

## The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

responsible for his death by drowning. Her deceit, cupidity, and general vileness bring an increasingly heavy retribution, but her character is so utterly detestable that, as the blows of her punishment fall, one is almost stirred to cry: "Goody! Goody!" rather than to feel solicitude for her pangs. It is clear that the author intended to arouse our sympathies for Jacqueline during the experience of her chastisement, but this she fails to do because of having previously portrayed the culprit in terms of a too lurid and profound depravity.

THE TWELVE SAINTS. By Ruth Manning Sanders. Clode. \$2 net.  
CUCKOO. By Douglas Golding. McBride. \$2 net.  
RIDERS OF THE WIND. By Elswyth Thane. Stokes. \$2.

PIRACY. By Michael Arlen. Doran. \$2 net.  
PAUL BUNYAN. By Esther Shepard. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.  
KELLER'S ANNA RUTH. By Elsie Singmaster. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.  
THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MR. COLLIN. By Frank Heller. Crowell. \$2 net.  
JACK SUTHERLAND. By Theodore E. Oertel. Crowell. \$2 net.  
WHEN THE FIGHT BEGINS. By Holman Day. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.  
SECRET HARBOR. By Stewart Edward White. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.  
MASTERSON. By Gilbert Frankau. Harpers. \$2.  
IT'S NOT DONE. By William Bullitt. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.  
THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS. By Richard Garnett. Knopf. \$3 net.  
HEAT. By Isa Glenn. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

## Foreign

DIFFERENTS SOUVENIRS DE JEUNESSE. Selected from the novels of Anatole France. Edited by V. F. Boyson.  
DIE NEUNSTEHENDE WELT. By Count Hermann Keyserling. Darmstadt: Reichl.

L'AGRICULTURE PENDANT LA GUERRE. By Michel Augé-Laribe. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires (Yale University Press).  
LE CONTRÔLE DU RAVITAILLEMENT DE LA POPULATION CIVILE. By Pierre Pinot. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires.  
LA VIE ÉCONOMIQUE À BORDEAUX PENDANT LA GUERRE. By Paul Courteault.  
BIBLIOGRAPHIE MÉTHODIQUE DE L'HISTOIRE ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE DE LA FRANCE PENDANT LA GUERRE. By Camille Bloch. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires (Yale University Press).  
LES AVENTURES DU FILIBUSTIER BEAUCHÈNE. By Alain-René Lesage. Edited by Harry Kurz. Century. \$1.  
LA VIE AMOUREUSE DE MADAME DU BARRY. Paris: Flammarion.  
L'HOMME QUI DEVINT FEMME. By Sherwood Anderson. Paris: Emile-Paul.  
LA SITUATION ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE DES ÉTATS-UNIS À LA FIN DU XVIII SIÈCLE. By Alexandre Capitaine. Paris: Les Presses Universitaires de France.

## Miscellaneous

OSCAR WILDE FROM PURGATORY. By Hester Travers Smith. Holt. 1926. \$2.

Here are displayed a series of psychic messages, purportedly from the author of "De Profundis" and "Dorian Grey." Hester Travers Smith is the author of "Voices from the Void" and assumes in her Foreword to the present book that she is "speaking of a discarnate personality of whose existence there is no question." She leaves it to the reader to pronounce upon the case. We ourselves are not convinced by the evidence.

Sir William F. Barrett, F. R. S. discusses the spirit-communications in his introduction. They came through automatic writing and the ouija board. He refers to the recent findings of Professor Richet, the eminent European physiologist, who does not believe in survival. Sir William himself is convinced "that whilst many supernatural psychological phenomena may ultimately be proved to be due to abnormal conditions of the brain, yet there will be found to remain well attested facts which will compel science to admit the existence of a soul; and also of a spiritual world, peopled with discarnate intelligent beings, some of whom can occasionally, but more or less imperfectly, get into communications with us."

Do the Oscar Wilde scripts support this view? They are merely presented. They are indubitably interesting. Sometimes one's visualization of Mrs. Travers Smith at the ouija board and Oscar communicating from grey space sets one's sense of humour stirring, particularly in view of certain of the questions and answers. Mrs. Travers Smith, on the other hand, discusses the communications of Oscar amiably and rea-

sonably. She gives her reasons for believing that his communications differ from the cases cited by Richet as obviously reconstructions of a celebrated personality in the sub-conscious mind of the operator. In three separate instances Wilde's own handwriting, or quite a remarkable imitation of it, came through the automatic writing. Passages parallel to certain passages in his published writings are displayed by him—to impress his personality upon the faithful. There are other remarks more spontaneous and peculiar.

All one can say in a case of this kind is that acceptance or non-acceptance is bound to be colored by the leanings of the observer toward spiritualism or away from it. If one tends to believe the major premise one has food for much speculation. We ourselves are not inclined to dogmatize one way or the other. In general, it may be said that in this, as in all similar records, there is no proof positive.

THE LIBERTY BELL. By Victor Rosewater. Appleton. \$1.75.  
AMERICA TRIUMPHANT. By Constance d'Arcy Mackay. Appleton. \$1.25.  
THE FIRST CENTURY OF PRINTING AT BASLE. By A. F. Johnson. Scribners. \$3.50.  
ITALIAN XVI CENTURY. By A. F. Johnson. Scribners. \$3.50.  
TYPOGRAPHY OF THE SPANISH XVI CENTURY. By Henry Thomas. Scribners. \$3.50.  
FOXES, FOXHOUNDS, AND FOX-HUNTING. By Richard Clapham. Scribners. \$3.75.  
SOLOMON IBN GABRIEL'S CHOICE OF PEARLS. Translated and edited by Rev. A. Cohen. Bloch.  
PIRKE ABOOTH. Edited by R. Travers Herford. Bloch.  
BANKING THROUGH THE AGES. By Noble Foster Hoggson. Dodd, Mead.

## Science

EVOLUTION, GENETICS, AND EUGENICS. By HORATIO HACKETT NEWMAN. University of Chicago Press. 1925. \$3.50.

Professor Newman's book is worthy of passing mention, because the author was one of the witnesses for science in that strange legal battle that raged at Dayton, Tennessee, for ten hot days last summer, and he has incorporated the results of his experience there in this revision of his already well-known work. It is always interesting, and sometimes profitable, to listen while a veteran speaks of war.

There are two distinctive features about this book. First, unlike many of the more serious and intelligent discussions of evolution, it does not either ignore the opposition nor dismiss it summarily. It takes up assertion after assertion, and discusses all of them, even the absurd ones, fully, seriously, and with complete good nature. This makes what one may call the "philosophical" part of the book bulk larger than it usually does in popular evolution volumes, but there is nothing superfluous about the additional matter.

The second distinctive and valuable feature lies in the large and liberal quotations that fill the book. Professor Newman does not content himself with talking about what Darwin, Huxley, DeVries, Bateson and all the rest of the cloud of witnesses had to say; he selects their most pertinent sayings and reprints them, verbatim and duly labeled. This makes this volume a veritable source-book; in lack of complete libraries a most useful vademecum for isolated teachers and preachers.


## Travel

AMERICAN SHRINES ON ENGLISH SOIL. By J. F. MUIRHEAD. Macmillan. 1926. \$3.

Recently a little book appeared upon those parts of London where American associations were strong. Mr. Muirhead's task is more ambitious. He has made a survey of England and with much scholarship and a pleasing style has written a guide book to the environment that so many famous Americans left behind them. It is more than a record, and the careful descriptions will be of service to scholars as well as travelers. The expected background of Puritans, Quakers, and Virginians is in this book, but also much more not expected, and the record is carried from the settlement up to the great war.

VIRGIN SPAIN. By Waldo Frank. Boni & Liveright. \$3.  
TALES OF THE ESKIMOS. By Captain Henry Toke Munn. Lippincott.  
THE GLITTERING MOUNTAINS OF CANADA. By J. Monroe Thorington. John W. Lea, 1520 North Robinson Street, Philadelphia. \$4.50 net.  
THE MOUNTAINS OF YOUTH. By Arnold Lunn. Oxford University Press. \$4.25.  
THE FRINGE OF LONDON. By Gordon S. Maxwell. Brentanos. \$2.50.

(Continued on page 690)



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## The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Inquiries in regard to the selection of books and questions of like nature should be addressed to MRS. BECKER, c/o The Saturday Review.

### A BALANCED RATION

MAN ALONE. By George Agnew Chamberlain (Putnam).

THE LETTERS OF QUEEN VICTORIA. Second Series (Longmans, Green).

CRITICAL WOODCUTS. By Stuart Sherman (Scribners).

*L. M., New York, asks for books that give the food values of vegetables, meats, etc., and tell what constitutes a well-balanced meal.*

YOU might expect this question on a page that has for so long provided "balanced rations." "Feeding the Family," by Mary Swartz Rose (Macmillan), is a standard manual quite recently published in a new and enlarged edition: there are many dietary tables in the appendix. The Harvard University Press publishes as one of its little health manuals "Adequate Diet," by Percy G. Stiles, and Doubleday, Page has just brought out "The Role of Diet," a study of the part taken by proper foods in making and keeping one physically fit. The author is Ida Bailey Allen, a writer on dietetics and table affairs whose newspaper readers are legion. This has food hints for singers, worriers, insomniacs, bilious people, lecturers, and other products of high pressure civilization.

"The Newer Knowledge of Nutrition," by E. V. McCollum (Macmillan), has lately appeared in an enlarged third edition: this is a standard text. "The Science of Eating," by A. W. McCann (Doran), is an enlargement of an earlier work, one with an attractive aggressiveness. The ideas of E. Christian are set forth in "Eat and Be Well" (Knopf). As for reducing books, the prize for popularity still goes to Dr. Lulu Peters's "Diet for Health" (Reilly & Lee), which blooms on like "Abie's Irish Rose," a sturdy bud being her "Diet for Children (and Adults)" (Dodd, Mead). It inaugurated the great American indoor sport of counting calories. Before that Vance Thompson's "Eat and Grow Thin" (Dutton) held first place: its Mahdiah menus are epicurean and expensive. Most wage-earners would reduce rapidly by eating only when they could afford them. Henry T. Finck's "Girth Control" (Harper) and Samuel Blythe's "Keeping Fit at Fifty" (Bobbs-Merrill) have their enthusiastic followers, and for ladies who entertain the studiously slender there is a new book, lately from Appleton, Edna S. Tipton's "Reducing Menus for the Hostess of To-day: Jack Sprat Spreads."

As we border on the subject of cookery books, there is a new one with the desperate title "If You Must Cook" (Dodd, Mead), prepared by Jennette Lee for the use of women who find themselves, as so many now do, in a position where if they don't cook they don't eat nor their families either: for these there are indicated practical shortcuts and simplifications: the experienced cook need not be above consulting it. And the only volume of *belles lettres* published by the Columbia University Press, Clyde Furst's "Observations of Professor Maturin," opens with an essay on Brillat-Savarin's famous book and on the personality of the author that will inform and surprise many an American: food flavors this learned volume admirably.

*E. B., Sheldon, Iowa, asks for books that deal with the development of agriculture and its problems in different countries and times. King's "Farmers of Forty Centuries" is the sort of book he has in mind.*

THERE have been several important additions to the historical literature of agriculture within the past year or so. "History of Agriculture in Europe and America," by Norman S. B. Gras (F. S. Crofts), is a large and comprehensive work published in 1925; in the same year Van Nostrand brought out, as a volume of a valuable series on modern developments in science, Milton Whitney's "Soil and Civilization," a modern concept of the soil and the historical development of agriculture. The Carnegie Institute of Washington recently issued the "History of Agriculture in the Northern United States: 1620-1860," by Percy Bidwell and John Falconer, a massive work with classified and critical

bibliography. "A Short History of British Agriculture," by John Orr, is a recent addition to the group of small, well-printed and authoritative surveys of large subjects known as the "Oxford World Manuals," published by the Oxford University Press. "Economic History of American Agriculture," by Ernest L. Bogart (Longmans, Green), is the section on this subject from the author's "Economic History of the United States" (Longmans, Green), printed separately. Rowland Prothero's "English Farming Past and Present" (Longmans, Green), has long been a standard work, and a famous source is the seven volume "History of Agriculture and Prices in England," by J. E. T. Rogers (Oxford). There are histories of farming for most of the European countries, but I know of none that are translated.

There is an interesting group of biographies lately published in one volume by Macmillan, called "Fifty Famous Farmers," by Lester Ivins and A. E. Winship, which should have a place on this list. Intended for school, college, or public library use, it presents farmers as inventors, like Eli Whitney, Cyrus McCormick, and the Swede, Gustaf De Laval; as creators of better plants and animals, like Burbank and Peter Henderson, as leaders in rural economics and social life, like Herbert Quick; as soil experts, like Sir John Lawes; as administrators of agriculture and as cabinet secretaries. A volume by one of these, the late Henry C. Wallace, "Our Debt and Duty to the Farmer" (Century), is a recent addition to a series called "Century Rural Life Books," these cover, or will in time cover, every department of life in rural communities: all those that I have had occasion to consult were trustworthy and readably written. I may add, being in a mild way something of an amateur of books of this nature, that "Kelsey's Rural Guide" (Atlantic Monthly Press) is a compact, practical handbook containing any amount of the sort of information needed by a city man who longs for a country home. It does not stop at the suburbs or confine itself to a chicken-yard, and the city man who at this time of year easily convinces himself that there is money in farming may find in it encouragement and warning. The same press issues "Bucolic Beatitudes," by Rusticus, who can be no real farmer because his chapter heads are "Blessed be the Cow," "Blessed be the Pig," and so on, and I leave it to anyone with country training if that be the word regularly in use. But the book is charming.

E. G., Philadelphia, is informed that the real name of "Alpha of the Plough," whose short essays called "Many Furrows" (Dutton) he so much admires, is A. G. Gardiner, an English newspaper writer, and F. H., Alliance, O., asking for the married name of Irene Rutherford McLeod, whose three volumes of verse are published here by the Viking Press, is told that she is given in Manly and Rickert's "Contemporary British Literature" booklist (Harcourt, Brace) as Mrs. A. de Selincourt. M. M. T., Richmond, Va., asks for books that would be of assistance to the curator of a small museum, containing manuscripts, books, glass, furniture, pictures, etc. The best book for the purpose, and one written especially for those establishing museums, is Margaret T. Jackson's "The Museum" (Longmans, Green). There are excellent directions for the care of exhibits as well as for their arrangement. And J. O. B., San Francisco, Cal., strongly recommends to the family with three boys in Yardley, Pa., looking for a thesaurus, Fernald's "English Synonyms and Antonyms" (Funk & Wagnalls) in which more than 8,000 words are classified, discriminated, and explained by examples in use.

G. E. H., Derby Line, Vermont, asks if there is a digest of laws regulating the operation of automobiles in all states.

THE American Automobile Association, to which I referred the matter, reply that they do not know of one, and that such a work would have to be quite voluminous to cover all laws of forty-eight states. As a matter of service to members they maintain at national headquarters a file of all laws of individual states, and digests of some of the more essential provisions of motor-vehicle laws are supplied to their local affiliated clubs and branches for the information of members. This inquirer, for instance, would be answered through the Auto Club of Vermont, Montpelier.

Cecil Palmer of London will publish a book on "Charles Dickens: Shorthand Writer," by W. J. C. Charlton, who has collected a considerable amount of material throwing light on those early days in the novelist's career when he worked as a shorthand writer in the Law Courts and Houses of Parliament, or as a newspaper reporter in London and the provinces.

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