

The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Art

THE ENO COLLECTION OF NEW YORK CITY VIEWS. By FRANK WEITENKAMPF. N. Y. Public Library Bulletin, Sept. 1925.

Frank Weitenkampff has done a worthy service to N. Y. City print collectors, and others interested in the growth of the city, by the splendid compilation of the Eno collection presented to the N. Y. Public Library, and now on exhibition there. While he has followed closely the chronological plan of arrangement (that of Stokes) or as he says in the short fore-word after the preface "arranged by date of depiction" this method is sometimes a drawback to students of localities or neighborhoods, but this deficiency (if such it may be called) is excellently overcome by an index of exactly twenty-one pages, truly a veritable mine of information regarding the city, its associations, habits, amusements, celebrated personages, etc., etc. The foot-notes appended to the descriptive notices of the prints, are done in a thorough manner, recourse having been had in a number of instances to contemporary directories and other sources of information, in many cases adding new material to that hitherto known. It is to be regretted that no prints are reproduced in color; only three views are in half-tone.

The Eno collection of N. Y. City prints is one of the most important of its kind ever acquired by a public institution, containing the eighteenth century plans of Montresor, Ratzer, Popple, and Faden, as well as many of the lithographs of the 1840's and 1850's. It is interesting to note that the Currier & Ives prints are represented, which, judging from recent auction records are a vindication of Mr. Eno's earlier judgment in acquiring these interesting examples. It is only a few years ago that these lithographs were within the means of the average of "middle-class" collector.

The pamphlet is a notable contribution to N. Y. print literature, and we venture the hope that Mr. Weitenkampff will some day compile a volume containing a list of prints in all notable collections, so that a fairly complete guide may be available to those interested in this most fascinating and alluring game of collecting.

Belles Lettres

THE DOCTOR LOOKS AT BIOGRAPHY.

By JOSEPH COLLINS. Doran. 1925. \$3. Just what has medical science contributed to the art of literary criticism? The answer ought to be found, if anywhere, in the copious writings of Dr. Joseph Collins, who is certainly a far abler critic than most of those who have placed their medical knowledge at the service of literature. And one answer does indeed fairly leap from the pages, namely, that it has contributed a number of technical terms of somewhat doubtful beauty, such as "gonadal sweep," "amatory dysesthesia," or "confluent chromosomic streams." Further than this, it is hard to go. Dr. Collins is far too intelligent to fall into the Nordau error of supposing that if a work of art can be traced to a pathological cause it is therefore valueless as a work of art. Nevertheless, considered merely as casual explanations, his diagnoses are frequently unconvincing. "Adult infantilism" somehow does not seem a promising key with which to unlock Henry James. Keats may or may not have had a "mother-complex," but what has that to do with the creation of "Hyperion" or the Odes? If we are prepared to accept Dr. Collins's description of Thoreau as a paranoiac, what are we to make of the further statement, "Men doubted his sincerity and his sanity, but their doubt was founded on their own fatuity?" To do Dr. Collins justice, he himself does not lean at all heavily upon these medical explanations. The title of the book is a fraud. The volume owes its genuine value, not to the fact that its author happens to be a physician, but to the fact that he is a man of astoundingly wide reading, delicate literary appreciation, and deep psychological insight.

No less than fifty-five biographies or autobiographies are taken up in detail by Dr. Collins, covering the lives of men of letters, artists, actresses, clergymen, statesmen, soldiers, and prize-fighters, and he seems equally at home in every field. His criticism of the biography involves in each case a criticism of the subject of the biography, indeed in many instances a brief biography of his own as if to show how the

thing ought to be done. Naturally, in such a mass of work there is much inequality. Occasionally he is superficial, as in dealing with Anatole France, more rarely he seems preoccupied, as in treating Steuart's book on Stevenson, but usually he is discriminating and just. The essays on Sherwin Cody's Poe, Edward Bok, Frank Crane, and James J. Corbett may be mentioned among many as particularly illuminating in regard to all the characters considered.

Biography

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM HICKLING PRESCOTT. 1833-1847.

Transcribed and edited by ROGER WOLCOTT. Houghton Mifflin. 1925. \$7.50.

That the most delightful of American historians, a master of vivid and picturesque style, should also have been one of the dullest correspondents on record is an interesting fact now amply demonstrated by over six hundred pages of evidence. Owing to his ill-health and partial blindness, it was only by heroic determination that Prescott was able to carry each of his histories to its triumphant conclusion. Thus, although he was quite modest, his interest came to be concentrated upon his own work to an extent unusual even in the egotistic race of authors. Dependent upon others for necessary documents, his assiduity in collecting these was worthy of the highest praise but was not exactly calculated to produce fascinating letters. Similarly, his personal reserve, in contrast, for instance, with Jane Welsh Carlyle's voluble complaints, indicates a finer character but a poorer correspondent.

The fact that the letters of George Bancroft and others represented in the volume are equally uninteresting, would seem to indicate, however, that the causes must have been largely impersonal. Was it that the lack of expansiveness in the American culture of the day, its primness and preciseness, its excessive gentility so froze the genial currents of the blood as to make the writing of really human letters impossible? Yielding to literary tradition, an American of the period might let himself go in print, on the platform, or in the pulpit but in private life his ideal apparently was to remain irreproachably dull.

THE LIVES OF THE RAKES. By E. BERESFORD CHANCELLOR. Brentano. 3 vols. 1925. \$4 each.

This is a limited *de luxe* edition, three volumes of which are already issued and three more to be published in January.

Volume one, of those before us, is entitled "Old Rowley," dealing, of course, with King Charles the Second. Volume two treats of the Restoration rakes, Buckingham, Rochester, Dorset, Sedley, Etheredge and Wycherley. Volume three is devoted to the unspeakable Francis Charteris and the more amiable Wharton. The succeeding three volumes will discuss the famous (or infamous) Hell-Fire Club, "Old Q" and Barrymore, and the rakes of the Regency.

There is certainly variety in rakes! Mr. Beresford Chancellor, M.A., F.S.A., has explored their times and manners with great zest. In his first volume he reveals to us Whitehall and St. James's as Burnet and Clarendon, Madame Dunois, Evelyn and Pepys have formerly revealed it. The quarter century of the Merry Monarch, and the shifting harem of that quarter-century are presented without gloss. Mr. Chancellor waxes moralistic in his asides at the conclusion.

When we come to the playwrights and wits, there is many a lively anecdote. Buckingham's sense of the ridiculous is given full attention. Sedley's lyrics are parcelled their due. Those notorious in the *vie galante* of the period are all marshalled forth, large and small. And this volume ends rather with a rational *apologia* than with too much "tut-tut!"

Francis Charteris, treated so fully in the third volume, is indubitably one of the most grisly fascinating, though one of the most monstrous, of the whole collection.

Mr. Beresford Chancellor is one of those popular and highly-coloured biographers of which there is now quite a group in England. For the reader of rather exciting memoirs he performs an adequate task.

I MEET MY CONTEMPORARIES. By Maximilian Harden. Holt. \$4.

ROBERT SCHUMANN. By Frederick Wicks. Edited by Christina Wicks. Dutton. \$5.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By Daniel E. Wheeler. Macmillan. \$1.

THOMAS A. EDISON. By Francis Robt. Wheeler. Macmillan. \$1.

Drama

THE DUENNA. By RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN. Houghton Mifflin. 1925. \$7.50.

George Sheringham's illustrations in color and monochrome colotype for this most attractive edition of Sheridan's famous play are most attractive. They constitute the designs for costumes and scenery used in the production at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, together with other drawings. The publication of this edition was, indeed, suggested by the recent Playfair-Sheringham production of "The Duenna" at the Lyric Theatre in the West End of London. Nigel Playfair writes an introduction discussing the merits and demerits of this, the least-known of Sheridan's plays. He tells us that the production of "The Duenna" was originally decided upon "owing to the advocacy of Lovat Fraser, who designed the scenery and dresses for the production of 'The Beggar's Opera' at Hammersmith." Fraser once made some designs for "The Duenna," though they have not been made use of. "The Duenna" was first produced in 1775.

Fiction

DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. By FRED JACOB. Macmillan. 1925. \$2.50.

The reader who prefers fiction composed of theatrical improbabilities may not respond to the quiet charm of this novel picturing life just as it used to be. Mr. Jacob has taken for his scene an Ontario village near Toronto, and for his characters the local gentry of four decades past, well-born English in ancestry, reactionary in politics, narrow and clannish in their attitude toward the world beyond their own small circle. The book opens with a prologue wherein Timothy, the middle-aged narrator, revisits this village of his childhood, the story proper, of an eventful summer and autumn there in his twelfth year, then beginning. Timothy's father, his mother, his uncle, and his step-brother are the chief figures, but numerous others, indispensable to the movement of the main theme, are effectively added. The salient peculiarities of these vanished people, their archaic environment, and crumbling heritage of aristocratic illusions, are revived with an economy and vividness of selection devoid of a single flaw. As a first novel, it is noteworthy, too, for mature simplicity, for restraint, and for the faithful depiction of a bygone Canadian life which novelists have hitherto ignored.

THE SNOW PATROL. By Harry Sinclair Drago. Macaulay. \$2 net.

THE STROLLING SAINT. By Rafael Sabatini. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

History

SCENES AND CHARACTERS FROM INDIAN HISTORY. Compiled and edited by C. H. PAYNE. Oxford University Press. 1925. \$2.

For full nineteen hundred years, from the time of Alexander the Great's invasion of India, the Orient remained to western thought preëminently the land of mystery. For that reason, the accounts of those few travelers who penetrated thither and returned, full of amazement at the splendors they encountered, possessed a fascination which one may easily recall even today. Of the ten authors represented in the present volume, beginning with Plutarch's account of Alexander's expedition and ending with Tavernier's visit to the court of Aurangzeb in 1665, five were travelers to India and the other five based their work on the immediate records of travelers. Aside from the actual information given, some of the accounts are particularly delightful in their misconceptions and unconscious humor. Hindu temples are supposed to be Christian cathedrals, images of Mariamma, goddess of small-pox, to be statues of the Virgin, and pictures of the many-armed Kali and other demons to be representations, somewhat unflattering, one would think, of Catholic saints. Best of all is the story of Vasco da Gama at Calicut, particularly his hasty retreat, when his pursuers "having overtaken Da Gama, who has gotten a great way before his men, unable to walk fast for the heat, asked him by signs why he made such haste, and if he was running away. Da Gama answered that he was running away from the heat." One sympathizes with Da Gama's position but still finds the answer as implausible as did the Hindus.

THE CURSE OF CAHAWEA. By Charles B. Reed. Chicago: Pascal Covici. \$4.

MOVEMENTS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY. By D. H. Lawrence. Oxford University Press. \$3.50 net.



THE JUNIOR

Life Situations of Children Nine to Eleven Years of Age.

By Ernest J. Chave

Mr. Chave has made a detailed study of a specific group of children of the middle childhood or Junior age—nine, ten, and eleven years. In this manner the observations and reactions of over six hundred and fifty children were obtained and used, subsequently, in this book. The technique is simple and could be used easily with any group. However, the data secured from this one unit may justifiably be generalized upon for the guidance of other groups. The book will be of particular service to workers in religious education.

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A definite improvement in methods of leading girls and boys to an understanding of what constitutes "right living" is represented in this new manual for the direction of the early adolescent's moral training. It is an application of the case method, successfully used in other fields, to moral education. Mr. Neuberg has gone to the concrete experience of the pupil, building a discussion course upon actual cases or "life-situations."

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

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International

THE RED TERROR IN RUSSIA. Translated from the Russian of S. P. Melgunov. London: Dent. 1925.

This is a reliable book on the doings of the Che-Ka. It should be read by all those who excuse the Bolsheviks. For one needs to know what it is one is excusing—how great is the bill of other people's suffering that we tolerate in the name of political change. We commend to all those who think Bolshevism an instalment of the Christian Utopia, this documented record of torture and murder.

M. Sergey Melgunov, the author, cannot be accused of partisanship. He was not an upholder of Czaristic policy, but a champion of Russian sectarians, having much sympathy with the Society of Friends and similar religious bodies. His interest in sectarianism brought him into touch with Tolstoy, of whose works he was at one time preparing a new edition. It is curious that an English conscientious objector can go to Soviet Russia and remain seemingly unaware of the blood on the hands of his hosts. The Russian pacifist Melgunov tells another story. It would be interesting to take together this book on the Russian Terror and Mr. Fox's "People of the Steppes." No one can doubt the authenticity of Melgunov's record. Yet it shows Soviet Russia so bloody and guilty that no one who understands it could touch any Bolshevik's hand. How is it then that our politicians and writers can go to Russia and discover that Lenin was a sort of a Christian, and Trotsky and the rest well-meaning men? It must come from some sort of national freakishness in mind and sentimental incapacity of judgment.

Melgunov's book, published originally in Berlin, is a very well known one in Europe now, obtainable in every capital except Moscow. It is only too terrible reading. The ghastly photographs reproduced give some guidance as to the written matter. Mr. C. J. Hogarth is responsible for the editing of the English edition. It is a book to buy and place in the library of valuable and substantial books on Russia.

THE PUNJAB PRASANT. By Malcolm L. Darling. Oxford University Press. \$4.50.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES. By William Smith Culbertson. Appleton. \$3.50.

The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

Juvenile

THE ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS TREE.

By PERCIVAL WILDE. Appleton. 1925. \$1.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. By VIRGINIA OLCOTT. Dodd, Mead. 1925. \$1.75.

SHORT PLAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Selected by JAMES PLAISTED WEBBER & HANSON HART WEBSTER. Houghton Mifflin. 1925. \$2.

FAIRYLAND AND FOOTLIGHTS. By M. JAGENDORF. Brentano's. 1925. \$2.

Actable short plays for young people are becoming increasingly popular these days, where five years or more ago such collections were rare experiments on the parts of venturesome publishers.

With the exception of Percival Wilde's "Enchanted Christmas Tree," published separately and a great favorite since its appearance in *The Pictorial Review* last year, the volumes contain groups of from five to twenty short plays in one or more scenes and all adaptable to the needs of youthful actors and actresses. Of the lot our vote is for the collection by James Plaisted Webber and Hanson Hart Webster because we discovered several old favorites and made the acquaintance of some equally charming new plays. Of the latter "The Princess on the Road," by Kathleen Conyngham Greene, seemed to

us especially spirited and just the sort of vigorous fairy tale of action and atmosphere to be acted enchantingly by children. Another delightful contribution by this same author is "The Little Boy Out of the Wood," while "Miss Burney at Court," by Maude Morrison Frank, with its historical and literary background made an excellent contrast. Lady Gregory's beautiful modern Irish Miracle play, "The Travelling Man," would be treasure enough for any collection, and we were particularly impressed by a dramatization of the old Ballad of "The Wraggle-Taggle Gypsies," made by the boys of the Perse School of Cambridge, England. It is an uncommonly dramatic, mature piece of work.

"Fairyland and Footlights," by M. Jagendorf, falls a little short of its appealing title, but the little play "Firefly Night" with its company of children, gnomes, firefly fairies, and others should act charmingly in some garden on a Midsummer's Eve, and the book itself is so attractively illustrated and made that it is a pleasure to handle it.

Another collection with an unusual format is Virginia Olcott's "International Plays," where the illustrations are color plates of certain of the characters in costume. The plays themselves read well and should act effectively. In each one the background is of a different country and several retell old legends. All of the eight plays are prefaced by carefully arranged reading lists to acquaint children with the backgrounds of the countries wherein the scenes are laid. There are also helpful descriptions of the costumes required and the necessary properties.

Miscellaneous

HOW ADVERTISEMENTS ARE BUILT.

By GILBERT P. FARRAR. Appleton. 1925. \$3.50.

Mr. Farrar is chiefly concerned with the physical appearance of advertising. His particular job is the important one of making layouts, and on this subject he has written and lectured, so naturally when he writes a book about it it is a good book, sound and well considered and exceedingly helpful. This book follows the simple plan of selecting advertisements from the day's work and using them as examples of points made. He lays down a few principles essential to any successful advertisement and shows how these principles are carried out by means of size, white space, design, and typography. This method, while practical and, in fact, almost inevitable, gives this book a somewhat disconnected effect, so that it is more useful as a handbook for consultation than a work for continuous reading.

NEGRO ORATORS AND THEIR ORATIONS. By CARTER G. WOODSON. Washington, D. C.: Associated Publishers. 1925. \$5.25.

Instead of a fancy assortment of occasional speeches, the editor of the *Journal of Negro History* has here compiled a carefully documented series of addresses by representative Negroes upon the general theme of the issues and problems of Negro life from the first public discussions of the slavery question in this country in 1788 to the present time. It affords therefore a sort of panoramic picture of Negro life and thought, for the most part in the serious frame and sombre border of the changing but persistent race problem, but for that very reason always a sober interpretation of views and principles, men and public issues. The outstanding impression of the book is its surprising revelation of the active and sustained character of leadership from within the Negro group during periods of which even the average well-informed person has no knowledge of any such activity. Especially is this true of the work of the early Negro abolitionists. The book provides a useful and authentic survey of the changes and development of Negro opinion as reflected by representative spokesmen.

Poetry

MY DITTY BAG. By CHARLES W. BROWN. Small, Maynard. 1925. \$2.

Captain Brown's narrative should go a long way toward correcting the general mistake about shipmasters. He is not a caricature, a "Captain Cuttle," a "Captain Kettle," a character out of Jacobs. In "My Ditty Bag" the retired merchant mariner has set down some very interesting and valuable information. Critical readers may find fault with the story on account of its simple tone, a great recommendation in the mind of this reviewer.

Charles W. Brown is a sailor who kept his eyes open, sailed his ship successfully from a seamanlike and also from a business point of view, and in his comfortable and honorable retirement talks of ships, and seas, and men with keen appreciation and the viewpoint of a gentleman of experience. A book strongly to be recommended.

Science

BIOLOGY. By PATRICK GEDDES and J. ARTHUR THOMSON. Holt. 1925. \$1.

BACTERIOLOGY. By CARL H. BROWN. The same.

Two interesting volumes have been added to the popular Home University Library. Professors Geddes and Thomson's "Biology" is essentially a portrayal in bold strokes of the whole panorama of life sciences as interpreted by two naturalists with uncommonly keen vision and facile pens. It offers food for thought and discussion, even if it does not answer the authors' own question: "Is it then merely that the dance of particles is more intricate in living creatures, that they move to a different tune? Or is there something more?" Professor Browning's "Bacteriology" presents a quite matter of fact and straightforward, albeit highly entertaining, account of one of the most recently developed and important departments of biology, the science of plant "microbes." Indeed, it affords a survey that can be most heartily recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in the "world of the infinitely little" to which we owe so many of our troubles but far more of our blessings. Verily these days he who runs may read—to his profit.

Sociology

THE REVOLT OF MODERN YOUTH.

By JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY and WAINWRIGHT EVANS. Boni & Liveright. 1925. \$3.

This book contains the record of many cases under Judge Lindsey and what might be called his social philosophy, thrown into shape, or rather lack of shape, by Mr. Wainwright Evans. If the reader can forgive the ineptitude with which Mr. Evans has performed his part of the work and can succeed in penetrating to the Judge behind Mr. Evans, he will find the book full of information and stimulating thought. The revolt of modern youth is apparently directed chiefly against sex taboos. Modern youth of both sexes is determined to eat of the forbidden fruit and eat early. Judge Lindsey states and amply proves the fact, but he is not nearly so horrified at it as he is at public indifference to eugenic considerations. His definition of illegitimacy deserves to become classic: "An illegitimate baby is one conceived by parents who are biologically unfit." In his view, the great majority of our present laws on the subject of sex are a hindrance rather than a help to society. In fact, he makes virtually that very statement in regard to all our laws. "A still further improvement on our present out-of-date system of doing justice would be to have an annual drawing of lots by all citizens of this free country to determine who should go to jail and who shouldn't." If these words came from Emma Goldman, they might be discredited, but coming from a judge of twenty-six years experience, they demand attention. Until our laws cease to be the mere codification of social prejudice, this book will have its place.

Travel

ALONG THE ROAD. By ALDOUS HUXLEY. Doran. 1925. \$7.50.

An Englishman writing in England may relax a bit. He may discuss other things than books. He is under no obligation of courtesy to foreign hosts. Aldous Huxley, in this book of small essays, is at ease. Usually he is good natured, in a discriminating way, but upon occasion he is quite satisfyingly venomous. To be sure, he is not oblivious of American book sales. Mrs. Thingumy, laboriously squeezing herself through the door of her limousine and waddling across the pavement into the jeweller's shop, is not the out-and-out Pittsburgher he would have preferred, but a "pillar of Anglo-American-Florentine society." One is left to guess. In the main, however, this volume of sketches from a tourist's note book is delightfully unfettered and delightfully personal.

The essays deal with a number of things, chiefly things concerned with Italy, Holland, pictures, and travel. A few are very slight. Many are far from slight. All show Huxley as a man suave, restrained, broadly cultured. He writes with superb ease. His style is extraordinarily flexible; now cool and controlled, now colorful as Gautier, reflecting his mood like an expressive face. Now there is sheer beauty. Again there is strength, irony, intellect, humor. There is never tawdriness, never a trace of insincerity, never that absorption with words which must be the constant temptation of a gifted writer. With Huxley the idea, the mood, the thing itself, is of first importance, the words secondary. But what gorgeous words the man knows!

JAPAN IN SILHOUETTE. By TROWBRIDGE HALL. Macmillan. 1925. \$2.50.

Felicitous in title, style, and method of treatment is this book on the charms of old Japan. It reminds one of the crescent moon, because what is new, potent, compelling, and slowly but surely creative of the future, is, after all, at this moment, but a small segment on the rim of a luminous disc; while that which is old is soon to be swallowed in the coming full-orbed radiance.

Delightful as are its glimpses and its dissolving views of what was characteristic, even vital to the Japan that is vanishing, the reviewer, an old-timer, who has more or less known Dai Nippon from childhood, must smile at some of the ultra-sentimental translations of the proper and common names; for these, in our author's text, accurate or inaccurate, lean always to the aesthetic. Mr. Hall is not wrong in his felicitous shadows, which even in silhouette show that in the Princess Coun-

New Books from Beacon Hill New Books from Beacon Hill

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\$2.50

St. John Ervine's PARNELL
"Mr. Ervine's biography of Parnell has the interest and gripping of a fine and gripping novel."—New York Sun
"A biography of rare discernment and exceedingly potent charm."—Boston Transcript
\$4.00

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