

Announcement

For the reader who frankly wishes to be amused, the House of Putnam this week is offering a refreshing list of decidedly interesting and unusual books. There is the amazing career of one of Broadway's greatest favorites, written by the genial New York critic, Alexander Woollcott, in his most delightful mood; a delicious book of nonsense verse, the best that has been written; a new novel by a popular writer, and an high-powered mystery tale constructed in an entirely new way.

The Story of Irving Berlin reads like a novel. It is the story of a little immigrant boy who created a new kind of music for his new land. As a vagrant night hawk in the Bowery, he developed his genius, and created such melodies that without being able to read or write one note of music, he became the greatest song writer of America. His life is the story of an American pioneer, and is charmingly told by Alexander Woollcott. \$2.50



Langford Reed has gathered together a rare collection of all the most delightful old limericks since their origin, and such well-known men as Dean Inge, Arnold Bennett, J. St. Loe Strachey, Owen Seaman, Bernard Shaw and Sir Arthur Wing Pinero have added new ones with interesting information about their origin and development. The book is cleverly illustrated by H. M. Bateman of Punch. **The Complete Limerick Book.** \$2.00

In **Numerous Treasure** Robert Keable turns to the glamorous South Sea Islands, and chooses for his heroine a beautiful half-caste girl who is torn by the warring elements of her mixed blood. This new novel is written with the same tolerance and liberality which characterized the author's earlier books, "Simon Called Peter," and "Recommendation." \$2.00



Bobbed Hair is something entirely new in novels. Twenty famous people each wrote a chapter of this highly exciting tale of love and bootlegging on Long Island. Carolyn Wells, Alexander Woollcott, Louis Bromfield, Dorothy Parker, Kermit Roosevelt, Meade Minnigerode, Frank Craven, Robert Gordon Anderson, Rube Goldberg, Sophie Kerr, John V. A. Weaver, Elsie Janis, Ed. Streeter, Bernice Brown, H. C. Witwer, Wallace Irwin, George Barr McCutcheon, George Agnew Chamberlain, Gerald Mygatt and George Palmer Putnam all lent their various talents in building it. \$2.00

For sale at all booksellers or at the PUTNAMs, 2 West 45th Street, just west of Fifth Avenue.

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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.

Belles Lettres

CHAUCER'S NUNS. By Sister M. Madeleva. Appleton. \$1.50.
SELECTED MODERN ENGLISH ESSAYS. By Samuel Butler. Oxford University Press.
STUDIES FROM TEN LITERATURES. By Ernest Boyd. Scribners. \$3.
THE LITERATURE OF LETTERS. Selected and edited by John B. O'pdycke. New York: Lyons and Carnahan.
MIRRORS OF NEW YORK. By Benjamin De Casseres. New York: Joseph Lauren, 220 West 42nd Street.
TRANSLATIONS FROM THE ICELANDIC. Translated and edited by W. C. Green. Oxford University Press. \$1.85.

Biography

NELL GWYN. By LEWIS MELVILLE. Doran. 1924. \$7.50.

This is a rather sumptuously bound volume, and its illustrations in black and white and in color by Kitty Shannon, despite the flagrant amateurishness of their draughtsmanship, somehow convey the atmosphere of the period. Mr. Melville has prepared his volume from all the extant material available for a biography of Nell Gwyn, which, he remarks, "is far from abundant." He has consulted, nevertheless, a considerable number of well-known and less well-known works. He pays tribute to, among others, the Peter Cunningham who made in 1851 the first serious attempt to "collect what was actually known." He mentions in an appendix all the books, broadsheets, and ballads that bear upon this glamorous mistress of Charles the Second.

Mr. Melville's study begins with a rather dry examination of Mistress Nelly's origins. He discusses her childhood under Mother Ross, etc. He begins to quote largely from Samuel Pepys. He digresses in discussions of stage folk of the day and of certain notable Restoration rakes. An account of a liaison with Buckhurst is followed by a chapter on Charles the Second with particular attention to Lucy Walter and the Duke of Monmouth. Other of the King's loves are discussed, and Lady Castlemaine steps on the stage, followed by Catherine of Braganza and La Belle Stuart. Of the last named Mr. Melville remarks, after elaborately quoting Pepys as to the Castlemaine's nose being put out of joint—and how the writing of Pepys excels in flavor!—"never did a girl of sixteen have such success. The Duke of Buckingham laid siege to her, and Count Grammont, and George Digby and the rest of the gallants." But La Belle Stuart was recalcitrant, she married, and Castlemaine was soon eclipsed by Nell Gwyn. Her star is shone in the ascendant, not to be eclipsed later by Louise de Keinoualle or the Duchess Mazarin. Of all the King's harem Nell Gwyn was the least grasping, the "best sport, the woman most blessed with native wit." Mr. Melville's volume is a painstaking account of her time, thoroughly documented. It discusses all Charles's amours and gives a clear idea of the profligacy of the court. It does not succeed in being a vividly memorable portrait of the Orange girl who dominated England for a time. Often one cannot see the wood for the trees. Much incident is recorded but dryly. And yet the many quotations and the interpolation of broadsheets and ballads of the time are of curious interest. We learn all about the lodgings of Nell and her income and expenditures. The cast of characters of Charles's court is presented fully. The style of the author seems to us nothing in particular, but the thoroughness of his investigation is praiseworthy.

JAMES BRANCH CABELL. By Carl Van Doren. McBride. \$1 net.
VAUBAN, BUILDER OF FORTRESSES. By Daniel Halévy. Dial Press. \$2.75.
GEORGE WASHINGTON. By Paul Leland Hawthorth. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.

LADY ANNE BARNARD AT THE CAPE. By Dorothea Fairbridge. Oxford University Press. \$10.
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A MIND. By W. J. Dawson. Century. \$2.
ASSER'S LIFE OF KING ALFRED. Translated by L. C. Jane. Oxford University Press. \$1.85.
A KING IN THE MAKING. By Genevieve Parkhurst. Putnam. \$2.50.
LIVES AND TIMES. By Meade Minnigerode. Putnam. \$3.50.
WILLIAM AUSTIN SMITH. By Charles Lewis Slattery. Dutton. \$2.50.
VONDEL. By A. J. Barnouw. Scribners. \$2.
WOODROW WILSON. By Edwin A. Alderman. Doubleday, Page. \$1 net.
LORD MINTO. By John Buchan. Houghton Mifflin. \$7.50.

Business

MANUAL OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE. By GEORGE R. MACDONALD. Pitman. 1924.

This is an excellent text in commercial French correspondence by an author already well known in the British textbook field through his "Manual of Spanish Commercial Correspondence," "Portuguese Commercial Correspondence," "Foreign Language in Commercial Work," and so forth. The first half of the book consists of thirty-six lessons on such business subjects as announcements, orders, credits, shipments, markets, drafts, insurance. Each lesson contains a brief, adapted vocabulary, and conversational paradigm of business phrases and idioms, and illustrative business letters. The second half is given over to an exhaustive commercial French vocabulary, French geographical names, French commercial forms, the everlasting irregular French verb, and so forth. The 331 pages of the book are packed with the essential materials of French commercial expression, and the content is at all places compact, at the same time that it is fluid and comprehensive. It is altogether possible that American teachers using this book will find it somewhat lacking in the richly suggestive exercises to which they are accustomed in the textbooks published in their own country. And business letter form in French practice is by no means so precisely adjusted as American business letter writing has come to be during the recent years of its renaissance. It is not, of course, the best American usage to place the comma after the salutation *Dear Sirs* or *Messieurs*, or to close a business letter with *Yours faithfully* or *Votre dévoué*. Such stereotyped (and incorrectly punctuated) expression as *Awaiting your further favours, we are, Yours faithfully,*

also violates the best American business letter practice. But the author did not set out to write a reform or crusade book on the subject of commercial correspondence. Rather, he accepted the stubbornly conservative adherence to form and the hackneyed expression that have characterized European business correspondence for so many years, and concerned himself with the preparation of a thoroughgoing drill-book in French commercial correspondence as "she is writ." This he accomplished superlatively well.

BUSINESS. By Louis D. Brandeis. Small, Maynard. \$3 net.
SHARING MANAGEMENT WITH THE WORKERS. By Ben M. Selekman. Russell Sage Foundation. \$1.50.
CONSIGNMENTS, ACCOUNT SALES AND ACCOUNTS CURRENT. By E. J. Hammond. Pitman.

Drama

SIX PLAYS. By RACHEL LYMEN FIELD. Scribners. 1924. \$1.25.

"Here are six one-act plays likely to be particularly serviceable to amateur actors of school age—eight to eighteen. . . . Present (Continued on next page)

Dutton's OUTSTANDING BOOKS

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FERDINAND OSSENDOWSKI

THE SHADOW OF THE GLOOMY EAST

vividly reproduces the mysticism, the belief in witches, supernatural spells and magic, which has been ingrained in the nature of an overwhelming majority of Russians. It is an absorbingly interesting study of a national character which the American world has not begun to understand, yet must realize before any correct estimate of Russia's future is possible. \$3.00

SEVENTY YEARS OF LIFE AND LABOR

By SAMUEL GOMPERS
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The N. Y. Herald-Tribune: "Such a panorama of American social and economic life . . . is rare in autobiographical writing. The crowded incidents of seventy years . . . are in these two volumes marshalled with a wealth of detail, personal reminiscences, penetrating comment and explanation . . . an indispensable commentary."

MRS. MEYNELL AND HER LITERARY GENERATION

By ANNE KIMBALL TUELL
The New York Times refers to it as an "exceptionally penetrating and discerning book . . . a book of rare qualities." \$2.50

CALLINICUS

A defense of chemical warfare
By J. B. S. HALDANE
Author of that stimulating little volume "Daedalus." He challenges the humanitarians who would outlaw gas in warfare and shows that it is less cruel than bayonets, shells or bullets. It is certainly arousing wide-spread discussion. \$1.00
In this stimulating series besides Mr. Haldane's books are "Icarus" by Bertrand Russell; "The Mongol in Our Midst" by F. G. Crookshank; "Wireless Possibilities" by A. M. Low; "Tantalus" by F. C. S. Schiller; "Narcissus" by Gerald Heard; to be followed by "The Passing of the Phantoms."

ART AND MAN

Essays and Fragments by
C. ANSTRUTHER-THOMPSON
with 20 illustrations and an introduction by Vernon Lee. \$4.00
The N. Y. Times' World of Art comments: "A book that clarifies ideas of art and deepens interest in humanity is rare enough on these two counts alone. Add to them the reader's deep delight in appropriate words sensitively and organically associated, and you have almost the rarest of such intellectual pleasures as may be given by a book. 'Art and Man' . . . provides extraordinary pleasure."

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG

By A. A. MILNE
Continues to delight all who discover it. An editorial in the N. Y. Herald-Tribune remarks: "It takes genius to identify itself with a child's blithe inconsequence and so to interpret with felicity the evanescence which is of the very filmy, fairy-like texture of a child's impulses. Lewis Carroll had the gift. Stevenson had it. So had Eugene Field. . . . There are unmistakable signs of it in Mr. A. A. Milne, the English playwright, who recently turned aside from his vocation to write 'When We Were Very Young' for his son." With drawings by E. H. Shepard. \$2.00

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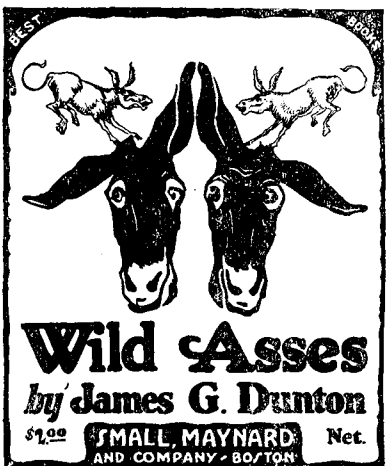
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The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

Drama

these plays as whimsy and they may be made delightful. Let the hard white light of reality beat upon them and they dissolve." So writes Professor Baker in his foreword to this volume of plays by Miss Field, one of his pupils in 47 Workshop of Harvard. Little more need be said, except to emphasize the fanciful appeal, the subtle weaving together of humor and pathos, and the excellent acting qualities which characterize Miss Field's work at its best. The outstanding play in the volume is the deservedly popular "Three Pills in a Bottle" with its undercurrent of wise philosophy and its folk-tale atmosphere. Next in originality is "Columbine in Business" with its suggestion of the eternal romance of spring-time, even a modern "flapper" and her office boy lover being but faint disguises for our old friends, Columbine and Harlequin. "Cinderella Married," though good in action value, somehow one wishes had not been written, for who likes to think of Cinderella grown too fat for her glass slippers and involved in a quite sophisticated triangle plot? "The Patchwork Quilt" has an appealing character in old Mrs. Willis. The other two plays "Wisdom Teeth" and "Theories and Thumbs," are little more than "fillers."

GARDEN VARIETIES. SIX ONE-ACT PLAYS FOR LITTLE THEATRES. By KENYON NICHOLSON. Appleton. 1924. \$2.

This is an excellent small collection of one-act plays, all interesting, and well varied in topic. The scenes include a small-town home, an apartment kitchen, a honeymoon ménage, a cheap theatrical dressing-room, a cabaret, and a war *buvette*, with a little Parisian burlesque thrown in for good measure. The one-act play is very often an amateur medium, either as to writing or acting or both, and it is in the dialogue that any such atmosphere is most apt to betray itself. But these plays, except in a few spots, are unusually well sustained, and if acted with spirit they should produce an excellent effect. Since they have all been done at least once (the *locale* and personnel being published herewith), we may assume that they "acted" well enough to warrant publication, which should help them to find a waiting market in printed form.

THE ART OF THE THEATRE. By Sarah Bernhardt. Dial Press. \$3.

THE BLUE AND GREEN MAT OF ABDUL HASSAN. Appleton.

A CHILD OF THE FRONTIER. By Elma E. Levinger. Appleton.

BOTTLED IN BOND. By Glenn Hughes. Appleton.

IT'S TIME SOMETHING HAPPENED. By Arthur Doyle. Appleton.

THE TERRIBLE WOMAN. By Wilbur Daniel Steele. Appleton. \$1.75.

Economics

INDUSTRIAL OWNERSHIP. By Robert S. Brookings. Macmillan. \$1.25.

THE WOMEN'S GARMENT WORKERS. By Louis Levine. Huebsch. \$5.

ANGLO-AMERICAN TRADE, 1800-1850. By Norman Sydney Buck. Yale University Press. \$2.50.

Education

LITERATURE AND LIVING. By Rollo L. Lyman and Howard C. Hill. Vols. II and III. Scribners. \$1.56 each.

REAL STORIES OF THE GEOGRAPHY MAKERS. By John T. Faris. Ginn.

THE MENTAL GROWTH OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD. By Arnold Gsell. Macmillan.

THE STORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. By Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed. University of Chicago Press.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE. By George H. Reibold. Franklin, O.: James Knapp Reeve.

FROM COLLEGE GATES. By Caroline Hazard. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

Fiction

THE BEST FRENCH SHORT STORIES OF 1923-1924. Edited by RICHARD EATON. Small, Maynard. 1924. \$2.50. Among the twelve chapters of Lalou's "Contemporary French Literature" there is none devoted to the short story. The

omission is significant, for there has not been a time within the last hundred years when the French short story, at home, was in so little repute. Professional authors find it immensely less profitable than the novel; unprofessional writers (and these, in France, include the most talented) choose other forms as being more interesting; while if the public retains some affection for the *conte*, it is only in memory of Daudet and Maupassant. In their day Mr. Eaton's yearbook would have had more reason for existence.

This does not mean that no short stories of merit were written in 1923 or 1924. Indeed, there were several, but most of them were written in that literary shorthand which is the trade-mark of modern writers. Most of them were experiments toward the discovery of a new style, or method; and Mr. Eaton was right not to include them in a book intended for wide popular circulation. Instead he devotes his volume to Boulenger, Bourget, Colette, Farrère, Géraudy, Lichtenberger and the brothers Tharaud.

They are the French equivalents of the men who write for the *Saturday Evening Post*. It is true their subject matter is different, consisting chiefly of adultery and money instead of love and business. Their technique is purely French, and admits both the happy ending and the indefinite ending. Essentially, however, they are the same; they carry on rigid traditions which other men created. Originality will rather be found among the rebels.

And there are one or two of the rebels in this book. Morand was one, until the charm of his style caused it to be accepted almost universally. Drieu la Rochelle has not gained any such popularity, and yet Morand pronounced his story, "The Empty Bag," to be the best of the year. He is a stylist whose French is as full of surprise and felicity as was that of Maurice Barrès. Unfortunately the qualities of his style are almost completely lost in the translation.

In general Mr. Eaton translates badly. He makes all the stock mistakes: translating *le monde* as "the world," where it means "society," rendering *smoking* as "a smoking jacket" instead of "a dinner jacket"; and speaking of "little fields of mais" in a passage where the French evidently referred to little fields of corn (or maize). His English also is not above reproach. If he continues his project of editing and translating a yearly volume of French short stories, he should make a more careful study of both languages.

THE KEYS OF THE CITY. By ELMER DAVIS. McBride. 1925. \$2 net.

From many fictioneers "The Keys of the City" could be justly applauded. It is a highly agreeable and rapid story, ingenious in plot, humorous in narration, pleasantly modern in its Indiana small-town setting. But in the case of Mr. Elmer Davis we cannot let him off so easily. We find here too little of that crisp and mordant humor for which he is widely esteemed. This novel, barring two or three skirmishes of wit where the author let himself go (e. g., the "Research Laboratory of Pure and Applied Theology," and the allusion to governors "who had stepped in after somebody else had done the work, and uttered a few brief ringing words that had carried them to the White House") bears the trademark of magazine serialization. Mr. Davis, if he cares to, can utter as brilliant satirics as any prose creator of the younger generation; he has the sense of structure and a kindly eye for genuine sentiment. We hope he will sell this book to the movies for a sum handsome enough to allow him to write for us the novel we confidently expect—something as violently amusing and shrewd as his occasional letters to the newspapers.

RED COAT AND MINUTE MAN. By BERNARD MARSHALL. Appleton. 1924. \$2.50.

There is a wealth of raw material ready for the historical novelist in the Revolutionary War period, of which comparatively small use has been made by competent writers. Mr. Marshall has made a good workmanlike job of this, especially in the clean, clear simplicity of his narrative. It is entirely free from the inflation and manufactured excitement that so often reduces such tales of adventure to the level of the melodrama and the screen. It is a straightforward story, told in the first person, vividly enough, but without any heroics or posing. The plot is simple also: it follows the fortunes of a young soldier from the eve of Lexington to the end of the war, bringing him in contact with General Washington and Baron Steuben, who are the two chief historic figures, and

(Continued on page 620)

Speaking of Books

"The Sabbatical"

of a professor who treated his Sabbath like a Saturday night" is Joseph Warren Beach's own description of his year abroad. *Meek Americans* is the record of this jaunt of a professor traveling incog. disguised as a man. These "familiar essays" are done with grace and precision united to shrewd irony and a humorous sympathy for tourist and European host alike. "On the Depravity of Europeans," "Tipping and the Law," "Flowers and Candied Fruit,"—these are titles to lure the reader of imagination who enjoys gentle humor and mild irony that amuse because they are understood. *Meek Americans*. By Joseph Warren Beach. \$2.00, postpaid \$2.10.

The Professor—

the unfortunate professor, assailed on the one side by the ultra-moderns, and by the conservatives on the other—occasionally breaks the academic silence and gives us the benefit of his personal reactions supported by the full historical knowledge which he is able to turn upon them. A modern discussion of the modern writers who are giving America an indigenous literature is *Some Contemporary Americans* by Percy Holmes Boynton. \$2.00, postpaid, \$2.10.

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THE SIGN OF EVIL

By Anthony Wynne

Dr. Eustace Hailey, the biggest doctor in the profession and a good one, is also a criminal investigator with few equals. This is the record of one of his most remarkable cases.

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A malignant token linked with an ancient evil gives a sinister touch to the murder of Sir William Armand. It is the only clue, and Hailey soon knows that he is matching wits with a man of malevolent cunning, while the life of another man hangs on the issue. But at the risk of his own life, he uncovers the mental links which reveal the criminal and the cause of his gruesome deed.

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