

Distinguished

Ellen Glasgow's BARREN GROUND

THE SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE

"With BARREN GROUND, Miss Glasgow at once takes rank with the Hardy of 'Tess'... the Hamsun of 'Growth of the Soil.'"

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AMONG the many people who have praised Ellen Glasgow's writings are Hugh Walpole, James Branch Cabell, Carl Van Doren. Joseph Conrad wrote of Miss Glasgow one of his few enthusiastic appreciations of an American author, saying—"The insight, the mastery of her craft, the interest and charm of the narrative—all this is of the very first class order. Will you kindly transmit to her the affectionate regard of a fellow craftsman and most appreciative reader?"

Stuart P. Sherman, the distinguished editor of *Books* has said, "On her humor one could write a chapter. She conceives life as a brave comedy. I incline to think her the wittiest of living American novelists..."

Some of the more important of Ellen Glasgow's books are:

- THE BATTLE GROUND (1902)
- THE DELIVERANCE (1904)
- THE WHEEL OF LIFE (1906)
- THE MILLER OF OLD CHURCH (1911)
- VIRGINIA (1913)
- LIFE AND GABRIELLA (1916)
- THE BUILDERS (1919)

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The Phoenix Nest

CONRAD'S only extant diary, his "Diary of Adventures on the Congo," will be published in the Christmas issue of the *Yale Review*. It is said to contain a number of passages of especial interest because of their close parallelism to "Heart of Darkness." * * * The same number of the *Yale Review* will also contain a long autobiographical poem by the late Amy Lowell, entitled "Behind Time." * * * Sherwood Anderson, we hear, has bought a forty acre farm in the Virginia mountains. * * * "I am an admirer of the Phoenician," writes Walter D. McCaw from the Office of the Surgeon General, War Department, Washington, "and all his works, so I was pained to see in the *Review* of November 7th, that he had misspelled, twice, the Greek name of Sir Thomas Browne's 'Urn Burial.' If this essay has been a favorite of his from youth up, why did he call it 'Hydrotophia' and thus mutilate the title by literally knocking its 'eye' out? I saw the same error in the *London Mercury* a few months ago. Perhaps Phoenicians did not have to learn Greek." * * * Well, as a matter of fact, this Phoenician never did learn Greek, but he is sorry thus to have wronged Sir Thomas. It was an entirely unintentional affront to that great and gracious ghost! * * * Since Heywood Brown has been having it out in the *World* with Gilbert Seldes as to whether "Bugs" Baer is a humorous genius or not, we shall really have to read "The Family Album!" * * * Bernard Shaw has ordered a copy of "The Book of American Negro Spirituals." * * * Louis Bromfield and family are in Paris for the winter. * * * Alf Kreymborg's second and third lecture-recitals at Corona Mundi Hall, 311 Riverside Drive, will be given on December 8th and January 10th. The first "Troubadour Recital" was given on November 10th. * * * On December 8th Kreymborg will present "Plays with Puppets," and talk, on January 10th, on contemporary American writers. * * * The Stokes *Holiday Extra* about children's books is out again this season. It is a delightful miniature newspaper and an especially clever publicity stunt. * * * From Oregon comes the word that there is an Oregon book "well worth consideration for the Pulitzer prize for the best American novel of the year." This, they say, is Anne Shannon Monroe's "Behind the Ranges." We haven't read it, but evidently Portland is leal to Miss Monroe! * * * Now that one is said to be able to "clean up" in Florida in real estate, on a "shoestring," the Real Estate Series of books published by Macmillan may be of interest. * * * These books are brought out under the direction of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the United T. M. C. A. Schools, and the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities. * * * They include Fisher's "Principles of Real Estate Practice," Babcock's "The Appraisal of Real Estate," and Gifford's "Real Estate Advertising." * * * Flynn's *Magazine*, issued weekly, is going to present to its readers a series of anecdotes in the vernacular which are bona fide crook slang. They are statements purporting to be from Cappy the Heel, Jake the Gyp, One Mitt Fogarty, Belle the Swell Booster, and so on. This is the kind of thing, almost hieroglyphic in

its convolutions, that yet furnishes a certain fascination,—

Another raw stunt that is pulled off by th' dips an' divers is to throw th' harpoon into some dame in th' jam at th' door. Th' mark usually squawks an' th' gumshoes get wild—a swell booster ain't got much chance while all these squawks is goin' in th' main office and th' dicks are Billy Brighteyes more than ever.

* * * And how would you translate:

Of course, th' twister had me pinched, an' made an awful rat to th' beak. We made a little sasshay to th' front office. But say, I had a beaut of a swell mouth, an' a bunch of hush berries that would choke an elephant.

* * * Crook's English certainly deserves a volume to itself! * * * Sinclair Lewis is said to have gone to Bermuda because he couldn't bicycle comfortably in New York and found out that the velocipede was still the favorite vehicle with the Bermudans. He has just completed an eighty thousand word serial for *Collier's*, called "Mantrap." * * * "The Symposium" is in its sixth season. It is an association devoted to progressive movements in the arts, science, and philosophy. On December first at 8 p.m. Christopher Ward will start off its Series 1 of First Tuesdays with a talk on The Modern Novel. These Tuesday meetings and the Monday ones also are held at Trinity Court, Boston. Series tickets can be procured from Helen A. Clarke, 11 Queensberry Street, Boston. * * * Aldous Huxley is starting for a trip around the globe. * * * Louis Tracy has committed a new detective story, "The Black Cat." * * * Grant Richards, the English publisher, has now added to his former novels, "Caviare," "Valentine," "Bittersweet" and "Double Life," a new one, "Every Wife." His is a suave and sophisticated style. * * * John Dos Passos's "Manhattan Transfer" appears with two different jackets, both designed by the author. Which one is on your copy? * * * We have just dipped into the book but we know we are going to like it because it seems to us to be written to give the effect of consecutively changing patterns in a kaleidoscope. * * * Robert Haugen Schaeffer calls his anthology, "The Poetry Cure, A Pocket Medicine Chest of Verse." It is a very original selection. * * * Wilfrid Gibson's new volume of poems is "I Heard a Sailor." He always writes with distinction. * * * Boni and Liveright have brought out "The Works of Eugene O'Neill." * * * We see that Putnam's have bourgeoned with a brand new front to their 45th Street store. It certainly looks de luxe! * * * We notice that even our esteemed contemporary, *The Saturday Review*, spelled the name of Hugh Lofting's "Doctor Dolittle" wrong the other day, in an ad. From much comment that has passed under our eyes, upon Hugh Lofting's work, we have grown accustomed to the misspelling. It is probably because "Doolittle" is a real name. * * * But of course Doctor Dolittle is a very different affair! * * * They usually deliver at least a large portion of the goods. * * * Well now, our voice being cracked from recent football rooting, we don't want to strain it any more calling your attention to gems of liter-a-chewer! * * * So, for the time being,—so glad to have seen you!

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