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The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

Fiction

THE WAY OF THE WILD. By HERBERT RAVENEL SASS. Minton, Balch. 1925. \$5.

In a foreword, Mr. Sass defends the nature story. It has interested thousands in "the wild folk." And it is often the truest picture of their lives, which are full of unseen drama that the "careful naturalists'" record cannot picture.

With his second point most of these stories of his own are at odds. They are romantic; three of them are avowedly Cherokee legends. The animals are not metamorphosed humans, but the main drama does not purport to be such as would naturally fill their lives, unseen; man always witnesses some of it, generally occasions it, sometimes participates in it. In one story, a duck hawk ("Cloud King, the peregrine")—Mr. Sass runs to that style) knocks down a loon (an improbable exile in the region) savingly close to a fox on which a hunter is drawing a bead. In another, a hunter's shots cripple an eagle, a fox, and a blue heron, which find themselves starving together on a little island. As romance, this is all right, except artistically, and there is nothing against honest romance in the nature story field.

Mr. Sass writes well, clothing his stories better than he contrives them, out of a rich knowledge of the South Carolina wilderness.

PENGUIN ISLAND. By Anatole France. Illustrated by Frank C. Pape. Dodd, Mead. 1925. \$5.

Here is Anatole France's classic in a sumptuous new dress. Mr. Pape has already illustrated "The Queen Pedauque," Cabell's "Jurgon," and "The High Place" and other works. His distinctive, highly decorative, and intensely amusing style is well-known. Beside the full page illustrations, the binding, letterpress and decorations of the book are all very pleasing. This is quite a prize for lovers of special editions.

THE WORKS OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON. South Seas Edition. 32 volumes. Scribners. 1925. 90 cents a volume. Set \$28.80.

This cloth-bound pocket edition of Stevenson is furnished with prefaces by Mrs. R. L. Stevenson and prefatory notes by Lloyd Osbourne to almost every volume. Osbourne's notes draw notable pictures of Tusitala in various creative years. The edition is well-made and simply and attractively bound. It occupies comparatively small shelf-space and is authoritative in every respect. It is an admirable edition for the small library.

A HOUSE OF POMEGRANATES. By OSCAR WILDE. Illustrated by Ben Kutcher. Dodd, Mead. 1925. \$3.50.

H. L. Mencken writes a preface for this new edition of Oscar Wilde's famous stories, illustrated with charm and delicacy by Ben Kutcher. "Here," says Mencken, "we have the authentic Wilde. . . a rapt and garrulous drunkard of the eye." Wilde sets up, says Mencken, a theory of the world as a purely aesthetic spectacle. And then Mencken goes on to say a great deal more, and, in a little over seven pages, produces one of the most penetrating analyses of Wilde that we have read for some time. This preface, and the additional fact that this illustrated edition is most attractively manufactured, should commend it to the affluent reader.

COLLECTED STORIES AND TALES. By FITZ-JAMES O'BRIEN. Edited by Edward J. O'Brien. A. & C. Boni. 1925. \$2.

This new volume in the Bonis' excellent American Library, is as justifiable a re-issue as that of the four volumes of Bierce brought out some time ago. In the middle of the nineteenth century O'Brien led the New York Bohemians of that day. He was, as William Winter has quoted, "splendid in banquets". He had all the personal charm and dashingness of the fortunate Irish. "The laugh of O'Brien blew care away from the cup of life, as foam is blown from the white caps of the sea."

"His literary life," says our contemporary O'Brien, "was exceedingly irregular and very productive. . . His best is superb, and his worst shockingly bad. . . But the best of his short stories call for no apologies, except our own for neglecting them so long." Well, here are the best: "The Diamond Lens" (a masterpiece of imagination), "The Wondersmith", "The Lest

Room", "The Pot of Tulips", "The Golden Ingot", "What Was It?" and so on. Edward O'Brien thinks that Fitz-James O'Brien forecast "the machine soul" of our day. He possessed or was possessed of a daemon, like Poe, and was preoccupied with the scientific. His best stories are amazing phantasy.

RUBEN AND IVY SEN. By LOUISE JORDAN MILN. Stokes. 1925.

Mrs. Miln's novels of problem are entertaining, even when they are most didactic. In "Mr. and Mrs. Sên" the difficulties of an Anglo-Chinese marriage were portrayed; "Ruben and Ivy Sên", something of a sequel to the former tale, shows unflinchingly the traps that heredity lays for the children of such a union. The spirit of Mendel hovers menacingly over Ruben Sên, who is as Chinese in spirit as he is English in appearance, and over his sister Ivy, whose English soul is hidden behind the prettiest of Oriental faces. The progress of the novel centers around the development of these two characters and around the expediency of their marriages, actual or proposed. The tale is never merely sensational. It is an honest novel, for the most part well written. Some readers will find the scenes in China too full of local color, but only a few will remain unimpressed by Mrs. Miln's mastery of the racial conflict she has chosen to portray.

THE HOUSE OF MENDOZA. By CONDES NEVE. Dorrance. 1925. \$2.

With the setting in an actual castle in Spain, and with such principal characters as a very rich and generous Spaniard who is at odds with the Church, his very handsome young son who resolves to become a monk in order to expiate the imaginary sins of his father, and a very handsome and plucky American heiress, one could not but expect the author to give his story the color of romance and fervor of melodrama. The first half of the novel runs along at a brisk trot. The father, anxious to keep his son from entering the Church, accepts the accidental meeting with the beautiful American girl as a good omen and seeks in a most subtle manner to act as Cupid between her and his self-flagellating son. Midway, however, the author loses control of the narrative and what follows is rank trash. The heroine permits herself to be kidnapped by a rascally servant, a notorious bandit suddenly begins to act like a Western hero, the young Don succumbs to the temptations of the flesh and recklessly faces death to save the beautiful American, and the scene changes to a most unapproachable pass in the rugged hills of Spain. Wedding bells ring down the curtain.

The triteness of the latter half of the book is somewhat unexpected; for the author has a picturesque flow of language, and his depiction of the life in a Spanish village is vivid and colorful.

GRAIG KENNEDY ON THE FARM.

By ARTHUR B. REEVE. Harpers. 1925. \$2.

Lovers of detective stories—who *ipso facto* follow Craig Kennedy's adventures—may think that there are no mysteries and dangers in rural scenes sufficient to attract his professional attention. Mr. Reeve easily shows that there is much criminal work of a baffling sort done far away from the city streets. From the Canadian border to Long Island Craig travels with the chronicles of his deeds; he unravels mysteries in which every clue points, to the lay mind, in the wrong direction. Occasionally the yarns are not built up to the rattling climax which a first rate detective story should have, but the book will give the reader a satisfying evening in an armchair.

STAND BY. By CAROLYN COX. Harpers. 1925.

Here is a romance of the World War and of the period immediately following. Rosemary Lee is a Southern girl who is so indiscreet as to include within a package sent to the sailors her own photograph. As a consequence she becomes acquainted with hard-boiled Jack Harlow, the Devil's Mascot, and marries him on impulse. Later he finds the marriage irksome and ignores her letters. His ship is torpedoed, but he escapes to have more adventures. After the Armistice he becomes a mine sweeper and is permanently injured. Meanwhile Rosemary has fallen in love with another sailor. But when Jack, now a consumptive and hopeless wreck, approaches her she is loyal, and though subsequently he is brutal she never falters. He reforms, saves her from drowning, and dies.



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which means "five books" in Sanskrit, has now for the first time been completely translated into English, by Arthur W. Ryder, in a desire to retell these stories as they were first told in India. Here is a collection that rivals the "Arabian Nights" of Haroun al Raschid. \$4

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THE BEST BRITISH SHORT STORIES OF 1925. Edited by Edward J. O'Brien and John Cournoyer. Small, Maynard. \$2.50 net.

THE DUGOUT. By Zoe A. Tilgham. Oklahoma City: Harlow.

THE DEVIL IN LOVE. By Jacques Cazotte. Houghton Mifflin. \$6.

LITTLE TIGER. By Anthony Hope. Doran. \$2 net.

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HALF A MINUTE'S SILENCE. By Maurice Baring. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.

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RAJAH'S HONOUR. By Pearl Weymouth. Seltzer. \$2.

Government

THE MORAL STANDARDS OF DEMOCRACY. By HENRY WILKES WRIGHT. Appleton. 1925. \$2.

Professor Wright opposes some of the inroads that the behaviorists have made into the moral and social sciences. He refuses in particular to accept a version of Man in which that being is denied a consciousness. Without consciousness how can we reason, and without reason, how can we be moral? Professor Wright

social ethics in the University of Manitoba, is one of the ordained ones to champion the validity of the concept of consciousness. It would not be unlike the behaviorists to fancy that in doing so he was in fact "responding to stimulus," though they might be too polite to say so. Many votaries of the Goddess of Reason have excelled rather in their familiarity with abstract aspects than in their faculty to cope with the concrete, and Professor Wright in his turn has a most thorough command of the generals and of the doctrines in the ethical field. His contact with the awkward edges and crannies of the specific is less secure. He approves and cites Swenson on reason as the basis of community life. But Robespierre had the same notion, and reason still suffers from the after effects. He praises the virtue of literature as a tonic to the democratic conscience, but shows no awareness of the modern dispute over whether literature can maintain its tonic quality under present democratic influences. He urges "more intelligent and humane methods in handling workmen, methods raising them above the status of mere hands;" and of what then, has the industrial world been talking, with what has it been experimenting, throughout the present century? A book presenting the scholastic side of the ethical doctrines of today's society should have value and interest. But to have either, it must be written in awareness of what goes on in the open daylight, outside the study window.

International

EUROPE TURNS THE CORNER. By STANLEY HIGH. Introduction by Col. Edward M. House. Abingdon Press. 1925. \$2.

This is a readable and informative book to show that the year of 1924 marks the beginning of European financial and political recovery, after five years of post-war prostration.

The author bases his thesis on the facts that 1924 witnessed the coming into power of the British Labor Party, the abandonment of the reactionary chauvinism of Poincaré in France, the stabilization of Germany through the Dawes plan, recognition of Russia by several of the great powers, the framing of the Protocol of the fifth League Assembly at Geneva inaugurating compulsory arbitration and establishing that international security which has precedent to any world disarmament and finally the beginning of a new era of heart on the part of the United States toward Europe and consequently re-awakening active interest by America in an settlement.

In addition the author has much to say in a sympathetic way on internal conditions in Russia. He also urges America to take a more liberal attitude on the settlement of the League of Nations and the

striking statement in the introduction by Colonel House, "no living man has ever lived in a more liberal atmosphere than that which has been created in the League of Nations."

of England, most of the governing class which has been above reproach, and whose rational views on international politics have been unclouded by party bias. Mrs. Swanwick has given us a history of the ten years' activities of the Union of Democratic Control, the organization founded in 1914 with the object of preserving undimmed, through the War and after, the oft-asserted British objective, a peace without vindictiveness and a new world order based on liberal principles. For this the U. D. C. fought, and for this it was anathematised by Parliament, by the Press, by everyone. Yet within its ranks were such men as Ramsay MacDonald, Morel, Gooch, Lord Thompson, etc., many of whom later rode to office with the Labor victory of 1923, and all of whom for ten years have been striving for a new order in the conduct of foreign relations. Mrs. Swanwick's book is effective through its ease of style and clarity of argument, with a perhaps too prolonged technical description of her own organization. On the whole it is a most valuable adjunct to the numerous diplomatic disclosures lately brought forth.

- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. By Raymond Leslie Buell. Holt. \$6.25. CHINESE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. By William S. A. Pott. Knopf. \$2 net. PROBLEMS IN PAN-AMERICANISM. By Samuel Guy Inman. Doran. \$2 net. AMERICA IN CIVILIZATION. By Ralph E. Turner. Knopf. \$5 net. THE SENATE AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. By Henry Cabot Lodge. Scribners. \$4. THE DESTINY OF A CONTINENT. By Manuel Ugarte. Knopf. \$3.50 net. THE NEUROSES OF THE NATIONS. By C. E. Payne. Seltzer. \$5.

Miscellaneous

FATHER'S FIRST TWO YEARS. By FAIRFAX DOWNEY. Minton, Balch. 1925. \$1.50.

There are plenty of manuals for new babies and new mothers. Mr. Downey has therefore decided to take the part of New Fathers. He spoofs the situation in which they find themselves, but with shrewd wisdom and cheerful disillusionment. Chapters of the book have already appeared piecemeal in Life, The Saturday Evening Post, Judge, etc., thereby adding greatly to the world's gaiety. Mr. Downey is a journalist, a special writer for the Herald-Tribune. But his writing in "Father's First Two Years" is unsterile and charmingly fresh. The little book will make an entertaining gift to any New Father that you know. Margaret Freeman's illustrations are quite in the spirit of the occasion.

HALF HOURS IN THE KITCHENETTE. By G. F. SCOTSON-CLARK. Appleton. 1925. \$1.

A tiny book of recipes to enable small households and kitchenette cooks "to have a variety of food at a low cost and with a minimum of trouble." Mr. Scotson-Clark is more practically valuable as a guide than any number of Brillat-Savarins, for the majority of dishes he shows how to make can be prepared in half an hour with only kitchenette facilities. If this be epicureanism it will also prove a boon to young apartment dwellers and the newly-wedded of the Great City. Bachelors will also call the author blessed! The book almost slips into one's vest pocket, and the suggestions therein will be of use and at the same time economical resources for the housewife. Moreover, Mr. Scotson-Clark's recommendations no longer lack literary inspiration.

RECIPES OF FAMOUS COOKS. With a foreword by FLORENCE STRATTON. Harpers. 1925.

...face, how can any woman, otherwise, have a "favorite" recipe? Any one who can cook can have at least five or six neat-dish perhaps, a salad, asserts, a Welsh rabbit; there are to suit varying moods and occasions. If a woman is compelled to choose one special recipe from a book she will naturally choose the most interesting, her fanciest concoction—that is what this book is composed of—the most part: elaborate, neat-pieces of cookery. It runs through salads and desserts; and though these recipes are excellent, very distinct in their distinction or uniqueness. The book is a little too extemporaneous, a little too flippant—as is also the quite flippant introduction by Florence Stratton. Even if the book has not much value, it might make a perfect

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but the wealth... tickle one's appetite... conserve slender... many a day... Clark brings... inconsiderable... FAVORITE... RECIPES OF FAMOUS COOKS... with a foreword by FLORENCE STRATTON... Harpers. 1925... face, how can any woman, otherwise, have a "favorite" recipe? Any one who can cook can have at least five or six neat-dish perhaps, a salad, asserts, a Welsh rabbit; there are to suit varying moods and occasions. If a woman is compelled to choose one special recipe from a book she will naturally choose the most interesting, her fanciest concoction—that is what this book is composed of—the most part: elaborate, neat-pieces of cookery. It runs through salads and desserts; and though these recipes are excellent, very distinct in their distinction or uniqueness. The book is a little too extemporaneous, a little too flippant—as is also the quite flippant introduction by Florence Stratton. Even if the book has not much value, it might make a perfect