

The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

shoals of honor and all is well. But in the meantime all sorts of things have happened to all sorts of people. If it's a story you want, you will find it here.

THE NUMBER ONE BOY. By JOHN TAINTOR FOOTE. Appleton. 1926. \$1.75.

Peking during the Boxer rebellion is the scene of Mr. Foote's novel. The four chief characters are a hard-boiled, elderly officer of the American army; his young wife; a sympathetic officer, also young; and Chang Foo Low, by profession a Buddhist priest, but in the lovers' extremity *deus ex machina* in the form of the number one boy (head servant) for the elderly officer. Throughout the narrative there is much nonsense about reincarnation, atonement for sins of past existences, mental telepathy, and a sort of long-distance hypnotism. All of this supernaturalism lacks credibility; it is too clumsy and shallow to be persuasive. In vain we look for genuine character, although the Chinese wonder-worker, in spite of his conventionality, could have been made a figure of power by a capable story-teller. The plot is generally weak; its amiable superficiality, coupled with a certain ease in Mr. Foote's manner, may, nevertheless, soothe the resentment of the mildly critical. Discriminating readers will find that the novel has little, if anything, to offer them.

DEMIGODS. By JOHN BIGGS, JR. Scribners. 1926. \$2.

A fantastic tale this, compounded of many things including not a little madness. The first part—and the best—concerns Hosea Gault, a Dunkard prophet who, after the manner of many earlier American prophets, leads his followers out of one wilderness into another. The wanderings and adventures of this man—great of girth, heavy of fist, "a reddened colossus"—his dreams, his thunderings, the building of his temple in the land of his choosing, these seem well nigh authentic. And the saga of Hosea is told in a cadenced and biblically colored prose admirably suited to the theme.

Unfortunately this artistically heightened language is not abandoned in the latter and longer portion of the book. Together with a pseudo-Meredithian use of epigram—pretentious, inadequate epigram—it disconcertingly jizzes the tale of Hosea's son John and reduces it to cacophonous absurdity. For John, unlike his father, was not all of a piece, was indeed a crazy patchwork of pieces, part prophet, part charlatan, potent, vain, and wholly grotesque in his elephantine swaddlings of flesh. We follow him from the Dunkard settlement, which he leaves in rags, to the days of his gorgeous blossoming in Delaware when, owner of many newspapers and candidate for governor, he overreaches himself. We

last see him, again in rags, returning "to the earth that was his strength" and testing his vision in the burning fiery furnace from which his God does not deliver him.

A less flamboyant manner might have made John Gault credible. After all, even more eccentric mountebanks have dreamed and strutted among us. To have made him significant would have required—shall we say, a sense of humor?

THE YEAR OF THE WOOD DRAGON. By Achmed Abdullah. Brentanos. \$2.

THE LUCKY PRISONER. By Count Gobineau. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.

GREEN INK. By J. S. Fletcher. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

GIRL OR BOY. By John North. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

THE BEST LOVE STORIES OF 1925. Edited by Muriel Miller Humphrey. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

JORGENSEN. By Tristram Tupper. Lippincott. \$2.

WASHINGTON SQUARE. By Henry James. A. & C. Boni. \$1.25.

THE TERRIBLE PEOPLE. By Edgar Wallace. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.

RICHARD, MYRTLE AND I. By Stephen Hudson. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

ROPES OF SAND. By Rose L. Ellerbe. Hollywood, Calif.: David Graham Rischer.

SPRING SOWING. By Liam O'Flaherty. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

THE THREE STUDENTS. By Haldine Macfall. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

Co-Ed. By Olive Deane Hormoel. Scribners. \$2.

TALL TALES. By Percy Mackaye. Doran. \$2.50 net.

THE NINTH THERMIDOR. By M. A. Aldanov. Knopf.

THE SILVER FOREST. By Bon Ames Williams. Dutton. \$2.

MANTRAP. By Sinclair Lewis. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

UNCONQUERED. By Maud Diver. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

DESMOND'S DAUGHTER. By Maud Diver. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

THE FOUR WINDS. By Sinclair Gluck. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

GRANITE. By Thomas Quinn. Vinal. \$2.

IXION IN HEAVEN. By Benjamin Disraeli. Holt. \$1.75.

DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE. THE MERRY MEN. By Robert Louis Stevenson. 80 cents.

THE WORM OUBOROS. By E. R. Eddison. A. & C. Boni. \$3.

AS A MAN SOWS. By Grace Denio Litchfield. Putnam. \$2.

Foreign

JEFFERSON ET LES IDÉOLOGUES, d'après Sa Correspondence inédite avec Destutt de Tracy, Cabanis, J-B Say et Auguste Comte. Par GILBERT CHINNARD. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1926. \$2.

The period in Jefferson's career which probably has most interest for the general reader of the present day is that of his four years' residence in Europe, and

unfortunately that is the period which has hitherto been most neglected by historians, and about which least is known. It presents a rich and fascinating field for study. This book, it is to be hoped, marks a beginning of something being done with it. Professor Chinnard has pretty well confined himself to the publication of documents, and his work does not pretend to answer any of the questions that a layman would wish to ask. It is spade-work of the kind which those who write for another type of reader will use and be grateful for. Its highest mission would be to stir up some able literary man to undertake a thorough study of Jefferson's life in Europe and make a first-rate volume of it.

Books of Special Interest—

History

PROGRESS AND THE PAST. By GEORGE FREDERICK WATES. Oxford University Press. 1926. \$1.75.

This is an exhilarating and stimulating résumé of western culture history, written with breadth, sanity, insight, and in a most engaging manner. Mr. Wates goes racing along, hitting only the high points but hitting them hard. His seven-leagued boots, however, are hardly justified in stepping over the mediæval civilization of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries without notice or in finally halting abruptly, discouraged, before the barricades of 1848. The final chapter dealing with "The Evolution of New Japan," in a work which consists only of ten chapters all told, may seem to give a disproportionate importance to the movement of which it treats, and yet the civilized way in which feudalism was disposed of in Japan as contrasted with the savagery of the French revolutionists is thus used to point a moral as to oriental and occidental manners which it would be particularly well for American jingoists to ponder. Mr. Wates maintains, very sensibly, that the line of progress is neither straight nor spiral but a zigzag; as to whether the immediate present is a zig or a zag he offers no opinion.

THE GENESIS OF THE WORLD WAR. By Harry Elmer Barnes. Knopf.

A HISTORY OF RUSSIA. By Sir Bernard Pares. Knopf. \$6 net.

THE BENEDETTINES. By Edouard Schneider. Greenberg. \$2.

THE WAR PERIOD OF AMERICAN FINANCE. By Alexander D. Noyes. Putnam. \$2.50.

THE LAST FIFTY YEARS IN NEW YORK. By Henry Collins Brown. New York: Brown.

THE POPE. By Jean Carrère. Holt. \$3.50.

BABYLONIAN LIFE AND HISTORY. By Sir E. A. Wallis Budge. Revell. \$3.75.

OXFORD STUDIES IN SOCIAL AND LEGAL HISTORY. Edited by Sir Paul Vinogradoff. Vol. VIII. Studies in the Period of Baronial Reform and Rebellion, 1258-1267. By E. F. Jacob. Oxford University Press. \$7.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CONSIDERED AS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT. By J. Franklin Jameson. Princeton University Press. \$1.50 net.

ORIGINS OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE. By Archibald Cary Coolidge. New Edition. Scribners. \$1.75.

IMPERIAL ROME. By Martin P. Nilsson. Harcourt, Brace. \$5.

HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI. By Dunbar Rowland. Chicago-Jackson. The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. 2 vols.

ENGLAND AND THE WORLD. By F. S. Marvin. Oxford University Press. \$3.50.

Juvenile

A LITTLE CAPTIVE LAD. By BEULAH MARIE DIX. Macmillan. 1926. \$1.75.

This excellent juvenile romance of Cavalier and Roundhead England, for children from eight to ten, is a welcome re-issue of a tale first published over twenty years ago. Little Gervase Darrell, his friend, the stalwart Cavalier, Captain Jack Careless, are the heroes, with Gervase's elder half-brother, Henry, at first feared and hated by them, later becoming the protector and trusted comrade of them both. Into the exciting imaginary incidents are blended the life and background of seventeenth century England, with vivid and instructive glimpses of history.

TOPSY TURVY TALES. By Mildred Batchelder. Scribners. \$1.60.

SCHOOL KEEPS TO-DAY. By Margaret Ashmun. Macmillan. \$1.75.

CORRESPONDENCE OF DESCARTES AND CONSTANTIN HUYGENS. Edited by Leon Roth. Oxford University Press. \$14.

FOLLOWERS OF THE TRAIL. By Zoe Meyer. Little, Brown. \$1.50.

PEMROSE LORRY, TORCH BEARER. By Isabel Hornibrook. Little, Brown. \$1.75.

CHILDREN OF ANCIENT EGYPT. By L. Lamprey. Little, Brown. \$1.50.

THE HEALTH GUARD BROWNIES. By Nathalie F. Moulton. Little, Brown. \$1.

THE ADVENTURES OF DON QUIXOTE. Translated and Abridged by Dominick Daly. Macmillan. \$1.75.

THE MIDDLE COUNTRY. By Olivia Price. Yonkers: World Book Co. \$1.

THE WAR EAGLE. By Elmer Russell Gregor. Appleton. \$1.75.

UNCLE SAM'S SAILORS. By Fitzhugh Green. Appleton. \$2.

THE YOUNG FOLK'S BOOK OF INVENTIONS. By T. C. Bridges. Little, Brown. \$2.

DAVY WINKLE IN CIRCUSLAND. By Edwin P. Norwood. Little, Brown. \$1.75.

Miscellaneous

THE HEALING GODS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION. By WALTER ADDISON JAYNE, M.D. Yale University Press. 1925. \$5.

Gods, outworn and discredited, anciently related to the beginnings of the healing art, Gods of Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, and the pagan Semites, Gods of India, Iran, Greece, and Rome, inspirers of occult practices and ineffable mysteries, these are the tutelary ones, their games literally legion, to whom Dr. Jayne would introduce us. Here is an august innumerable company like to exhaust our attention no matter how great may be our intellectual staying-power. An exhaustive volume, as the book-cover states, of curious lore which, paradoxically, sets forth *in extenso* the history of prehistoric medicine. The author has gathered his data, that is, his facts commingled with traditions and myths, from archaeological publications, the works of classical authors, and the treatises of authoritative commentators. A glance at the bibliography at the close of this volume reveals the immensity of the labor involved in preparation. A closer scrutiny reveals the weight and puissance of the authorities on whom Dr. Jayne finally reposes.

The subject is approached historically, in the most approved chronological order. Despite the appearance of having covered the entire range of relations between religion and medicine as they stood dually systematized under the priesthoods, we note the lack of an adequate account of what was happening in the remote Oriental nursery. Were there no healing Gods in ancient China?

The subject-matter of each nationality treated in this extraordinary production is considered under two recurrent headings; the first section giving the reader a general view of the salient features of the religion, or religions and healing customs of each nation; and the second dealing with the personalities of the deities principally concerned with the cure of the sick. Greece and Rome combined would naturally require about one-half of the total bulk of the volume. In this half and in the long section on Egypt, the reader treads fairly familiar ground. He will doubtless have occasion often to appeal to this admirable book of reference and may thank his stars that it is writ in English, not German, and that it is the best of its kind.

COMMON SENSE AND ITS CULTIVATION. By DR. HANBURY HANKIN. Dutton. 1926. \$2.50.

This is a book which arouses great expectations only to disappoint them. Dr. Hankin takes a long step toward explaining the inestimable faculty of common sense when he defines it as a subconscious activity often identical with the processes of conscious reason but usually more complex, working upon more data, and often employing different methods of classification. Although he does not use the phrase, he clearly regards common sense as essentially "unconscious inference." But at this point, guided by a possibly protective dislike of logic, he goes on to stress the differences between the conscious and subconscious until the two become virtually antithetical, impossible to harmonize. From the apparent fact that data cannot function in the subconscious unless they have been forgotten he comes dangerously near reaching the conclusion that forgetfulness is the source of subconscious activity. And, for long stretches, he completely forgets that decisions reached subconsciously are not always reliable. Thus he explains an alleged but unproved superiority of the jury system to that of judicial verdicts by the fact that juries usually forget the evidence while judges remember it. Self-contradiction becomes more and more rampant as the work proceeds until it ends in a mass of confused paradox. It contains, nevertheless, many interesting separate passages and, in particular, an unusually illuminating discussion of mathematical prodigies.

WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIA. By Clarisse Bader. Dutton. \$4.

TELLING ON THE TROUT. By Edward Ringwood Hewitt. Scribners. \$2.

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COUNT BRUGA
by BEN HECHT

THIRD EDITION

"It is one of the most gorgeous pieces of brilliance that I have ever read. It is full of amazing and brilliant satire from start to finish. Hecht's wit at the expense of both the police and Bruga is sometimes actually fiendish, but it is always superb. First-class funmaking. I shall recommend 'COUNT BRUGA' eternally. Hecht, I insist, is about the most capable writer in America. You will never regret reading 'COUNT BRUGA'."

— G. D. Eaton, *The Morning Telegraph*.

"Ben Hecht has come through in 'COUNT BRUGA' with the book that must have been in him all the while. It signalizes a mastery of the medium of the novel and an integration of Mr. Hecht's undeniable gifts. It is a superb vehicle for Mr. Hecht's paradoxical vision of life. It is also an inspired 'thriller'."—John W. Crawford, *N. Y. Times Book Review*.

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— Burton Rascoe, *N. Y. Sun*

"The book is a rollicking, Rabelaisian satire."—Keith Preston, *Chicago Daily News*.

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Boni & Liveright, New York

GOOD BOOKS

Columbia University Press
2960 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

FOUNDATIONS OF ZOOLOGY
By William Keith Brooks

The field of natural science is reviewed from the standpoint of the biologist. "Huxley, and the Problem of the Naturalist," "Nature and Nurture," "Lamarck," "Zoology and the Philosophy of Evolution," "Darwin, and the Origin of Species" and "The Mechanism of Nature" are chapter headings.

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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

THOBBIING. By Henshaw Ward (Bobbs-Merrill).

ROUGH JUSTICE. By C. E. Montague (Doubleday, Page).

THE ARCTURUS ADVENTURE. By William Beebe (Putnam).

E. G. says that the very title of "The Fat of the Cat," by Gottfried Keller (Harcourt) led her to get the book, and that no doubt there are other cat-lovers who would be glad of the names of books in which cats take a leading or even a subordinate part—so long as they are real cats.

KARL VAN VECHTEN'S "The Tiger in the House" (Knopf) is the monument to the species, a magnificent octavo with appropriate pictures, a book that really does the subject justice. Another landmark in this literature is Agnes Repplier's "The Fireside Sphinx" (Houghton Mifflin): this also is given a proper dress and decorations. Whenever you find cats in Algernon Blackwood's stories you can believe in them: it was he who pointed out that no egotistic or conceited person likes cats, for by no creature on earth may one be so magnificently ignored. Anatole France understood cats; Loit loved them and told how sailors find in the ship's cat a symbol of satiric civilization and feline femininities left on shore. Maeterlinck's experience with them must have been unfortunate, from "The Blue Bird," but Kipling, whether he likes them or not, has attached to them in the "Just So Stories" the inevitable, unremovable phrase. Colette Willy's "Cats, Dogs, and I" (Holt), has several little masterpieces of cat psychology, especially the study of the feelings of a harassed mother who finds it hard to keep count of the squirming family.

Cats have inspired poems of as deep feeling as ever moved man to sing of dogs. Thomas Hardy's "Last Words to a Dumb Friend," for instance, in his "Late Lyrics and Earlier" (Macmillan), goes about the house wiping away the traces of the little lost friend:

*From the chair whereon he sat
Sweep his fur, nor wince thereat—
Rake his little pathways out
Mid the bushes round about—*

and cries, as so many of us have cried, "Never another pet for me!" But Anna Hempstead Branch touches a note seldom sounded when in "So I may feel the hands of God," she comforts the infirmity of an old, old cat, bewildered by the loss of life's sweetness. This is one of the poems of sympathy advised "against hardening of the heart" in Robert Haven Schaffer's anthology "The Poetry Cure" (Dodd, Mead). There is a wonderful account of the chained cats of China used as watch-dogs, in Louise Jordan Miln's "In a Shantung Garden" (Stokes). Moma Clarke has a good chapter on the cats of Paris in "Regarding the French" (McBride). As one whose pedestrian speed is rated "three miles an hour allowing for cats, three and one-half straightaway," I can if required provide the student of group psychology with data on the personality of cats as affected by environment. Always themselves, mewing Esperanto, they yet take something of the nature of their surroundings. For choice, give me the cats of Ebury Street: I would have written a ballad months ago could I have found an iambic adjective that would do justice to their burly self-respect, between the competent mousers of Paris and the furred parasites of Belgravia. When an Ebury Street cat at last admits that you are alive, you feel you have the freedom of the city.

Cats figure at least in the titles of several recent novels: in the mystery story "The Dancer's Cat," by C. A. Nicolson (Bobbs-Merrill), the poisoning of a Siamese figure in the plot, and there is another new detective story, "The Sleeping Cat," by Isabel Ostrander (McBride). In Naomi Royde-Smith's "The Tortoise Shell Cat" (Boni & Liveright), the animal does not enter until halfway through the book, and unimaginative readers ask why it is there at all. On placing this before Miss Royde-Smith she replied: "But it is such a little

cat!" and if you have an eye for symbolism you will see why it appears in this, one of my favorite novels of the year. But the best cat in today's fiction is in that delectable entertainment "Lolly Willows, or the Loving Huntsman," by Sylvia Thompson Dunbar (Viking), a book whose instant popularity speaks well for the good sense of the world. Never was a novel so misrepresented by even its most loving reviewers: they tell you it is the story of a maiden lady who makes herself over to the devil and becomes a witch, as if that were all the tale, not mentioning the long and lovely account of her life before this happened, which takes the greater part of the book and is as demure and delicious as Jane Austen. Nor has one of them pointed out that the devil in question is no demon at all but really the unsocial side of God. Here is a woman who never in all her life has had a chance to be herself, and by herself. If you know family life where this is the norm of living, as it is in England, you know that it takes superhuman aid to get out of it, even if to do so means saving your soul alive. Seeing that Lolly needed to remove from her idyllic peace of Great Map a devoted nephew intent on taking care of her, it is clear that it would not have been the thing to pray for this boon to Him who setteth the solitary in families. But the mystic knows that there are other sides to the Divine Nature.

A. S., Georgia, asks for books or magazine articles concerning the lost arts of the ancient world, for which he looked in vain, on a recent visit to New York, through public and college libraries.

WE don't hear so much about the "lost arts" as we did, for we have become sceptical. The hardened copper of the ancients, one "lost art," was almost certainly an alloy. We can and do make any number of hard alloys. Malleable glass was another art: today we don't believe it ever existed. There are articles on "Lost Arts of Primitive Races," in *Leisure Hour*, v. 23, p. 583, and "Hunting for the Secrets of Lost Arts" in *World Today*, v. 16, p. 320. This information, with the hint that misconceptions, traders' tales, and common liars account for most of the "lost arts," I absorbed at the Engineering Society. From the Metropolitan Museum I learned that so far as lost or past processes in painting are concerned, the ancient world is represented by "Greek and Roman Methods of Painting," by Arthur Laurie (London, 1895), and the same author's "Materials of the Painters' Craft in Europe and Egypt, from Earliest Times to the end of the Seventeenth Century" (London).

C. C. F., Staunton, Va., wishes guidance in the assembling of weekly bulletins and house organs, and in general, books that will help him in business publicity.

"PUBLIC RELATIONS," by J. C. Long (McGraw-Hill), is a handbook of publicity as used by business enterprises: it includes material on house organs. Another valuable book for this purpose is "Business Writing: Articles, House Organs, Reports, Advertisements," by S. A. Hall (McGraw-Hill); this has methods of gathering data and of writing business copy of news, educational, and promotional character. "Publicity: Some of the Things It Is and Is Not," by I. L. Lee, is a little book published last year by the Industries Publishing Co.

The latest publication of this sort—all these books are of recent date, however—came from Appleton in February, and has been found to be of practical value in writing and handling publicity of all kinds: this is "Principles of Publicity," by Glenn C. Quiett and Ralph D. Casey. Another Appleton book that would be useful in this equipment is "Advertising: Its Problems and Methods," by John H. Cover; this carefully analyzes each problem and lays down principles, in every phase of advertising.

The "employee's magazine," which is in no way to be confused with the "house organ," is dealt with in "Employee Magazines in the United States" (Nat'l. Industrial Conference Bd. 1925), in which is a list of those published in this country, and in P. F. O'Shea's "Employees' Magazines for Factories, Offices, and Business Organizations" (Wilson, 1920) with a brief list of exchanges.

The Saturday Review

of LITERATURE

EDITED BY HENRY SEIDEL CANBY

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Skunk Cabbage
The Skunk Cabbage is a plant which grows in swamps and bogs. It is a member of the Araceae family. It is known for its strong, unpleasant odor, which is used by some people to repel insects. The plant is also used in traditional medicine.

Yarn
Yarn is a thread or cord made from spun fibers. It is used in weaving and knitting. The quality of the yarn depends on the type of fiber used and the way it is spun.

The Artist as Southerner
The Artist as Southerner is a book by William Beebe. It is a collection of his observations on the art and life of the South. The book is written in a humorous and entertaining style.

This Week
This Week is a section of the review that highlights new books and articles. It provides a brief overview of the most interesting and important works published during the week.

HERE you are reading *The Saturday Review* each week, agreeing with some of its opinions, differing violently with others, wondering where we found that exceedingly boring essay and hoping we shall soon get another piece from that interesting person who wrote the article on "The Artist as Southerner."

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