And "The Elder Sister" is a fine invention

We are not now as erst when erst we trod

That winter comes and days are rarely

To read "Confessions of a Reformer;"

What, on the other hand, could be much

Than Edith Wharton's "In Morocco."

She never sheiks, nor shrieks of gore;

Of writing mighty verse wax little fat-

By Gertrude Hall is praised by Willa

(Whose name's a satisfaction to the

By Swinnerton, . . Ah God!

warmer

sweeter

Our lines are lame;

The echoing parapets of fame And used our "erst" and "o'er";

And what we're doing now

Is (and the book's by Howe)

And thus you make the metre!)

She never seeks to shock; Oh,

The Harem of Abd-el-Kader

A simple harem is to her

And it is nothing more,

Thus do our chances

"Wagnerian Romances"

(When Willa Cather praise

By one George Kibbe Turner

In its malarial topic to discern a

And read it through. Indeed it looks

It's one of the Borzoi Pocket Books

At a dollar and a quarter. . .

We think we have outstayed

So doth our anthem fade

As Coleridge put it aptly.

We've contemplated raptly

Much literachure, and sullen

Hath sunk our soaring strain.

Cather.

One of our lays!)

rhymer!)

Tremendous novel.

Amazing, as it orter;

Our "welcome while"

Doth remain. .

well to you!

And "Hagar's Hoard"

Full fatly doth afford

A chance for Hergesheimer

We'll take it to our hovel

(Call it con-fess-i-owns

In real robustious tones

What we did then we do no more,



Ode to a Few Books

OH THE po-ems of Miss Proctor who was born in '29 Now re-issued lie before us; how they breathe of auld lang syne! Shenandoah, Mississippi, and the brimming Contoocook, Holy Russia, Mount Tacoma, all are chanted in this book. Here are incas, here are angels, here New Hampshire's pine and fir, Here are Cleobis and Biton (You remember who they were!), Here a life of lights and shadows, here devout religion lurks, In the po-ems of Miss Proctor-her "Complete Poetical Works." She sings of an ancient people In pueblos near to the sky, Of "the lordly bison with his herds; Coyote swift and sly", She should have pronounced it kyote As John G. Neihardt doth,-Which reminds us of Colonel Homer Whose volume appeals to uth. His volume's title is "Buffalo Days" And full of Indian fights; We prefer it to Miss Proctor's lays. It made us sit up nights. And turning away from it To a very different volum', We find not a little versified wit In Preston's "Top o' The Column"; Then "the cymbals whang And the kettledrums bang" As we open Vachel Lindsay's Unlimited harangue Lavish of material for half a hundred tomes, With drawings by the author,—in "Collected Pomes." But Achmed Abdullah Also has cullah In "The Swinging Caravan;" He explains the East, Both man and beast, In a book it is hard to pan; Yet with sensitive face We turn for cheer To Dick Lovelace The Cavalier; "The Cavalier Spirit" is all about him; What would poetry do without him? How would King Charles's time appear

Reft of Lovelace, the Cavalier?

For here he comes (as he shouldn't)

He's a little too crazy,-just a little!

Therefore it seems the fantasy's less wear-

In these "Dead Letters" penned by Mau-

Here's Nero interviewed, and Messalina

Be parcelled out to Alpha of the Plough

For "Many Furrows." Here is pleasant

Besprent with decorations most inviting;

Nevertheless, though you may think it

Take a squint at James Scherer's "The

It tells of Sam Brannan and his picturesque

From the time he sailed his Mormons

And here's a book of poems in which

And "The Forge in the Forest," though

Is the most romantic of juveniles by

"The Neuroses of the Nations" is much

(For fu'ler description see back of wrap-

And isn't there another book by "Sapper?"

If there only were, how pat it would

Furnish us a rhyme and a Bulldog Drum-

Instead of which we must point out how

Probably merits your attention.

Considerable talent-"Those Not Elect,"

By Léonie Adams, a good gal poet;

you may not know it,

through the Golden Gate;

And let a short laudation now

Looking more human than we've ever

We find his stories a trifle brittle;

Chesterton probably wouldn't

Agree with us, we know,-

Drawing his longest bow;

rice Baring;

seen her;

writing

So many books are here;

We hardly knowed

fate

we suspect

more solemn,

come 'nd

mond!

When we began this Ode

How many books there weer!

First Forty-Niner."

Oh dear!

Foreign Notes

One book of poems by Countée Cullen

'Tis good, 'tis better than the most can do;

And so, Oh patient friends, a long fare-

W. R. B.

THE National Library Bill of Scotland has become a law and Scottish people now possess a national library, the third finest in Great Britain. The British Museum and the Bodleian Library at Oxford alone surpass it. The library contains 750,000 books, not including manuscripts, maps, and music. This priceless collection was owned by the Faculty of Advocates, who, in 1922, offered the library as a free gift to the nation. The Scotland Library Endowment Trust was set up and donations invited. This famous library was founded in the time of Charles II, and as the faculty has taken a leading part in the life of the nation, the one has grown with the other. An act of Queen Anne's time gave the library the right to claim a copy of every book entered at Stationers' Hall. The library is a mine of wealth to the historian. It contains the charters of the Scottish kings, and other historical material concerning the Scottish people of priceless value.

Edouard Schneider, who wrote the recent book on Eleanora Duse which made such a favorable impression, is editing for the publisher, Bernard Grasset, a new series on "Les Grands Ordres Monastiques." Each volume will be devoted to one of the great brotherhoods, Carmelites, Franciscans, Trappists, etc. M. Schneider's own work, "Les Heures Bénédictines," which had been out of print forms the initial volume, being a new edition to which the author has joined a life of St. Benoit, founder of this order. The publisher is encouraged to undertake the series, partly by the great success of Emile Baumann's "Saint Paul."

34 34

عن عن In his "Storia del Regno di Napoli" (Bari: Laterza), Benedetto Croce begins with the Normans and ends with the disappearance of the Kingdom of Naples in 1860. Signor Croce adheres closely to the main thread of his discussion in his narrative, introducing considerable character portrayal and philosophical speculation, but not digressing in the historical chronicle.

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The New Books

os. Sweed by title only in the classified list below are noted nere as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Belles Lettres

CRACKERBOX PHILOSOPHERS. By DANFITE TANDY New York: Columbia University Press, 1925. \$2.50. In this one of the Columbia University Studies in English and Comparative Litcramure, Jennette Tandy, Ph.D. treats of the homely American, the folk-hero, the unlettered philosopher as presented in a large and definite section of American Interature, from the days of Smith, Davis, and Haliburton to those of Mr. Dooley, Abe Martin, and Don Marquis. Of course the Bigelow Papers, Bill Arp, and Petrolearn V. Nasby, Artemus Ward, and Josh Billings have chapters allotted them. A discussion of early Yankee literature begins the book by figuring forth the Comic Yankee who survives in the national character of Uncle Sam. And the book throughout is supplied with valuable bibliographies. Many now forgotten authors and compilers are discussed, such as Johnson Jones Hooper and William Trotter Porter. The material available is thoroughly sifted, the interpolated selections well chosen. The book is a most interesting footnote to American Litera-

THE ART OF DESCRIPTION. By MARJORIE H. NICOLSON. Crofts. 1925.

This is a text-book of unusual merit, good from beginning to end. The selections constitute a readable volume in themselves, containing, in addition to the classic passages from Ruskin, Pater, Stevenson, etc., many examples from such contemporary writers as Henry Adams, Amy Lowell, Christopher Morley, or Sheila Kaye-Smith. A quotation from the preface will indicate why the author has been able to make an interesting text-book for what is, as usually taught, the most barren course in the whole college curriculum: "Description is not that artificial thing—a "form of discourse"; it is one of several moods or attitudes of mind through which a writer or speaker, who has found his world interesting, beautiful, ugly, or effective, endeavors to transfer to others his pleasure or his interest in that world,"

OTHER PROVINCES. By CARL VAN Doren. Knopf. 1925.

Not content with his multitudinous labors as critic, translator, and editor, Mr. Van Doren now enters another field with this volume of character sketches. He is still concerned with criticism, or rather appreciation, but appreciation of life direct instead of life through literature. The tone of the book is quiet and unassuming, there is an avoidance of tragic or sensational issues, the author sel cting characters little if at all above the average, and dwelling by preference on the very young or the very old whose lives in the nature of things are neither tragic nor sensational. The work comes as one more protest against the hectic unreason of contemporary life. Perhaps the most delightful thing in it is the sketch of "The Last Heretic", supposed to be written in 1970, thirty years after Fundamentalism, Nationalism, and the Censorship have been finally established by the Inquisition of 1940. Doubtless the protest, like others, will be unheeded, but that is no reason for its not being made. In any the book will at least be read by all those who are interested in Mr. Van Doren, and that, fortunately, is a very large number.

AMERICANA, By Milton Waldman, Holt. \$5.
THE STORY OF THE WORLD'S LITERATURE. By
John Macy. Boni & Liveright. \$5.
KEATS AND SHAKESPEARE. By J. Middleton
Murry. Oxford University Press. \$4.75 net.
RUMINATIONS. By Arthur McDowell. Houghton
Millin. \$5.

OLD FLAMES FOR NEW. By Claude Bragdon. Knopf. \$3 net.

SHAW. By J. S. Collis. Knopf.

A New Survey of English Literatur. By Benjamin Brawley. Knopf. \$3.50 net.

THE LOVE OF BOOKS: THE PHILIDIBLOS OF RICHAYD DE BURY. Translated by E. C. Thomas. Orford. \$1.85 net.

HUMAND M AND "YRANNY. BY Ephraim Emerios H syard University Pross. \$4

THE FARLUR AND LATER FREMS OF PET ARCH'S CANTONIE By Ruth Shepard Phil s. University Pross. 55

THE OF AN OPTIMIST. BY Florence Half.

Biography

LIFE IN LETTERS OF WILLIAM REED HUNTINGTON B. JOHN viere a umar. Century, 1925, \$5. De assignment of the behind he is lasting routation as the rector of Grace halobale New York, and a backhroadly known but perhaps more lait no name as

a worker for church unity. He had the gift of verse, but exercised it seldom, before no great audience; and he had little proclivity for the writing of books, or for hitching his wagon to picturesque and popular causes. There is consequently a great deal of him for the biograph r to perpetuate, and even to bring to light. Dr. Suter has appreciated the somewhat Holmes-like charm of the Huntington letters, and has introduced a fair abundance of them, rich in genial, kindly, and deft comment on no end of topics. He has put in his book a few examples of Dr. Huntington's verse, some light and genuinely sparkling, others expressive of serious sentiment, and expressive also, of the New England reticence that somewhat veiled their author's alert and sentiment spirit. Dr. Huntington was a clergyman's clergyman, a power in his church, and an influence even in others. Much of the book has to do with his activity in church congresses and conventions, and must particularly interest the narrower circle of those with abiding cler cal interests. But the man, too, is revealed, and to a degree, since he had not the gift or fancy for self display, that can hardly have been possible in his lifetime.

HESKETH PRICHARD. By Eric Par-KER. Dutton. 1925. \$5.

Not infrequently there appears a big biography of a little man, a biography as puffy and ephemeral as an October mushroom; but it serves to bolster the memory of the departed. Less often, unfortunately, we find a little biography of a great man; such a one is this. Through the judicious choice of his material Mr. Parker has woven, in effect, an autobiography, for Hesketh Prichard was an indefatigable and colorful letter writer, and it is from this wealth of material that the small volume is drawn.

As a lad of nineteen Hesketh Prichard started a career of travel and writing by a trip through Spain and Morocco. At twenty he was in Panama and a regular contributor to the Pall Mall, the Strand, the Cornhill, and Pearson's magazines. At twenty-two he undertook an expedition alone across Haiti and succeeded in being the first white man to cross the island in a hundred years. At twenty-four he led a search through Patagonia for the prehistoric mylodon. He hunted caribou in Newfoundland and Canada, and seal in Norway. And in the intervals he had the time to collaborate with his mother under the names of "E. and H. Heron" in creating such characters as Don Q and Count Karadac.

Among his personal friends were such men as Roosevelt, Conan Doyle, Barrie, Galsworthy, Selous, Sir Harry Johnston. As a hunter and naturalist he fought for the passage of the Plumage Bill in England and was ultimately successful.

And then came the Great War and he turned his knowledge of hunting and experience of woodcraft to the establishing of a school of sniping in France where, under his personal supervision, officers from all the Allied Armies were given instruction. And when he was given the Military Cross, it was accompanied with the following citation, "This officer has been responsible for more German casualties than any other officer in the Army.

In 1922 Hesketh Prichard died. This is not an important biography, too many good things are unimportant. But whoever reads it will be satisfied in having made a contact with a gentleman.

SIX PRISONS A'D REVOLUTIONS. By Oliver Baldwin. Doubleday, Page. \$3 net. MY LIFE AS AN EXPLORER. By Sven Hedin. Boni & Liveright. \$6 Boni & Liveright. \$5

ONE MAN'S LIFE. By Herbert Quick. BobbsMerrill. \$5.

AARON BURR. By Samuel H. Wandell and
Meade Minnigerode. Putname. 2 vols. \$10.

If I KNOW WHAT I MEAN. By Elsis Janis.
Putnam. \$1,75.

RENOIR. By Ambrose Vollard. Knopf. 13 net. FORTY YEARS OF IT. By Brand Whitlock. Appleton. 12.50.

MARGARET BO DFIELD. By Iconoclast. Seltzer.

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