

## 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 CHARLTON LECTURES ON ART: THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN LANDSCAPE. By the HON. WALTER J. JAMES; Vermeer of Delft and Modern Painting, by GEORGE CLAUSEN, R.A.; The Eye of Erasmus, by WILLIAM NORTON HOWE, M.A., New York: The Oxford University Press. 1925.

These three lectures were delivered at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on a foundation in memory of an alumnus, William Henry Charlton, who retired from business at thirty-six to become a painter. Certain of his drawings, which show a talent justifying the renunciation, are reproduced through the text. The three lectures are excellent examples of the British type, carefully studied, unemphatic, giving more than appears on hasty reading. In the lecture on landscape are especially judicious observations on values, the use of memory and scale—vital matters to the landscape painter. The novel feature of Mr. Clausen's estimate of Vermeer is his insistence that slow and elaborate preparation is implied in this immaculate work. Mr. Howe cites from Erasmus's writings the evidences of his keen interest in the beautiful, and well makes out his case. The odd fact that Erasmus was entirely silent as to the art of Raphael's and Michelangelo's Rome, whereas he expatiates discriminatingly on the art of Dürer, remains unexplained. We venture to suggest that one who, like Erasmus, had actually practiced a painting akin to Metsys's might readily find the art of the Italian renaissance as alien as say the average illustrator today finds a cubist. In short, a fine humanism in literature is not necessarily convertible into humanism in the visual arts.

CHINESE LACQUER. By Edward F. Strange. Scribners. \$35.

EX VOTO. By Samuel Butler (Shrewsbury Edition). Dutton.

COLOUR AND INTERIOR DECORATION. By Basil Ionides. Scribner's. \$3.75.

SKETCHING IN LEAD PENCIL FOR ARCHITECTS AND OTHERS. By Jasper Salvey. Scribner's. \$3.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH CHURCH ARCHITECTURE. By Francis Bond. Oxford University Press. \$35.

### Belles Lettres

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LETTERS OF HORACE WALPOLE. Vol. III. Edited by PAGET TOYNBEE. Oxford University Press. 1926.

Lovers of the letters of Horace Walpole will seize upon this additional volume with the same avidity that Walpole seized upon a new volume of Mme. de Sevigné's letters. The definitive edition of Walpole's letters, which is one of the monuments of English scholarship, now extends to nineteen volumes. Mrs. Toynbee's first volume appeared in 1903; her husband's first two supplementary volumes in 1918. That in another five years or so he may have enough new material for a fourth supplement is the devout wish of all good Eighteenth Century enthusiasts.

In the present volume there are 105 new letters, bringing the grand total to 3,424. Of almost equal interest are 156 letters addressed to Walpole. These add considerable zest to many of Walpole's own letters, they help the feeling of intimacy which is part of the charm of the nineteen volumes, and they serve as a foil to the master. No "gentleman's library" can pretend to completeness until it has added the entire set to its shelves.

THE MUSICAL GRAMARIAN. By Roger Worth. Edited by Hilda Andrews. Oxford. \$1.25.

THE JEALOUS WIFE. A comedy. By George Colman. Oxford. .35.

NAPOLEON'S CAMPAIGN OF 1812. By Hilaire Belloc. Harpers. \$3.50.

TIBETAN TALES. Derived from Indian Sources. New edition with a preface by C. A. F. Rhys Davids. Dutton. \$5.

### Biography

FORTY YEARS A GAMBLER ON THE MISSISSIPPI. By GEORGE H. DEVOL. Holt. 1926. \$2.

A cabin boy in 1839; could steal cards and cheat the boys at eleven; stack a deck at fourteen; bested soldiers on the Rio Grande during the Mexican War; won hundreds of thousands from paymasters, cotton buyers, defaulters and thieves; fought more rough-and-tumble fights than any man in America and was the most daring gambler in the world.

So the title page of the new, reprinted edition of Mr. Devol's memoirs sets forth without exaggeration. The stage is usually a Mississippi River steamer in the palmy days, or the bar-rooms of New Orleans and river town hotels. The *dramatis personae* Mr. Devol, his "capper," perhaps an accomplice barkeep, and as many "suckers" as could be roped in. Faro, monte, poker, dice, marked cards, all the paraphernalia. And ladies' diamonds—Mr. Devol was always returning ladies' diamonds—baskets of wine, pistols, riots and massacres. Mr. Devol fought with his head, using it to flatten adversaries' noses.

The stories—the book is simply a succession of anecdotes—the stories are amusing, brisk with violence at times, invested with that suspense which accompanies the fate of thousand dollar bills. Inevitably there is a certain sameness of procedure and outcome, a repetition of incident, accentuated by the fact that Mr. Devol assumes a familiarity on the reader's part with the intricacies of gambling games equal to his own. Once in a while there is spice. As for instance General Butler at New Orleans during the Civil War.

He closed up all the gambling houses (Mr. Devol records), and then issued licenses for public gambling to anyone who would pay the fee and take his brother in as a partner. His profits must have been enough to make him independently rich without the spoons. . . . He took the marble statue of Henry Clay out of the State House at Baton Rouge and shipped it to his home in Massachusetts. He could not hide that as easily as he could the spoons, so after the war the United States Government made him return it, and that nearly killed him. . . . He gave me two silver spoons to remember him by, and I have them yet.

For a reader interested in the background and color of the day the book is infuriating. The sort of book one pounces on in a public library, expecting to see the Mississippi steamers go puffing by, all the racket and splendor of the levees come roaring from its pages. And one finds nothing. Mr. Devol rides in the steamer and gambles. He does not describe, he gives no picture, he creates no scene. One accompanies him on trip after trip, Natchez, Cairo, New Orleans, in the Forties, Fifties and Sixties, and one hears nothing, one sees nothing, except the click of poker chips, the fatuous simplicity of a multitude of "suckers."

How often in this manner, in the search for contemporary detail, does one have cause to regret the indifference to their surroundings of travelers who went, who saw and who did not tell. Almost all one gleams from Mr. Devol in this respect is the baskets of wine!

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE OF SAMUEL PEPYS. Edited by J. R. Tanner. Harcourt, Brace. Two vols. \$15.

HAYDOCK ELLIS. By Isaac Goldberg. Simon & Schuster. \$4.

THE POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOODROW WILSON. By James Kerney. Century. \$4.

### Fiction

THE VIADUCT MURDER. By RONALD A. KNOX. Simon & Schuster. 1926. \$2.

The experienced student of detective stories will know, as soon as he sees the map and the facsimile timetable printed on the jacket, that "The Viaduct Murder" is one of the distinctly better sort. It ranks with Milne's "The Red House," and the Rev. Mr. Knox's humor is even more twacky than Milne's. This, one supposes, is the same Mr. Knox once of Balliol College, though the publishers don't give us any clue; anyhow it is obviously written by an Oxford man, as two or three references, intelligible only to Oxonians, plainly show.

Which brings us to an old problem: Why is it that these Englishmen, at their best, write so much more successful detective stories than we do? The mystery in this case is a rather mild one but it is told with the most infectious reasonableness, charm, and gay humor. People like Arthur Train and Simeon Strunsky, two of our best judges of this sort of literature, will adore this book. It has real bean in it.

This reviewer often wonders what a reader who doesn't know England can make of casual phrases and allusions in British books that are quite strange to the U. S. Tooth "powder" the American reader can grasp, though for us it is always tooth "paste." But what will Babbitt make of a "slip," in the railway sense? A "slip," let us explain, is a "carriage" (viz., car) (Continued on next page)

## Adventure's Best Stories—1926

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OR THE LOVING HUNTSMAN

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who sold her soul to the devil has  
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the press of England and America

THE VIKING PRESS · New York

fourth printing  
\$2.00The New Books  
Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

that is detached from a speeding train to let off passengers for a station where the train does not stop. The reviewer thinks with pleasure of Babbitt racking his brains to understand Mr. Knox's references to the "slip." Mr. Knox has also invented a new service for chewing-gum in detective literature, which endears him to us. It is a good yarn and we wish it well.

SECRET HARBOUR. By STEWART EDWARD WHITE. Doubleday, Page. 1926. \$2.

When an author utilizes such thin and puerile stuff, as Mr. White here displays, and wilfully drags it out to three times its natural length, we feel moved meekly to protest. The story is a very light adventure romance, in which "X. Anaxagoras, Healer of Souls," experiments on his brother-in-law, the wealthy and aimless Jerry Marshall. The *Spindrift*, Jerry's sailing yacht, with the Doctor, the patient, the latter's wife Betsy, and a full crew, departs upon a haphazard voyage up the northern Pacific along the Canadian coast. The curiosity and suspicion of the travelers are aroused by the discovery of illicit gold-mining operations being carried on by two white rascals and a gang of Chinese coolies within clear view of the ship. Of course our adventure seekers land to investigate, and no one need be told of what happens, but, even if the tale were spread over one-hundred pages instead of three hundred and eleven, it would not be very good.

THE IPANE. By R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM. A. & C. Boni. 1926. \$1.75.

Cunninghame Graham's first volume of sketches of South American life and manners has, after nearly thirty years, here been reprinted in America. The Scotch hidalgo has never shown an aptitude for felicitous titles, and "The Ipane," which happens to be merely the name of a vessel mentioned in the first of these fifteen papers, little suggests the color, information, and interest packed into the book. One sketch is a character study of a jovial, scholarly, high-minded English merchant in Asuncion, who comes to a tragic death; one is an account of the Argentine custom of holding a dance to celebrate the entry of a dead child into bliss, the pallid corpse throned on a table above the revellers; one is a description of the use of the bola by Pampas horsemen; and so on. The nearest approach to a real story in the volume is the history of a reckless young Mexican in a town on the Texas border, and his hanging for shooting an American citizen. Nothing in the volume stands out as highly distinguished; there is no narrative like "Success" here. But the stamp of Cunninghame Graham, his rough vividness, his keen observation, his unconventional view of morals, his delight in the exotic, the untamed, and the perilous, are upon almost every page.

ROUGH JUSTICE. By C. E. Montague. Doubleday, Page. \$2.

PROUD REVELRY. By Amber Lee. Seltzer. \$2.

THE STRANGER WITHIN THE GATES. By C. Nina Boyle. Seltzer. \$2.

FLIGHT. By Walter White. Knopf. \$2.50.

A NEW EARTH. By C. E. Jacob. London: Rutledge.

THE LOVE OF MADAMOISELLE. By George Gibbs. Appleton. \$2.

TREASURE ROYAL. By William Garrett. Appleton. \$2.

CAPTAIN FRACASSE. By Theophile Gautier. Appleton. \$2.50.

THE SACRED TREE. By Lady Murasaki. Houghton, Mifflin. \$3.50.

TURBOTT WOLFE. By William Plomer. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

WILDE HEART. By Isabelle Sandy. Houghton, Mifflin. \$2.

WHAT IS TO BE. By J. C. Snaith. Appleton. \$2.

EVA AND THE DERELICT BOAT. By Franz Molnar. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

IN BAD WITH SINBAD. By Arthur Stringer. Bobbs-Merrill. \$1.

SIMONETTA PERKINS. By L. P. Hartley. Putnam. \$2.

O GENTEEL LADY! By Esther Forbes. Houghton, Mifflin. \$2.

PLUPPY, BEANY AND PEWT, CONTRACTORS. By Henry A. Shute. Dorrance. \$2.

A LITTLE CAPTIVE LAD. By Beulah Marie Dix. Macmillan. \$1.75.

## Juvenile

LONG LEGS, BIG MOUTH & BURNING EYES. By OLGA KOVALSKY and BRENDA PUTNAM. Illustrations by Rhoda Chase. Springfield: Milton, Bradley. 1926. \$3.

Authors and illustrator have combined their talents with a joyous fertility in this new book of Russian fairy stories. Many of the shorter ones are proverbial folk tales, handed down by word of mouth and possessing the deeply colored atmosphere, the grim humor and the personification of the elements so typical of the Russian imagination. There is a cosmic quality, a laughing grotesqueness about them. They are of the earth. The quaintest and most engaging pieces in the book are "When the Sun Pays a Call," "The Reed Flute," "Mother Good Luck" and "The Magic Tree." "Mother Good Luck" is quite as delicious a bit of freakishness as one could find in forty days' journeyings:

Sometimes as she goes along the road, she hears foot steps of a passer-by and thinking he might be her son, she picks him up very gently in her two hands and raises him above her head so that she may look at him. . . . And so at one time or another in our lives, we are all pretty sure to be lifted up by Good Luck,—until she drops us again and wanders on to pick up someone else.

Rhoda Chase had a gold tipped brush in her hand when she drew that picture of rotund Mother Luck examining the mortal child!

FIVE OF US AND MADELINE. By E. Nesbit. Adelphi. \$1.75 net.

DE L'AMOUR. By Destutt de Tracy. Paris: Les Belles Lettres.

THE BOYS' BOOK OF CANOEING. By Elon Jessup. Dutton. \$2.

MARY REDDING TAKES CHARGE. By Linda Stevens Almond. Crowell. \$1.75 net.

PLAYMATES IN AMERICA. By Ransford Beach. Holt. \$3.

GREEN GATE. By Agnes McClelland Doulton. Century. \$1.75.

DORSET'S TWISTER. By William Heyliger. Appleton. \$1.75.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SEVEN KEYHOLES. By Augusta Huiell Seaman. Century. \$1.50.

The Able McLaughlins, by Margaret Wilson, winner of Harper's 1922-23 Prize Novel Contest; was awarded THE PULITZER PRIZE for 1923.

The Perennial Bachelor, by Anne Parrish, winner of Harper's 1924-25 Contest, achieved an immediate critical and popular success; it is now selling in its second hundred thousand.

# Harper's 1926-7 \$2,000 Prize Novel Competition

Judges:

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Carl Van Doren

Author "The American Novel"

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Author of "The Private Life of Helen of Troy"

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2. Only manuscripts of unpublished works, submitted to Harper & Brothers before February 1, 1927, and accompanied by the declaration of the Author that the manuscript is submitted in competition for the prize, shall be considered.

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4. Harper's Magazine shall have the right to publish the successful work serially on terms to be arranged with the Author, but this right may be waived.

5. No manuscript containing less than 30,000 words shall be considered as a novel for the purpose of this Competition, and preference will be given in general to works of full novel length.

6. Harper & Brothers shall use all reasonable care to pass promptly on manuscripts submitted in competition for this Prize and to return those found unavailable for publication, but they will not be responsible for manuscripts lost in transit.

7. The judges of the competition shall be JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS, former president of The Authors' League of America; CARL VAN DOREN, author of "The American Novel"; JOHN ERSKINE, Columbia University. Their decision shall be accepted on all questions of eligibility or interpretation of the rules, and their award shall be final.

8. The award shall be made and publicly announced as soon as possible after the close of the Competition.

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