

## The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

holiday at Dieppe with a lonesome old man who has won her pity, and becomes the center of misconception and notoriety when he dies one night in her room. Thereafter the story concerns her tortuous love affair with a young Englishman, with comedy giving up the field to botchy sentiment.

Mr. Hamblin is not quite at home in the bohemian Paris of his creation. His lovers take themselves seriously in the English, not the Gallic, fashion. His moral sense paradoxically makes disagreeable his portrayal of an unmoral life; he suffers the same subsequent revulsion to its practice as his dunderheaded young Englishman. His scenes involving a questionable morality are unpleasant, not so much because he lacks taste as because he lacks lightness and a sense of humor; his apparent feelings with regard to them, give them an emphasis which a gay, playful treatment would never convey. The book is second-rate in a field where to be second-rate is to be intolerable.

THE CONTRACTING CIRCLE. By E. L. GRANT-WATSON. Boni & Liveright. 1925.

Somewhere among the concluding pages Mr. Grant-Watson's heroine, arrived at the age of sixty, hazards the rash guess that "love created the greatest, the most painful of injuries, for what inflicts greater spiritual pain than that which attracts and does not conquer, that which attracts and is not strong enough to subdue?" It is not a new theme; one is a little surprised, in fact, at the way in which novelists—especially serious modern novelists—seem constantly to be caught in astonished exclamation over the simple realization that human nature is what it is. It is not until the 294th page that Mr. Grant-Watson feels safe in concluding that "the man or woman who lives truly wants more than love." But if there is necessarily a certain amount of the obvious in any exploration of so old a problem, yet the problem is in itself inexplicable and eternally elusive; and when

the inquiry is pursued with both sincerity and insight, each fresh verdict demands its hearing. This question of a love which will bind up two conflicting personalities and yet fail to amalgamate them—of love which promises and yet fails, obscurely, to repay—is important to an imperfect humanity, and Mr. Grant-Watson's answer is as valid as any other man's.

He calls in the impressive background of the Australian bush (Mr. Grant-Watson is himself an Australian) to lift it at once to its simplest and strongest terms. Maggie O'Brien is the young wife of a sheep-rancher who, in his passionate and instinctive devotion to the bush country in which he was born, has succeeded in burying her in a desolation which leaves her twenty-four miles from her nearest neighbor. The grey loneliness—there is a fine rhythm in the development—slowly creeps up upon her and threatens to kill her. Her husband will not leave for her sake, and she begins to feel that she cannot stay for his. For both of them the illusions perish and they drift apart while they still remain indissolubly linked (it is, of course, one of the conditions of the problem) by their love for each other. Mr. Grant-Watson finds his answer to that unanswerable situation in the contracting circle of one's desires, ambitions, joys, and illusions which inevitably narrows as life passes, until it results, for Mr. Grant-Watson at least, in an unexpectedly happy ending surrounded by a triumphant geographical symbolism.

The method is artificial in that this problem occurs more often in situations less simple than those of the Australian sheep-country; but it is real for the same reason. It is the laboratory method. And if the conclusion, after all, is only Mr. Grant-Watson's, who can blame him? "Any form of real, naked, unadorned life," remarks one of his characters in another connection, "will reduce man or woman to a state of beggary." Sometimes, in the very midst of their capability, it will similarly reduce even capable novelists. But at least, the life here is real.

COMES THE BLIND FURY (La Nuit)

By RAYMOND ESCHOLIER. Translated by J. LEWIS MAY. Dodd, Mead. 1925. \$2.

Raymond Escholier has come to the fore in the last few years as one of France's most virile novelists. Stemming from that offshoot of Zolaism—the regionalist school of writers, Escholier has given us profound portraits of provincial life, and his stories frequently are evocative of Dostoevski.

In the little town of La Bastide, near

Bordeaux, there comes into the quiescent life of Dr. Langdale and his wife a troubling experience. Henriette, the little illegitimate daughter of their only son at once becomes the bone of contention between the doctor and his straight-laced sister. Henriette is kept under rigid guardianship, but her atavistic instincts make her restless. Having found the key to a secret door that leads to a side-street, she makes the acquaintance of Mlle. Cesarine, the milliner. A new world opens magical vistas.

Young men pay court to her and she hears strange stories of the world. One day she loses the key and her adventure is revealed. The town begins to whisper. The doctor is furious and watches her more carefully than ever. But she manages to escape again. One day she is suddenly stricken with blindness. The young girl, bubbling over with love of life, faces despair. Day after day she is alone, unable to move without aid. Her cousin Celestin pities her and takes her to his home at frequent intervals. His wife takes a fancy to the blind girl. The idyll is broken up, when Celestin's wife discovers the infidelity of her husband and a blind hate against the girl is the result. Henriette is smuggled out of town by a friend, and no one hears from her again.

This powerful story is told with a great economy of words, and moves dynamically to its terrific climax. The translation, although awkward in spots, is adequate.

WITHIN THE ROCK. By Marie Buxton Martin. Vinal.

THE ENEMY'S GATES. By Richmond Brooks Barrett. Boni & Liveright. \$2.

GIFTS OF SHEBA. By W. L. George. Putnam. \$2.

HEARTS OF HICKORY. By John Trotwood Moore. Cokesbury Press. \$2.

WISHES COME TRUE. By Georgia Fraser. Vinal.

GLASS HOUSE. By Eleanor Givvycka. Minton, Balch.

DOODLE. By M. Francis Reid. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

THE ALTAR OF THE LEGION. By Farnham Bishop and Arthur Gilchrist Brodeur. Little, Brown. \$2 net.

PIG IRON. By Charles G. Norris. Dutton.

## Foreign

HISTORY OF NEOHELLENIC LITERATURE. From the middle of the Fifteenth Century to the present time, with an Introduction on Byzantine Literature. Vol. I. By ELIAS P. VOUTIERIDIS. Athens, Greece: The M. Zikakkis Co. 1925.

ELIAS P. VOUTIERIDIS, Assistant to the Librarian of the National Library of Greece, is a widely known scholar in his country. He is practically the chief Greek authority on Neohellenic literature. He is moreover a writer of excellent standing, having given us a critical study on the distinguished poet Kostas Palamas, a small volume of poems, "Elegiacs" and two readable novels dealing with life in present day Athens, "Marios," and "When We Love."

The interesting and monumental work under review is to be in four volumes and will thus be completely published by the early part of 1927. The first volume, here being noticed, a piece of about 450 pages, contains an introduction which deals mostly with Byzantine literature from 1250 to 1450 A. D., a general examination of the whole spiritual status of the Greek Nation from the fall of Constantinople (1453) to the end of the Eighteenth Century, a delineation of the various conditions under which Neohellenic literature developed and of the reasons that lie back of the rise and perpetuation of the Greek language question. It includes also a treatment of the subject of the activity and contribution of Greek men of letters in the Renaissance of the West, and, finally, a fair account of the work of Greek men of letters during post-Byzantine years in the various branches of poetry, lyric, epic, epic-lyric and religious.

The second volume, in continuation, to be published in the near future, will contain poetry in the popular language, epic, patriotic, religious, and didactic; drama and comedy; prose in the archaic and popular languages, as well as Greek translations of foreign fragments in verse and prose.

The author inserts a lengthy prologue on the difficulties of the task he has undertaken, difficulties centering mostly on the darkness of the period from 1453 to 1800. Dividing the entire period into three parts, 1453

to 1800, 1800 to 1880, and 1880 to today, he says: "Departing from the thought that I have to examine and record the full expression of the Greek spirit in literary creation, I have divided the products of this creation into two main forms of expression, verse and prose. Each of these two forms I have divided according to the medium used, works written in the archaic or puristic idiom and works written in the popular or demotic."

It is in the introduction that the author presents a good account of the poems centering round the semi-mythical figure of Digenis Akritas. These poems form what is known as the Akritic Cycle and are compositions that belie the general conception as regards Byzantine letters among the majority of modern scholars. Digenis Akritas was a Greek hero revered generation after generation as a brave, religious, patriotic, and romantic youth.

LES AVENTURES FILIBUSTER BLANCHENE. By Alain-René Lesage. Edited by Harry Kunz. \$1.

LES REFUGIES HUGUENOTS EN AMERIQUE. Paris: Les Belles Lettres.

## Government

WORKING MANUAL OF CIVICS. By Milton Conover. Johns Hopkins Press.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKING PRACTICE. By H. Parker Willis and William H. Steiner. Appleton.

## History

THE CONQUEST OF THE PHILIPPINES BY THE UNITED STATES. By Moorfield Storey and Marcial P. Lichauco. Putnam. \$2.

THE SLAVE TRADE. By Theodore D. Jervay. Columbia, S. C.: The State Company.

THE PLANTATION OVERSEER AS SHOWN IN HIS LETTERS. By John Spencer Bassett. Smith College Press.

THE FRENCH REGIME IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. By D. C. Harvey. Yale University Press. \$3.

VERSAILLES: ITS LIFE AND HISTORY. By Cecilia Hill. Little, Brown. \$2.50 net.

## International

THE DESTINY OF A CONTINENT. By MANUAL UGARTE. Knopf. 1925. \$3.50.

This book by Manual Ugarte, one of the foremost publicists in Latin America, is an exhaustive, if somewhat inaccurate and extravagant exposé of "Yankee Imperialism." In South and Central America they do not speak of the Yellow Peril but of the Yankee Peril, and Señor Ugarte has prepared his indictment with more patriotic passion than sound reasoning. Nevertheless, one gathers from his historical survey of commercial exploitation by America in South America, the Central American Republics, and the Antilles, that Yankee imperialism does not differ from any other kind. Backward countries, as Walter Lippmann demonstrated years ago in "The Stakes of Diplomacy," are bound to be exploited by their powerful neighbors and become the real focal points of international *Weltpolitik*. Germany and Spain showed the iron hand in their respective spheres of influence more ruthlessly than the United States does now (with the exception of Haiti and Santo Domingo where our policy affects the pre-war German brutality), but our financial inquisitors are quite as able and effective. Our hypocritical pretensions of "democracy" and "liberty" undoubtedly make us more offensive to the patriotic Latin than the naked arrogance of imperial Spain, but the process of economic subjugation will continue just as relentlessly.

FROM DAWES TO LOCARNO. By GEORGE GLASGOW. Harpers. 1925. \$2.50.

This is a likable book. It is not only a book that Americans and Englishmen can like, but a book that Frenchmen, Germans, Italians, and Czechs can like. It is as near a book that Poles can like as any which deals objectively with European politics is likely to be. To produce such a book is no mean accomplishment.

Of course Mr. Glasgow had a likable subject. Locarno caught all the European Powers at a moment when there was no plausible reason why their oft-professed desires for peace and orderly living should not be translated into action. When it was done, they were all surprised that they had behaved so admirably, and correspondingly pleased with themselves.

In this spirit Mr. Glasgow's book is conceived. The author distributes praise with a lavish hand. Sir Austen Chamberlain comes in for the lion's share, but everybody is entitled to credit, and Locarno, with

BRAND NEW BOOKS  
at SECOND HAND PRICES  
HAVE your name put on our mailing list to receive free, our bargain book catalogs as issued. Hundreds of remarkable book bargains. We also rent books at low fees.  
Write for pamphlet

UNION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
415 E. 120 ST.  
NEW YORK  
EST. 1884

1468 1926

OXFORD BOOKS

THE OXFORD BOOK OF ENGLISH PROSE  
Chosen and Edited by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch  
The Oxford Book of English Prose presents the best from English prose writers from the fourteenth century to the present day. It is published on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the famous Oxford Book of English Verse, long recognized as the outstanding anthology of English verse. Price, cloth, net, \$3.75. India paper, cloth, \$4.25.

KEATS AND SHAKESPEARE  
By J. Middleton Murry  
Mr. Murry has given, not a biography, not a criticism, but a study of the essential poetic nature at work. He has tried to show through the living reality of Keats what a pure poet is and what he does. One of the most important books on Keats as a poet that has appeared for a very long time. Price, net, \$4.75.

THE NORTHERN TRIBES OF NIGERIA  
By C. K. Meek  
"Here, in this vast territory, conditions are altering with an extraordinary rapidity. The whole social life of the people has undergone, in the last quarter of a century, a series of revolutionary transformations which are fully recorded here." 2 volumes. Price, net, \$12.00.

THE USAGES OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION  
By H. W. Horne  
An authoritative analysis of an important phase of our governmental structure couched in clear language and written by one with thorough knowledge of the framework of our Union and what it is intended to accomplish. Price, \$3.50.

THE CONTROL OF THE BREATH  
By G. Dodds and J. D. Lickley  
An endeavor to present a description of the mechanism of respiration, and an explanation of its action, for students of singing, elocution and physical culture. Price, net, \$2.00.

THE LIFE OF HENRY HOWARD  
MOLYNEUX HENBERT  
Fourth Earl of Carnarvon  
1831-1890  
By the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Hardinge  
Edited by Elizabeth, Countess of Carnarvon  
The Fourth Earl of Carnarvon took a large share in the shaping of the Colonial Empire. This book gives a contemporary account of the growth of the British Commonwealth. In three volumes. Price, net, \$21.00.

AT ALL BOOKSELLERS OR FROM THE PUBLISHERS  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
AMERICAN BRANCH  
35 WEST 32ND STREET, NEW YORK



all its faults, is a great step toward the reconstruction of Europe.

Criticism is not lacking, however. The book is by no means free of that inescapable air of omniscience which seems to be the prerogative of the publicist, and which, after each new book on diplomatic affairs, makes us wonder again why some government does not seize an obvious opportunity and call its writers into the diplomatic service and let its diplomats write the books. Then its foreign affairs would be conducted with unprecedented address and the purblind diplomats would at last begin to see.

Be it said, however, that Mr. Glasgow sins less in this regard than the majority of his kind. He has given us a straightforward account of the psychological rectification which Europe has undergone since the Dawes plan was adopted and he has made an extremely readable story of it. The book is not overbalanced with any "discoveries," "exposés," or secret information. No hidden motives are dragged to light: no wells of dark intrigue are plumbed. It is a good, clean story, well told.

The value of the book for the student of international affairs is enhanced by the inclusion of many of the important documents leading up to Locarno, and the text of the agreements signed there.

LETTERS OF PROTEST. By *Kate Crane-Gerts*. Pasadena, Calif.: Mary Craig Sinclair.

## Miscellaneous

THE NATURAL INCREASE OF MANKIND. By *J. Shirley Seeboyn*. Williams and Wilkins. \$4.  
THE BRANCH BANKING QUESTION. By *Charles Wallace Collins*. Macmillan. \$1.75.  
OUR FLAG. By *Doris Head Brooks*. Vinal.  
FRESH AIR AND VENTILATION. By *C-E. A. Winslow*. Dutton. \$2.

## Pamphlets

THE STUDY OF HISTORY. By *H. C. Davis*. Oxford University Press. 70 cents.  
ITALIAN PORTRAITS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. By *G. F. Hill*. Oxford University Press. \$1.  
THE CORRELATION OF CAPITAL AND LABOR. By *Gabriel Wells*. Doubleday, Page.  
ERASMUS'S SERVICE TO LEARNING. By *P. S. Allen*. Oxford University Press. 50 cents.

## Philosophy

MIND AND MATTER, THE PHILOSOPHICAL INTRODUCTION TO MODERN SCIENCE. By *C. E. M. Joad*. Putnam's. 1925.

This brief "Philosophical Introduction to Modern Science" fits into the context of George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Butler, of Jack Tanner and "Back to Methuselah." It flings off, with a slightly sceptical gesture, a philosophy of "the life force" struggling against matter to create higher forms of living creatures and finally to transform the universe into a single great mind or spirit. Mr. Joad makes much of the unconscious: he sees human beings, philosophers included, caught in the grip of impulses which push them blindly into thought and action. Indeed he confesses that his philosophy of the life force springs from instinct and is itself an expression of that very force; the intellect is swamped, after the fashion of the Freudian psychology, by the weight of the unrecognized desires pressing upon it. The life force alone clearly knows what it wants. Man is the deluded and imperfect tool of an inscrutable power that uses him for its ends. If, as individuals, we are stupid and myopic, all is well with the life force; it is rational and strong.

The earlier chapters of the book introduce Mr. Joad's own theory by examining and rejecting mechanistic, materialistic, and idealistic views of mind and matter. Descartes, Berkeley, Hume, Hegel, Bergson, and Schopenhauer are scrutinized with a critical eye; the theory of relativity is passed rapidly—and not altogether convincingly—in review as indicating the break-up of the mechanistic universe; Absolutism of the Hegelian type is discarded because it does not account for imperfection and error. In the end Mr. Joad concludes that there must be at least two principles at work in the world—the life force, and that which opposes the life force. Even if one cannot accept the conclusions, the process of arriving at them is instructive, summarizing as it does, with clarity and vigor, many important philosophical and scientific ideas. The book is admirably suited to the audience for which it is designed, the general public which has a taste for speculation but no acquaintance with the technique of metaphysics and psychology.

HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. By *Maurice de Wulf*. New Edition. Vol. I. Longmans.

CAROLYN WELLS' BOOK OF AMERICAN LIMERICKS. Putnam's. 1925. \$2.50.

We can never know, asseverates Miss Wells, who first gave the Limerick its name. When Edward Lear's "Book of Nonsense" was published in 1846, it contained limericks, but not under that name. In 1864 imitations of Lear began to be published in America, and all, queerly enough, "in aid of the Sanitary Commission of the Great Central Fair, held for the benefit of the sufferers of our Civil War." These are the first American limericks. Miss Wells thinks that perhaps limerick-writing was not resorted to again until "about the time of Eugene Field, Bill Nye, and Robert Burdett." In the nineties, however, limericks began to flourish, and then a craze for them began. So many were published and have been published since (so many in the newspapers alone) that it is impossible to make any exhaustive collection. This Miss Wells has not even attempted, she has merely tried to be representative.

About every other limerick in the book, as the compiler admits, is by herself. You will find many and many a plum. Naturally all censorable limericks have been omitted; but a great many odd and tricky ones are here, tricky as to spelling and pronunciation. There are a number in series. Altogether, this is a lively collection and will furnish many a chuckle.

WHEN I GREW UP TO MIDDLE-AGE. By *Struthers Burt*. Scribners. 1925. \$2.

Amid the welter of current verse it would be all too easy to pass over this volume without more than the conventional few words of almost meaningless hail and farewell. Mr. Struthers Burt writes poetry in a manner that is not likely to provoke much interest during the present term of literary reactions. He follows the old poetic tradition so closely that even a careful reader might have difficulty in distinguishing between the merely imitative and the individual tones of his voice. Like most poets who feel and write about and in terms of the things at their own elbows Mr. Burt, at a casual reading, almost invites misunderstanding. This is particularly emphasized in his instance by the fact that he does, very frequently, fall into the commonplace. At any moment, however, he may rise suddenly into such a warm and well-felt passage as this wherein he traces—

... the dripping, following sense  
Of fog along a twisted fence,  
Where in soundless intervals  
Sudden, muffled farmhouse walls,  
Barns and hooded ricks and smells  
Of smoke and hay and animals,  
Step from the shadows and step back  
Into the white encircling wrack.

Here and elsewhere he captures the essential quality of an experience in his rather loose and rambling verse. But Mr. Burt's best effects cannot be adequately illustrated in quotation because they are definitely cumulative. His tendency to discursion together with a notable uncertainty of pur-

pose go far to obscure the real merits of his work, but seldom quite overcome his quick and responsive fancy.

*Beauty persists in some imperishable little thing;  
When you, O friends and lovers, are old and gray,  
A ghost of what was you, and young, and gay;  
A dancing shadow upon a quiet day.*

He is seldom more intense than this. With a little more concentration—he wastes too many words—Mr. Burt should go far. That he is following the right direction appears in the preface to his volume, a little essay restating some of the oldest and truest facts about poetry in the most admirable manner. If for nothing else than this preface his book would be remarkable and it is not too high praise to say that it deserves to be reprinted in pamphlet form and circulated to every English teacher in the country. As a document in the history of modern American criticism it may yet come to be recorded among the most important. Mr. Burt is a forerunner of that conservatism which has already been foreseen in the arts on this side of the Atlantic by more than one acute prophetic critic. Better men than we have now have been to blame for letting their practice fall short of their theories. Mr. Burt has made a brave attempt to write poetry according to the most tenable of a *fortiori* theories and his book deserves very serious attention.

PIACOCKS IN THE SUN. By *Margaret Root Garvin*. Vinal.

WINGED VICTORY. By *Luella Glosser Gear*. Vinal.

ROSEMOND AND SIMONETTA. By *Gladys Brace*. Vinal.

SAILS OF THE HORIZONS. By *Charles J. Quirk*. Stratford. \$1.

QUEST AND ACCEPTANCE. By *Ethel Arnold Tilden*. Vinal.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE. By *Kendall Banning*. New York: Marchbanks Press, 114 East 13th Street.

## Religion

THE COMING FAITH. By *R. F. Foster*. Dodd, Mead. 1925. \$2.

This book is the work of an arrogant, vigorous, and honest mind, disgusted with the cant of the churches, impatient of pessimism, untutored in philosophy, devoted to a faith in progress and practical activity. The author himself has no doubts as to the value of the work. He writes in his preface: "It will probably be at least a thousand years before the beliefs outlined in this book will become the faith of even the majority of the human race; but the day is coming when it will be the one universal faith of the whole world." It would be ungracious, in the face of so generous a promise, to cavil over the errors and incorrect reasoning which spot the book, such as the ascription of "The Age of Reason" to David Hume, the statement that the belief in immortality "originated with the worship of Dionysius (sic!)"

(Continued on next page)

## THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY swells the AN chorus ~ AMERICAN TRAGEDY

"Theodore Dreiser has translated this story of a weak and commonplace boy into an American epic comparable in power and understanding to JUDE THE OBSCURE or THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV. It is Dreiser's greatest novel, and an impressive achievement to be reckoned with in any history of American literature."

There has rarely been such complete and unqualified praise of a great book as of Dreiser's first novel in ten years. The press of the country has hailed it, and among the noted writers and critics who have declared it to be one of the chief works in fiction of our generation are—Dr. Clifford Smith, Editor of *The International Book Review*, Clarence Darrow, Stuart Sherman, Sherwood Anderson, Upton Sinclair and Joseph Wood Krutch.

2nd Edition  
2 vols. boxed, \$5.00

BONI & LIVERIGHT

*The DOWER HOUSE MYSTERY*  
by  
PATRICIA WENTWORTH  
\$2.00  
SMALL MAYARD AND COMPANY BOSTON

M	A	T	E	D
A novel of marriage and divorce—and the child by Wallace				
I	R	W	I	N
\$2.00 at all booksellers	Or at the Putnam Store	2 West 45th Street	G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS	New York and London