

Points of View

Sporting Spirit

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
Sir:

In a recent review of Charles W. Gray's anthology, "The Sporting Spirit," a characteristically modern attitude is presented. The reviewer is of the opinion that the book would have been bettered if the major sports had been emphasized at the expense of the minor—that "another of Witwer's fight stories or a baseball story by Ring Lardner to supplement Charles Van Loan's 'Mister Conley'" would have been a wise step—that "quoit pitching" (which is evidently an attempt at irony) should be ignored and football duplicated.

Such a viewpoint is very clearly American in its desire to favor the large audience games, a viewpoint which causes thousands to watch while a few play. And that it the unpardonable sin of American sport.

Mr. Gray explains in the preface that the stories are but "representative of their fields; the aim being to select stories which mirror the atmosphere of the sport about which they were written." Naturally, if the field of sport is to be spoken for as a whole, it would be a strange step to eliminate George Agnew Chamberlain so that Dana Burnet might appear twice, merely because there are fewer devotees of tandem coaching than there are of the gridiron pastime; a questionable procedure to cut M. L. C. Pickthall's "The Men Who Climbed" in order to give Zane Grey or Gerald Beaumont more space simply because larger groups attend to fishing and horse racing than climb mountains.

Any form of the sporting life is of importance—none are to be stressed at the expense of others if a widespread interest in it is to flourish. One man's golf may be another's backache; but that doesn't lessen the interest of a certain group in golf.

"The Sporting Spirit" proves its thesis and no more was its intention. It is a worthy attempt to give a sort of recognition to a branch of literature that for far too long has been neglected, and it is hardly deserving of such aimless criticism.

Very truly yours,

J. O. BROOKS.

Los Angeles.

Good Reading

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
Sir:

Some weeks ago you quoted from Virginia Woolf (was it not?) urging more persons to read Addison rather than merely talk about him. By reading Addison I suppose is meant in general reading the *Spectator* Paper. At any rate I thought you might be interested to know that one reader appreciated that item, for I was just finishing and have now finished reading the whole *Spectator*, 297 pages double column, small type, 635 numbers.

And very good reading it was, extraordinarily modern in tone, topics, and columnar hitting off the passing talk of the day. Which of our present columnists will be plowed through or even recommended 200 years after *The World*, *The Saturday Review* et al. are ashes?

CARROLL T. BROWN.

Indian Lake, N. Y.

Edmund Burke

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
Sir:

I have for the past ten years been engaged in the preparation of a definitive edition of the correspondence of Edmund Burke. My labors are practically completed, but at the eleventh hour I seek the hospitality of your columns to ask any of your readers who possess original letters written by the great statesman to be so vastly obliging as to lend me them or, if that is impossible to send me copies for insertion in my edition.

LEWIS MELVILLE.

3 Douglas Mansions,
West End Lane, London, N.W.6.

Research

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
Sir:

In a recent number of the *Saturday Review* Mr. McElderry ably defended academic research against its detractors. As he points out, the faults and not the merits of scholarship are too often selected for comment. Professor Lane Cooper of Cornell is one of the most eloquent champions of genuine research. In an essay "The Function of the Leader in Scholarship," found in "Two Views of Education," he shows that the ideal scholar is neither a pedant nor a dilettante, and that a number of authors of the first rank have been profound scholars.

Many jibes at research proceed from ignorance of the facts. To the man on the street, for example, German scholarship is synonymous with pedantry, whereas its weak side is rather hasty generalization. A genuinely great investigator, whether his specialty be chemistry or literature, is spurred on by a romantic zeal which enables him to endure the necessary drudgery of his work. Jakob Grimm wrote that it was the attraction of Middle High German poetry which led him to engage in his grammatical studies. It has always seemed to me more than accidental that the Romantic Movement in German literature was accompanied by a scholarly activity of a far-reaching and revolutionary significance for many fields of thought.

L. A. SHEARS.

Notice

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:
Sir:

Serious differences having arisen between myself and my collaborator, I wish

it to be known to you and all your readers that beginning with the 1926 annual issue I shall have no connection whatsoever with the "Best British Short Stories."

Yours faithfully,

JOHN COUNORS.

London.

Reader's Guide

(Continued from preceding page)

K. W. B., Cambridge, Mass., has acquired an old New England cottage on an acre well arranged. He asks what books on lot, house in good condition and grounds general repairs and the care of plants and shrubs will equip him for keeping the place as it is and even making it more so.

I HAVE a relative on a New England farm who maintains that any kind of a farmer must be at least ten experts and proves it, when anything goes wrong on his hilltop, by settling single-handed jobs that in a more specialized community involve half a dozen trades-unions, a chemical laboratory, and the College of Veterinarians. In much the same spirit Chelsea Fraser has prepared, for owners of places not next-door to everything, "The Practical Book of Home Repairs" (Crowell), a general course in what to do for it—carpentry, soldering, heating, concrete, even cobbling. H. W. Saylor's "Tinkering with Tools" (Little Brown) I have often recommended: it attends not only to woodwork but to such matters as plumbing and electric wiring. "The Amateur Electrician's Handbook," by A. Frederick Collins (Crowell), includes not only repair work but has directions and many diagrams.

"The Small House: Its Possibilities," by Mary H. Northend (Dodd, Mead) is a good general guide to keep on hand, not only in choosing furniture but in matters like doors, fixtures, and such planting as "ties the house to the ground."

If K. W. B. were not so well suited with his house as it is, I would tell him about "Redeeming Old Homes," by Amelia L. Hill (Holt), a book for those who dream of making over a shack or a barn, while if he were intending to build he should know of "The Bungalow Book" (Macmillan) by Charles E. White, Jr., author of "Successful Houses and How to Build Them," and a new one full of practical suggestions to architects, builders, and owners, Oswald C. Hering's "Economy in Home Building" (McBride). This is full of instructive photographs before and after. But in any case there will be a place in his library for "The Efficient Kitchen," by Georgie Boynton (McBride), for the heart of his house must be kept going and I know of no book better for making it go evenly.

The best book for outside the house, for amateur use, is "Gardening with Brains," by Henry T. Finck (Harper). If the place has a rose garden or plans to adorn itself with this blessed plant, get "Roses for All American Climates" (Macmillan), a practical work with some of the prettiest possible pictures in color.

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The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

A VALUABLE "INDEX"

THE "Index to the American Book-Prices Current 1916-1922" compiled by Philip Sanford Goulding and Helen Plummer Goulding has just been published by E. P. Dutton & Co., publishers of the "American Book-Prices Current." The volume is an octavo of 1,397 pages, well printed on good paper, bound in buckram and limited to 750 copies. It covers a period of seven years, the most important in American bibliographical annals because of the new high level of prices which genuine rarities of all kinds have brought and because of the large number of important book sales.

The index in general follows that of the volumes covered. The items are arranged alphabetically by author, or, in the case of anonymous books, by the first word of the title. Under each author's name, his works are listed alphabetically, and various editions chronologically, with undated items at the end. Complete, or collected, works are placed at the end of the alphabetical file of titles. Almanacs are arranged according to the years covered. Following each entry, the figures in bold-faced type indicate the year of the volume containing the item, the lighter figures, the page on which the item appears. The few abbreviations are those used in the annual volumes. As far as possible editions and translations have been kept together, the translations arranged by the name of the language into which translated. There has been so great a need for space that condensed titles have been adopted. Aside from those indicated in the volumes themselves, references have been used sparingly. Since some books have more than one interest, and appear, for instance, in some auction catalogues under the name of a prominent illustrator rather than of the author, and also because in past years the editorship of the series has changed, the same item has not always been consistently catalogued. As far as possible every effort has been used to avoid duplication and to reconcile all such variations in the entries.

Such are the typographical and bibliographical arrangement of one of the most important reference books in existence for all who have to do with rare books. The collector, dealer, and librarian will soon find it indispensable for quick and thor-

ough reference of present auction values of his books, and many will be grateful to the publishers for giving it to them.

THE SCHULZ LIBRARY SOLD

THE announcement comes from Koehler & Volkmann & Co. of Leipzig, of the sale of the well known library of Robert Schulz, active for many years at the Universities of Zurich and Cologne as professor of literature and art. The library is divided into two principal parts and comprises about 25,000 volumes. The entire library was valued five years ago at 1,000,000 Swiss francs. Owing to the many additions which were made during the time of the depreciation of the German money, the value of the library has been greatly increased. The first part contains rarities of five centuries and many languages. The second part, mainly of German literature, contains many first editions, association copies and other rarities. Selections from the first part will be sold at auction in Stuttgart this season. The second part, including first editions in several languages, will be catalogued and offered to collectors all over the world. Theodore Stanton undertook to sell this library in this country several years ago but it was not then regarded as available for the American market at the price asked.

FORTHCOMING SALES

ON OCTOBER 5 and 6 the Anderson Galleries will hold the first book sale of the season. A very interesting lot of books from various consignors consisting of first editions of modern American and English authors, a few publications of special and private presses, book clubs and books about books and bibliography will be sold.

On October 15 the military correspondence of Major General George H. Thomas during the Civil War, of Brigadier General James Chesnut of the Confederate Army and aide to President Davis, of James L. Manning, Confederate war governor of South Carolina, including also the Papers of Colonel John Chesnut of the Revolutionary War, will be sold by Stan. V. Henkels & Son in Philadelphia. Of the Thomas correspondence Mr. Hen-

kels says that "its importance to the historian cannot be overestimated, and the opportunity offered collectors of autographs to obtain fine military letters of one of the most noted characters in the Civil War, and those of his fellow officers, is a chance that cannot occur again." An important feature of the sale is a remarkably fine and full set of letters of the presidents, down to and including the present incumbent. They are all full autograph letters signed, with the exception of Andrew Johnson, which is an autograph sentiment signed, and Zachary Taylor, which is a military letter signed; James A. Garfield is represented by a letter signed and William H. Taft by a letter signed. The sale includes a very remarkable Lincoln document. It is a telegram, in answer to one Robert A. Maxwell. Lincoln wrote out an answer, but decided not to send it, and turning to Charles A. Tinker, cipher clerk and manager of telegraph for the war department, said: "Mr. Tinker, you need not send that. I will pay no attention to the crazy fellow." President Lincoln's telegram which never was sent in reply to Maxwell's criticism of General Thomas was as follows:

"I hasten to say that in the state of information we have here, nothing could be more ungenerous than to indulge any suspicion toward General Thomas. It is doubtful whether his heroism and skill, exhibited last Sunday afternoon, has ever been surpassed in the world."

NOTES AND COMMENT

A NEW "Jorlocks" book is announced by Blackwood under the title "Thoughts on Hunting, and other Matters," illustrated in color and pen-and-ink by G. D. Armour. Until collected for the present purpose the contents of the volumes had lain forgotten in old sporting magazines.

In commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Jenny Lind's American tour and the great vocalist's first concert at Castle Garden under the management of P. T. Barnum on September 11, 1850, an exhibition of Lindeana, the largest in the world, the property of W. A. Hildebrand has been opened at the Theatrical Hall of Fame in Jersey City. The exhibition consists largely of portraits and views depicting various incidents in the life and musical career of the Swedish singer.

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