barton rightly puts to the front the picturesque incidents in Lincoln's career, and especially in the pioneer days of his boyhood. The political and war-time periods are described, however, in good proportion, and always clearly. Dr. Barton's standing as the most thorough examiner of every detail in the Lincoln literature and his own contributions thereto assure the authenticity of this excellent biography.

A REPORTER FOR LINCOLN. By Ida M. Tarbell. The Macmillan Company, New York. 60c.

A true story, and one that brings out Lincoln's homely kindliness and instinctive recognition of truth and courage. Henry Wing was a young "Tribune" reporter at the front. Just after Grant had crossed the Rapidan in 1864 his army was "lost" that is, days passed without reports. Wing got the first news through, refused to talk and spoil his "Tribune" beat, and just escaped being hanged by Stanton. Lincoln



heard of him, saved his life, got him to Washington, and talked the boy into friendly confidence. "There will be no turning back," Grant had told Wing. From that time the President and the boy were friends and Wing was a devoted and trusted reporter to Lincoln of conditions of the army's morale. The story was told at the time, but will be new to most readers. Miss Tarbell knew Wing. The narrative is dramatic.

Criminology

THE STORY OF SCOTLAND YARD. By George Dilnot. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

History of police and detective work in London from the days of the old "Bow Street Runners" down to the modern scientific organization of the Criminal Investigation Department. Historically thorough, although not extraordinarily readable. It is 340 pages in length.

Poems

THE SECOND CONNING TOWER BOOK. Edited by Franklin P. Adams. Macy-Masius, New York. \$2.

Verses published in 1926—and earlier in F. P. A.'s column in the New York "World." Contributions by Clement Wood, Dorothy Parker, Maxwell Anderson, Witter Bynner, W. R. Benét, Elinor Wylie, Christopher Morley, and others. The dedication is worthy of notice.

YESTERDAY AND TODAY. A Collection of Verse. Selected by Louis Untermeyer. Harccurt, Brace & Co., New York. \$2.50.

A book of poems—chiefly modern—for the young, and the young in heart. There are many anthologies, but one so good as this is never one too many. This has many odd and unusual selections, which alone would make it a desirable book.

THE OXFORD BOOK OF EIGHTEENTH CEN-TURY VERSE. Chosen by David Nichol Smith. The Oxford University Press, New York. \$3.75.

English poetry during the century in which it turned from satire to romance.

Religion

TWELVE MODERN APOSTLES AND THEIR CREEDS. Duffield & Co., New York. \$2.50.

These frank appreciations of various Christian communions are given each by a man who believes in his doctrine. In introducing the series Dean Inge (why do the title-page and Foreword call him the Rt. Rev.?) wisely prophesies as to Christianity's future. Roman Catholicism has

In writing to the above advertiser please mention The Outlook

the rosier material outlook. An alliance between it and the Soviet is not impossible, thinks the Dean, with the latter compromising its Communism into Socialism. From Protestantism will come most surely that inner, spiritual religion which is Christianity's essence. But neither branch will conquer the world too soon, nor too completely. "It is a very hard thing to be a Christian!" The papers by members of the various churches are written in sympathy toward the contributions made by rivals, but in conviction of the worthwhileness of their own communions. G. K. Chesterton's is the best we have seen of his many presentations of the claims of Roman Catholicism. Carl Van Doren makes admissions that raise him rather above the "Unbeliever" he styles himself. There is a paper on "Mormonism" by Sen-ator Reed Smoot. The other contributors ator Reed Smoot. The other contributors are Bishop Slattery, Episcopalian; Henry Sloane Coffin, Presbyterian; Nathan Söder-blum, Lutheran; Edgar Young Mullins, Baptist; Rufus Jones, Quaker; Frank Ma-son North, Methodist; Dr. Jefferson, Congregationalist; Dr. Crothers, Unitarian.

Sociology

SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION. By Cecil Clare North, Professor of Sociology in Ohio State University. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C. \$2.50.

Social differences classified by rank, culture, age, and sex. The study of the privileged classes, of democracy, and of various types of differentiation. A scholarly work which is also readable.

Humor

LETTERS OF A SELF-MADE DIPLOMAT TO HIS PRESIDENT. By Will Rogers. Boni & Liveright, New York. \$2.

Lately it is the fashion to complain that Will Rogers is not as funny in print as in the Follies. It has been pointed out more than once that his short, jerky sentences are awkward and even annoying when we cannot see the spinning rope that whipped them into rhythm. This has all been said, and it is true, but at that there are few of us who can't tell a funnier story than they can write, and there are a good many pages here to wranch an involuntary giggle from a reader.

The subject of all this, as those who have seen the "Saturday Evening Post". will remember, is Will Rogers's recent trip to Europe, and his observations on that well-known continent. He visited both

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