

Foreign Literature

A Schnitzler Masterpiece

FRAULEIN ELSE. By ARTHUR SCHNITZLER. Vienna: Paul Zsolnay Verlag. 1925.

Reviewed by I. W. G. RANDALL

IN that well-known work of reference, Geissler's "Führer durch die Deutsche Literatur," the editor, referring to Arthur Schnitzler's dramas of Viennese life, said, "By 1925 all these fashions will be extinct." He could not have known—the work was published in 1912—that his prophecy would be fulfilled not only by the changes of fashion, but by the very extinction of that Vienna to which Schnitzler devoted his most brilliant wit, his most sparkling dialogue, and his unrivalled gift for psychological analysis. The "Anatol" playlets—what a keen remembrance we have of them before the war, when nothing seemed to mirror as brightly as they the amorous badinage, the lighthearted flirtation, the mock and almost passionless intrigue of the Hapsburgs' capital—the longer plays, such as "Dr. Bernhardi," which showed Schnitzler both as doctor—his original profession—and as serious protester against what he conceived to be political jobbery—these no longer sparkle so brightly, for they have ceased to be a mirror and have become an historical picture, and at that a picture to which the youngest among us may well require a key.

But if the Vienna of before 1914 no longer serves Schnitzler as subject for effective drama, human beings remain, also the artist's amazing technique, more and more directed, in the last ten years, to the art in which, in our opinion, he will go down to posterity, the art of prose-fiction. "Fräulein Else" is the latest example of this side of his genius, a short story which you may put side by side with "Un Coeur Simple" and not regret the comparison, after making allowance for the difference in the genius of the two languages. This apart, the technical mastery, the superb economy of words, the perfect unity of form, the illusion of vitality of both works stand practically on an equality. Fräulein Else is a young girl, staying at a fashionable hotel in the Tyrol. In a hundred or so pages of monologue—the sustaining of which shows Schnitzler, the constructor, at his best—she tells us all about herself, her family, her emotions, her outlook on life, her criticism of her environment. Her parents are wealthy, but she has seen through them, through the instability of her father, the indulgent weakness of her mother. And when she hears that her father will be faced with imprisonment—he is a lawyer and has used his client's money—unless a large sum is secured in a few days, it is nothing less than we expected. Her mother asks her to obtain it from Herr von Dorsday, a friend of the family who is staying in the same hotel. Yielding to an access of generosity toward her parents, crushing out her love for her cousin, which she feels this step will compromise, she asks Herr von Dorsday for the money. He will give it, but only at a price—she must come, Monna Vanna-like, to his room or to the forest, where he will feast his lustful eyes upon her. She promises, but in desperation—for this is the end of her youthful dreams of happy lovemaking—prepares a dose of veronal. She comes down in search of Dorsday; the orchestra is playing Schumann's "Carneval"; she faints, and falls as dead, a sensational scandal. She is brought to her room by friends, but manages to secure the veronal. And so this intense little drama ends, carried through practically entirely in the words of its chief figure. Yet what a world of viciousness, weakness, futility, and pitiful sacrifice of youth we are allowed to see, through her eyes. Schnitzler has never written anything to surpass this, and there are very few short stories in the world's literature we should care to place above it.

Foreign Notes

Two plays that have recently made their appearance are interesting not alone as dramas but as *obiter dicta*, as it were, on the recent history of the Central Empires. Arthur Schnitzler's "Komödie der Verführung" (Berlin: Fischer), a comedy in its author's accustomed vein, is also a portrayal of Vienna in the weeks immediately preceding the war, after the issuance of the ultimatum to Serbia, and as such acquires significance as a reflection of the mood of the Austrian nation in the fatal days before the onset of the world struggle. Ludwig Fulda's "Die Gegenkandidaten" (Stuttgart: Cotta'sche Buchandlung Nachfolger),

on the other hand, depicts Republican Germany in the confusion of an election campaign. Its theme is amusing, the contest between a husband and wife who through some accident are nominated for the same office, and whose early courtesy toward each other as political opponents gradually, under the insistence of their party organizations, turns to bitter rivalry. The chief interest of the play, however, for the non-German reader lies in the light it throws on the political machinery of present-day Germany.

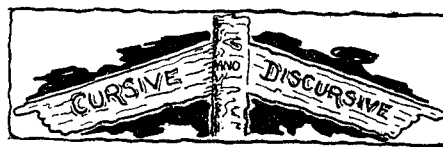
In "Divagaciones Apasionadas" (Madrid: Caro Raggio) Pío Baroja brings together some general critical lectures, a few essays in dramatic criticism, and an account of the Carlist *cabeilla* Santa Cruz. Though containing no work of profound or searching character the volume is interesting.

Under the editorship of Guido Adler the Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt has just issued a stout volume, entitled "Handbuch der Musikgeschichte," which should prove of great value to all students of music. The book is a history of its subject, dealing not with personalities but with developments, and its various chapters have been contributed by authorities in their different fields. It covers the annals of music from the earliest times to the present day.

A book that should command the attention of workers in the mediæval field has just made its appearance in R. Menendez Pidal's "Poesía Juglaresca y Juglares" (Madrid: Revista de Filología Española). The book deals entirely with the Spanish *jugar*, the singer and musician. It is characterized by broad and understanding scholarship, subtlety, and humor.

In the second number of *Commerce*, the new periodical, Léon-Paul Fargue protests with some vehemence against the literary exoticism of his friends Morand, Giraudoux, and Valéry Larbaud, in whose novels and short stories the sleeping-car and the big caravanserai too often serve not only as a background, but as the actual *raison d'être* of the whole work. The Ritz and Majestic hotels, he says, have become "*des bouillottes de littérature diplomatique*." "Beware of too many quotations in English, Italian or Spanish," he adds: "You make me think of a hotel-porter pasting labels on luggage. . . . If the port de la Villette or the Canal St. Martin were located in Venice or Amsterdam, you would think them admirable; but you do not even know them. . . ." Fargue aptly recalls that when he wrote his "Bateau Ivre," Rimbaud, the boy-poet, had never seen the sea. . . .

In his "Hans Holbein d. J.: Zeichnungen" (Basel: Schwabe) Curt Glaser has furnished a study of the artist which is deserving of high praise. Confining itself to the discussion of Holbein's drawings, it traces the development of the artist's genius, presenting brilliant commentary on individual works but never losing sight of the larger aspects of its thesis.



By THE PHOENICIAN

"THIS man is funny! Peculiarly enough, this man is *darn* funny!" we said to ourselves, a third through the book. No, we weren't speaking of Ring Lardner's new "What of It?" You all know that Ring is funny, that he is a man who speaks as no one else does for the illiterate American, that, as Edmund Wilson has said, "nobody else could reproduce his essence." But "What of It?" has struck us as Lardner in his off-hours. It bears no comparison to his "How to Write Short Stories." Most of it has appeared piecemeal, with the appropriate trumpetings of "Now listen to the Funny Man!" in garish magazines. We found that we had read almost all of it before, and the best of it was therefore, to us, but a memory of certain chuckles. However, the letters of the bushier, Jack Keefe, how Ring and the Mrs. hit "The Big Town," and "Gullible's Travels," are now published in a fashion uniformly chaste, and, if you are marshalling an utterly American library, you can't afford to overlook Ring's collected works. * * * But what we were starting to speak of was "A Cuckoo in the Nest" by Ben Travers. William McFee, it seems, knows who Ben Travers is. We don't. Bill persuaded Doubleday, Page that Ben Travers was funny, and he *is* funny. At least, to judge by "A Cuckoo in the Nest." Bill also persuaded Doubleday to the extent of their bringing out three of Travers's light novels at one burst, the aforesaid "Cuckoo," "Rookery Nook," and "The Dippers." As you may surmise, Ben Travers is a Briton. Imagine one of our native humorists persuading any British publisher to bring out three of his books at one time! And that is no gibe at our native humorists, either! * * * Of course, we started in on Travers with the determination to find him only so-so, and the start of "The Cuckoo" we found rather a plod. With Ring Lardner, even when he's boiling the pot, you get rapid-fire right from the start. Like all English humor Travers's has a slow wind-up, and the man seems to have far more control than speed, till suddenly you find yourself really smiling. After that you don't need a business office broadside to tell you to keep it up. * * * It is interesting to learn that Donald Ogden Stewart has been having his private try at the Great American Satire. We remember that some time ago Don let us infer that he was at work on a novel, not altogether a humorous or fantastic work like "Perfect Behavior" or "Aunt Polly's Story" or the "Parody Outline" or the hegira of the Haddocks. And now here comes an announcement of "The Crazy Fool," from the Bonis. It will appear the middle of June. The middle class life of our industrial age is, we will bet a hat, in for a belting. And we have an idea that Don will be extremely deft with the scorpion whip. * * * Stewart is an eccentric whose development we have been watching

with special attention. He is a good popular humorist, but he refuses to stay put as a professional one. *Joie de vivre* is his middle name, but he perceives the significance of that spirit in the youngest generation. He reminds us a little of certain Shakespearean fools, whose words were wisdom as well as antickry. His "serious novel" is sure to be anything but serious and yet a good deal more serious than you suspect. * * * But before we got started on Travers we had finished F. Scott Fitzgerald's latest, "The Great Gatsby." It is certainly the best novel Scott has yet written. You can't lay it down, as they say, and the characters are all alive and convincing. Chapter II is masterly realism, and the last chapters of the story, involving such melodrama as you realize life involves according to the evidence of your daily paper, are most satisfyingly and ironically handled. There are passages throughout the book that stir one's admiration for Fitzgerald's remarkable natural facility as a concatenator of phrase. Certain felicities have not been achieved by taking thought—the words coruscate with the spontaneous spark. And the story has a firm structure. * * * Fulton Oursler, whose "Behold This Dreamer" we never read, is graphic also, in "Sandalwood." His story is interesting in structure. But first he bores and annoys you by a clumsy cataloguing of unnecessary detail, in the inception of his story, and then by the character of his heroine. There is a decided second-rateness about Faith Waring, evidently greatly admired by the author, that mitigates our sympathy. She and Eddie Carpenter actually call each other "Pan" and "Melisande." * * * Stephen McKenna, having finished with Sonia, has turned to light comedy. "An Affair of Honour" will furnish you with genteel entertainment. * * * The latest addition to the Borzoi Uniform Edition of *Arthur Machen*, is the long-out-of-print "Dr. Stiggins," for which Machen has written a new and characteristic introduction. * * * We have heard good things about Meade Minnigerode's "Lives and Times," especially in regard to his sketch of Theodosia Burr. * * * We gave three volumes resulting from the Charles Boardman Hawes Memorial Prize Contest to our small boy to read, and he reported that *Sublette's* "The Scarlet Cockerel" was "Fine! Oh Boy!" and intimated that *Alfred H. Bell's* "The Clutch of the Corsican" and *Henry A. Pulsford's* "Old Brig's Cargo" were also of no inconsiderable merit. Thus the judgment of eleven years some months, from one already thoroughly soaked in the romances of *Robert Louis Stevenson!* * * * *Alice Brown*, having of late become interested in mystery stories, creates in Ann Hale, a New England spinster of sixty, a character in "The Mysteries of Ann" that baffles detectives. * * * We have now finished the remarkably good job that *Van Wyck Brooks* has made of "The Pilgrimage of *Henry James*," and it led us to picking up second-hand a copy of "Washington Square" in order to settle back for a pleasant evening. Doubly so because the copy we annexed is ornamented by the original illustrations of 1880. * * * And so for the "pleasant evening!"

Just Out—New Novel by CROSBIE GARSTIN

"One of the best of living romance writers."

—N. Y. Herald Tribune

By the author of "The Owls' House"
A Swinging Tale of Daring Deeds
of piracy, smuggling, high romance

Fifth Large Printing

THE OWLS' HOUSE

HIGH NOON

Packed with adventure, drenched in color, this new tale sweeps the reader back more than a century and tells the further adventures of the merry-hearted, chivalrous Ortho Penhale, whose amazing experiences involve fierce sea battles in the West Indies, smuggling off the Cornish Coast, slave-running, life in the jungle—and lovemaking.

HIGH NOON

Two Large Printings Before Publication!

Each, \$2.00 at all bookshops. Boxed together as a set, \$4.00.

Publishers

FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY

New York

"A whale of an adventure story!" says F. F. V. in the N. Y. Herald-Tribune, and selects the story from the two hundred read during the year as "one of the eleven books that have interested me most." Everything to make a good yarn is here—smuggling, horse trading with gypsies, pirating off the Barbary Coast, fighting galleons.

*An Important Event***THE
FUGGER
NEWS LETTERS***Edited by Victor von Klarwill
Translated by Pauline de Chary*

This remarkable book is a collection of letters sent to the great Banking House of Fugger by its correspondents in the Fifteenth Century from Paris, London, Rome, Venice, Genoa and other great capitals.

It is the first European record of news gathering and presents for the first time eye-witness accounts of the St. Bartholomew Massacre, the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, the defeat of the Armada, the death of the Cenci, and many other events.

The *Christian Science Monitor* says:

"Every outstanding event of the day was 'covered' by Count Philip's intelligent and credible eye-witnesses. There was no need to 'dig up' startling events. They flared up ready-made on all sides. It was a restless epoch, resplendent for the modern poet and historian, who from a distance can mark the birth and growth of newer and freer thought."

\$6.00

**GUGLIELMO
FERRERO**

greatest of living Roman historians, has written biography of the first magnitude in

**The Women of
the Caesars**

When history dismisses, with a casual reference, the women whose power played so great a part in the Roman Empire, Ferrero resurrects them, and tells the stories of their colorful lives. Their intrigues, ambitions and influence in shaping the destinies of the Caesars make fascinating reading. This volume belongs with your copies of "Marie Antoinette" and "The Life and Times of Cleopatra." With 47 illustrations.

\$3.75

**JULES J.
JUSSERAND**

distinguished diplomat and scholar, is the author of this new volume of essays,

**The School for
Ambassadors**

Readers need no introduction to His Excellency Jules J. Jusserand; for years they have known him, or known of him, as the accomplished and charming doyen of the Diplomatic Corps in Washington. Highly gifted as an ambassador, he is no less gifted as an author, and his "Literary History of the English People" has long been recognized as a work of prime importance in the field of literary criticism and interpretation. In this new volume, M. Jusserand devotes his opening essay to diplomacy, its ramifications and some of its greatest exponents. The whole book is suave and charming . . . the worthy expression of so respected a diplomat.

\$3.50

*For sale at all booksellers, or at
Putnams, 2 West 45th Street,
just west of 5th Avenue*

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
New York London

The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Art

PRACTICAL GRAPHIC FIGURES. By E. G. Lutz. Scribners. \$2.
THE PORTRAITS OF INCREASE MATHER. By Kenneth B. Murdock. Cleveland, O.: In private distribution by William Gwinn Mather.
WOODCUTS. By Edward Gordon Craig. Small, Maynard. \$3 net.

Belles Lettres

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN LIBERTY AND EQUALITY. By ARTHUR TWINING HADLEY. Houghton Mifflin. 1925.
In April, 1924, President Emeritus Hadley delivered three lectures on the Sest Foundation at Leland Stanford University, which are here embodied in this volume. That foundation was established for addresses and publications on "Immortality, Human Conduct, and Human Destiny" and the three lectures here printed are entitled, respectively, "Industrial Problems and Political Ideals," "The Uses and Dangers of Property Right," and "The Uses and Dangers of Representative Government." It is apparent that these touch closely the questions of human conduct and human destiny, and it is equally apparent that the talents of the author have done much to illuminate the subjects which he treats. These essays are not only expressions of opinion on these pressing subjects, they are at once thoughtful and readable reflections on the whole problem of society and government as these now exist among civilized men and states. Seldom is such small compass does one find so stimulating and at the same time entertaining a study of this problem.

THOMAS NASHE: PIERCE PENILESS, HIS SUPPLICATION TO THE DIVELL. Dutton. \$1.50.
LIKE SUMMER'S CLOUDS. By Charles S. Brooks. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50 net.
BUCOLIC BEATITUDES. By Rusticus. Atlantic Monthly Press.
THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE. By Glenn Clark. Atlantic Monthly Press. \$2.
THE EIGHT FORTY-FIVE. By Robert M. Gray. Atlantic Monthly Press. \$1.25.

Biography

WILLARD STRAIGHT. By HERBERT CROLY. Macmillan. 1925. \$5.00.
This biography has been warmly received and the new and cheaper edition, with more than eighty illustrations, will be welcomed, especially by libraries.

LINCOLN THE LITIGANT. By William H. Townsend. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.
BERNARD SHAW. By Edward Shanks. Holt. \$1.
H. G. WELLS. By Ivor Brown. Holt. \$1.
FAMOUS COMPOSERS. By Nathan Haskell Dole. Crowell. \$3.50 net.
THE LONDON "TIMES" UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF MOBERLY BELL. By F. Harcourt Kitchen. Putnam.
TWENTY YEARS ON BROADWAY. By George M. Cohan. Harpers. \$3.
JEFFERSON AND MONTICELLO. By Paul Winstock. Doubleday, Page. \$5 net.
FAMOUS AMERICAN STATESMEN. By Sarah K. Bolton. Crowell. \$2 net.
SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND HENRY CABOT LODGE. Scribners. 2 vols. \$10.
THE BOLSHIEV MYTH. By Alexander Berkman. Boni & Liveright. \$3.
THE TECHNIQUE OF THE ONE-ACT PLAY. By Robert I. Gannon. Fordham University Press.

Drama

THREE FARCES. By David Garrick. Edited by Louise Brown Osborn. Yale University Press. \$1.60.
WORTHY MASTER PIERRE PATELIN. Translated and adapted by Moritz Jagendorf. Appleton.

Business

THE WAY OUT. By EDWARD A. FILENE. Doubleday, Page. 1924. \$2.50.
The economic breakdown of Europe has destroyed the market in which the United States might normally expect to get rid of its surplus production. We might possibly do something to help relieve this condition, but we are not likely to do anything, because we have espoused a policy of isolation. At the same time, on account of war development, our capacity for producing goods is immensely greater than ever before. As a result of these three facts, we

are in for an era of cutthroat competition among our own manufacturers for the control of the home market, and this competition is going to be more intense than anything of this sort we have ever known.

These are the premises on which Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant and civic leader, builds the argument of his book, "The Way Out." The result of the competition will be the elimination of the unfit among industrial organizations. Fitness will be accomplished through mass production and its attendant economies. The advantage of these economies will not immediately be passed on to the consumer, for the distributor will maintain high prices while purchasing goods at constantly lower prices on account of the competition and constantly increasing efficiency of the producers. The time will come, however, when the producers will reach the utmost limit of efficiency. They will then begin to take note of the harvest being reaped by the distributors and will themselves enter the retail field. Competition will then bring down prices to the consumer; the unfit among the retailers will be eliminated; mass distribution with its economies will thus follow mass production; and the result will be still lower prices. Wages will be high, both because that will be a necessary part of the efficiency program and because high wages will increase purchasing power; and profits will be high, because low prices will encourage buying. Thus, out of the enforced economies due to the reduced purchasing power of Europe, will come an economic millenium in America.

Mr. Filene's "way out" therefore involves, to use his own words, the "Fordizing of America." This is the process of extending machine production, increasing specialization, maintaining labor efficiency by means of short hours and high wages, and increasing demand through low prices.

As an appeal to business men and manufacturers to become efficient producers through better methods and the elimination of waste, this book has much to recommend it. As economic prophecy it suggests the assurance of the classical economists without their analytical approach. There are many words, much repetition, and some contradictions.

EXAMINATION NOTES ON PITMAN'S SHORTHAND. By H. W. B. Wilson. Pitman. 60 cents.

BUSINESS LETTERS IN ISAAC PITMAN SHORTHAND. Pitman. 35 cents.

CONSIGNMENTS, ACCOUNT SALES AND ACCOUNTS CURRENT. By E. J. Hammond. Pitman.

BUSINESS LETTERS IN ISAAC PITMAN SHORTHAND. Nos. 3 and 4. Pitman. 35 cents each.

Economics

A DISCOURSE UPON USURY. By Thomas Wilson. Harcourt, Brace.

EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATION IN COAL MINES. By Ben M. Selekman and Mary Van Kleeck. Russell Sage Foundation. \$2.

EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATION IN STEEL WORKS. By Ben M. Selekman. Russell Sage Foundation. \$1.50.

TAXATION AND WELFARE. By Harvey Whitefield Peck. Macmillan. \$2.50.

Education

BRAIN TESTS. Prepared by JOHN MONK SAUNDERS and GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM. Putnam's. 1925.

Do you remember the intelligence tests during the war, and the original Houdini's memory training stunts? If you do you can form an idea of this successor to the "Cross-Word Puzzle Book." It is full of a variety of tests—and it is supplied with a lead pencil. A great sharpener of wits on an idle evening.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD. By BIRD T. BALDWIN and LORLE I. STETTER. Appleton. 1925. \$2.25.

This book is another evidence of the mounting interest in the problem of the pre-school child. The authors believe that we are in the beginning of a new era in childhood education. They support this view with the following statement. "The pre-school Laboratory has shown that children between two and six years respond to an environment suited to their needs in a way that is full of promise of results that

(Continued on next page)

**Dutton's
OUTSTANDING BOOKS***Just Ready***FOURTEEN SONGS**

selected from
the utterly delightful verses
by A. A. MILNE in

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG

have been set to music by H. Fraser Simson with decorations by E. H. Shephard. \$3.00

If you do not know those irresistible jingles you have a double delight in store. Mrs. Milne's book

**WHEN WE WERE
VERY YOUNG**

has taken American nurseries by storm. \$2.00

**THE PILGRIMAGE
OF HENRY JAMES**

By VAN WYCK BROOKS

Author of "The Ordeal of Mark Twain," etc.

Ruth Hale calls him "the most tender, the most truthful, and the most trustworthy of biographers." \$2.50

**MRS. MEYNELL AND HER
LITERARY GENERATION**

By ANNE KIMBALL TUELL

"Unusually engaging, informative, written with considerable brilliance, and meaty." \$2.50

POEMS FOR YOUTH

By WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT

An exceptionally competent selection from American verse chosen with the aim of introducing youth to its treasures. \$3.00

POETS OF AMERICA

By CLEMENT WOOD

Brilliant, significant and comprehensive, including factors never before adequately treated in such a readable survey. \$3.00

**SEVENTY YEARS OF
LIFE AND LABOR**

By SAMUEL GOMPERS

The *International Book Review*: "These two volumes reveal him to a generation that knew him as a man capable, gifted of power and influence, to have been a great man indeed." Two illustrated volumes, \$10.00.

**THE SHADOW OF
THE GLOOMY EAST**

By FERDINAND
OSSENDOWSKI

In vivid, dramatic prose he pictures the menace of a country nine-tenths uncivilized, yet in area, population, natural resources and physical stamina, superior to ourselves. \$3.00

RECENT DUTTON NOVELS**THE DOOM WINDOW**

By MAURICE DRAKE

As colorful as the stained glass around which its plot turns. \$2.00

DREAMING SPIRES

By DIANA PATRICK

Who understands thoroughly the modern man and maid, ease-loving, keen for excitement, luxury and romance. \$2.00

These books are obtainable through any bookstore or direct from

E. P. DUTTON & CO.
681 Fifth Avenue, New York