

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.

Belles Lettres

A NORTHERN COUNTRYSIDE. By ROSALIND RICHARDS. Holt. 1926. \$1.50.

One wonders if there is anything symptomatic about the reprinting of this book. Is the taste of the public turning from highly spiced confections to simple food? Certainly, nothing simpler nor quieter was ever published than this unstressful portrait-narrative of a beloved place. To read it is to be rested and reassured. Yes, it is true, as one knew in one's heart, that the commonplace interests and activities of everyday life are the most enduringly good. Miss Richards is fortunate in counting the love of a place among her experiences, and the place is supremely fortunate in having her for a scribe. Her study of landscape and seasons, people, flowers, and animals is beautifully done, showing long and careful observation and a directness of transcription into words which is admirable. Wholly a part of her theme is she, thoroughly steeped in it, yet sufficiently detached to see it with a poet's eye. Some of the chapters ("Early Winter," for instance) are true prose-poems. And how quietly poignant are some of the human episodes! The book reminds one now of Wordsworth, now of Thoreau. One echoes the wish of Mr. Howells, quoted on the jacket, that "it were the beginning of no end of like things." And perhaps, if the taste of the public really is changing, it may be just that.

WILLIAM CADOGAN (His Essay on Gout). By JOHN RUHRAH, M.D. Hoeber. 1925. \$1.50.

Although they still keep on hand at the Bath Club in London a supply of old foot-props for the goutily affected members we are persuaded that there is very little call for them. Dropped completely out of fashion is the plagu distressing thing; and yet gout has left a wraith behind it in the form of a rather full literature, of which the present essay is an amusing example. Cadogan's essay is an octavo plaquette of the year 1771 and can be picked up for the sum of eight shillings in the original edition—if the buyer is nimble. One is not likely to balk at a pound after reading this reprint. The work is crammed with sense and keen criticism, written in a most happy style, by a man of undoubted parts, bent upon rationalizing the medical treatment in vogue in his day. It is a little book to be placed beside Savonarola's dialogue on the Gout, and the "Laus Podagræ" of Willibald Pirckheimer as they stand (and we hope these rarities do there stand) on your shelf of bibelots.

THE MONEY BOX. By ROBERT LYND. Appleton. 1926. \$2.50.

"I am not enough of a pessimist," says Robert Lynd, "to believe that a world which contains friendship, books, music, churches, seas like peacocks, Sussex, gardens, willow-wrens, rivers, children, and dinner-tables surrounded by wits, is all dust and ashes." He is perhaps not a profound lover of life but he is a flirtatious admirer of many phases and his new book of twenty-seven essays shows a *flâneur* among things in general. The humor is shrewd without being surprising; the style easy even where it is a trifle thin. His fun is genuine, however, and he is not afflicted with self-conscious whims. And above all, he has the first grace of an essayist; the flow of his ideas is so persuasive that one reads on and on, passively pleased, amused, stirred to kindly derision of folly in human kind, and acquiring new affectionate interest in the old inescapable trivialities. Children, pets, the morning shave, the new suit of clothes, the trip abroad (brief adventure for an Englishman), superstitions, latchkeys, spare bedrooms, shop windows, and little girls' story books—among such things Mr. Lynd finds his texts and from them he wanders wherever he likes.

It would be cheering to think that the reading of essays is becoming less and less a special taste; certainly Mr. Lynd's performances ought to encourage its growth among those who want their humor drawn mild and enjoy having their minds enticed into pleasant discoveries.

THE STANDARD OF AMERICAN SPEECH AND OTHER PAPERS. By FRED NEWTON SCOTT. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. 1926.

This is a volume that every teacher of English will wish to own. It is a pleasant

spring where the dust-choked student of rhetoric may wet his weary whistle for once with the waters of life. Professor Scott draws upon his long experience, fortified by an eminently sane intelligence, and that concomitant of sanity, humor, for the elucidation of many educational and critical problems. His attitude throughout is that of liberal and illumined common sense in striking contrast to the usual academic purism. He agrees with Walt Whitman that the standard of correct pronunciation is to be found in any individual who possesses "perfect flexible vocal organs" and "a developed harmonious soul;" the current illiteracy of college students he traces to the influence of foreign jargons, the absence of careful home training, and, above all, the clash between instinctive habits and the rules of grammar and rhetoric—where he strongly implies that the rules might well concede more to the habits than they are wont to do. Of the two ideals of composition, the Aristotelian and Platonic, he defends the Platonic insistence on content against the orthodox Aristotelian formalism. In the paper on "Efficiency for Efficiency's Sake," written as long ago as 1914, occur the prophetic words:

The passion for testing efficiency will not slack until every element and factor of the teaching process has been submitted to rigorous quantitative measurements. There is a serious danger that . . . the investigator in his rage for measuring everything in sight, may overlook, and induce the teacher to overlook, the true end and nature of education.

This passage expresses the spirit of all the educational papers, in which Professor Scott stands as a defender of humanism against the encroaching mechanisms of the day.

Equally happy are the critical and technical discussions of "The Genesis of Language" discovered in phenomena of respiration, "The Most Fundamental Difference of Poetry and Prose" which are reduced to the pregnant formula—"Poetry is communication for expression's sake, prose is expression for communication's sake,"—and "The Scansion of Prose Rhythm" where, developing the conclusions of the preceding paper, prose rhythm is found to reside in cadences of pitch. "A Note on Walt Whitman's Prosody" annihilates, it is to be hoped for all time, the popular notion that Walt Whitman was a careless and unconscious writer by which even so good a critic as George Santayana has been deceived; in fact, Professor Scott dares to say—oh, shades of Richardson and Barrett Wendell!—"of all American poets Whitman is the only one whose sense of artistry is at all comparable with that of the greatest British poets."

Biography

THE SUNLIT HOURS. A Record of Sport and Life. By SIR THEODORE ANDREA COOK. Doran. 1926. \$6.

The autobiography of a vivid, healthy personality is as bracing as sea air. Sir Theodore Cook, editor of the English sporting magazine, *The Field*, is such a tonic in these simple, unassuming notes from a busy newspaper life. Finely equipped in many branches of intellectual and physical activity he owes nothing to outside influence. True, he went to an English Public School and to Oxford University, but both were won by scholarships without which he would have begun life at a clerk's desk. Holiday intervals at Oxford were occupied with teaching, and it was as tutor to Ralph Pulitzer that he became the friend of the father, Joseph Pulitzer. They met first when the great newspaper-owner was nearly blind, but this does not prevent Cook from giving a picture of him in a Paris hotel one evening playing chess with his son's new tutor, dictating an editorial to a reporter, arguing with two men on a different subject, and listening to a secretary reading an article; all running concurrently as the legal phrase goes.

"His brain was bottled lightning and he lived in a tornado," says Cook. But a certain detachment of manner enabled the young Englishman to remain Joseph Pulitzer's friend when many other men had come and gone. It was Cook who went with a blank check in his pocket to see Rudyard Kipling, seeking an article on why America could never conquer England, and returned with the famous answer that on such a subject no Englishman had any information for sale.

Sir Theodore's love and knowledge of

(Continued on next page)

1468 NEW 1926 OXFORD BOOKS

A Cabinet of Characters. Chosen and Edited by Gwendolen Murphy.

A novel anthology, in the form of the seventeenth century "Character," including examples from Theophrastus to Mr. Galsworthy. Price \$4.25.

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A study of the formation and development of the American Constitution for the student and general reader. Price \$3.50.

The Relation of Nature to Man in Aboriginal America. By Clark Wissler.

A study of American Indian traits as shown in their geographical distribution. The author is well known as an authority on the American Indian. Price \$3.50.

Money. By R. A. Lehfeldt.

It gives enough information, in an informal way, for the non-technical reader to understand the broad characters of the subject. Price \$1.00.

Survey of International Affairs, 1924. By Arnold J. Toynbee.

This covers the problem of Security and Disarmament: The question of emigration and immigration; the relations of the Third International and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with one another and with the rest of the world; and the relations between the Allies and Germany. Price \$8.50.

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A selection from the writings of Jane Taylor, a popular favorite of our grandfathers' day. Price \$1.25.

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Shakespeare: A Survey. By E. K. Chambers.

These essays are introductions to the plays of Shakespeare, written for the general reader. Price \$2.50.

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The New Books Biography

(Continued from preceding page)

sport was an introduction to most famous men of his day. He writes of rowing, skating, yachting, and horse-racing with the opinion of the expert. But beyond this picture of a happy well-spent life is the impression that here is that best type of Englishman who is the friend of many diverse and interesting people, yet never loses his modesty, and a feeling that, engaging though all these interests are, life has something deeper which must be served, so that when the last moment comes out of the boundless deep he may return again home. Let us call it character.

Fiction

ELIZABETH'S TOWER. By MARGARET WEYMOUTH JACKSON. Bobbs-Merrill. 1926. \$2.

We began to read this novel with distrust and reluctance—publishers' blurbs frequently thus affect us—but the further we read into the story, the better we liked it, and firmer grew our conviction that we were not to be disappointed by seeing it eventually swamped in the bogs of sweetness, hope, love, charity, and sunshine. Elizabeth is a lonely child of eleven when we first enter her narrow, rustic world of North Dakota during a winter of the early nineties. She has recently come to live on the farm of her elderly aunt and uncle, after two years passed in an orphanage. Her transitional growth and experience in the succeeding seven years contain nothing remarkable save that they reveal the increasing, significant, unconscious influence which Elizabeth exerts upon the inner lives of various people who respond to the gentle power of her lovely and guileless soul. Now innocence, virtue, and utter childishness may be driven here to the limit of their potency, but we, for one, will find no fault if for no other reason than that we are grown weary of the stale and hollow sophistication prevalent in the mass of current fiction.

AT TOP OF TOBIN. By STANLEY OLMSTED. Dial Press. 1926. \$2.50.
Tobin, a small town in the North

Carolina mountains, as it was about the year 1880, is impaled whole upon Mr. Olmsted's pen and to those who have lived in such a community no details in this 500-page novel will perhaps seem superfluous. He writes, moreover, with mellow charm and a sympathetic imagination. His children especially, though probably cast too prominently for the taste of most adults, are alluringly alive.

But the book is too long and too plotless. Art must not be quite as real as life and every memory of Tobin's past is hardly worth the capturing for itself alone. Long before the end is reached, one comes to resent the cumulative wealth of insignificant incident as one resents the irrelevant experiences of seasoned travelers who intrude upon one's first impressions with unworthy anecdotes of previous visits.

A little corner of vanishing America is here, however, and for that one must be grateful.

ONE LITTLE MAN. By Christopher Ward. Harper. \$2.50.

THE HOUSEMAID. By Naomi Royde-Smith. Knopf. \$2.50.

THE SILVER STALLION. By James Branch Cabell. McBride. \$2.50.

BARNABY RIDGE. By Charles Dickens. Oxford. \$3.

GYPSY DOWN THE LANE. By Thomas Williamson. Small, Maynard. \$2.50.

THE SWINGING GODDESS. By Marjorie Carleton. Small, Maynard. \$2.

THE VALLEY OF THE STARS. By Charles Alden Seltzer. Century. \$2.

AFTER NOON. By Susan Ertz. Appleton. \$2.

MARY CHRISTMAS. By Mary Ellen Chase. Little, Brown. \$1.50.

Juvenile

SOLDIER BOY. By Félicité Lefèvre. Pictures by Tony Sarg. Greenberg. \$1.25.

FLEDGLINGS. By L. A. Charskaya. Holt. \$1.75.

THE ANIMAL ETIQUETTE BOOK. By Helen Cowles Le Cron. Stokes. \$1.50.

THE WHIPPER-SNAPPER. By Charles E. Parker. Stokes. \$1.50.

GRAY MOON TALES. By Minnie Belle Mitchell. Bobbs-Merrill.

COBBLECORNERS. By Zillah K. MacDonald. Appleton. \$1.75.

Miscellaneous

LAW FOR THE HOME OWNER. By J. B. Green. Macmillan. \$2.50.

PUTNAM'S COMPLETE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS, PROVERBS AND HOUSEHOLD WORDS. By W. Gurney Benham. Putnam. \$6.50.

SAILING SHIPS AT A GLANCE. By Edward W. Hobbs. Putnam. \$2.50.

YOU: A PERSONAL MESSAGE. By Edward W. Bok. The Medici Society of America.

THE PERFECT CALENDAR FOR EVERY YEAR OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA. By Henry Fitch.

BEAUTIFUL BLACK HILLS. By O. W. Coursey. Mitchell: South Dakota Educator Co.

THE NEW COMMON SENSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD. By Marion Harland. Revised by Christine Terhune Herrick. Stokes. Cloth \$2.00. Kitchen Edition, \$2.50.

GARDEN-MAKING. By Elsa Rehmann. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.50.

THE LOG OF THE SUN. A Chronicle of Nature's Year. By William Beebe. Holt. \$5.

MIDAS OR THE UNITED STATES AND THE FUTURE. By C. H. Bretherton. Dutton. \$1.

PEGASUS OR PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTATION. By Colonel J. F. C. Fuller. Dutton. \$1.

LIFE INSURANCE AS A LIFE WORK. By Hugh D. Hart. Crofts. \$2.

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE. By William Tomkins. San Diego, California.

THE WHALERS OF AKUTAN. By Knut B. Birkeland. Yale Press. \$3.

THE TIDE. By H. A. Marmar. Appleton. \$2.50.

THE DESK REFERENCE BOOK. By William Dana Orcutt. Stokes. \$1.50.

IN THE GARDEN. By Frances Hodgson Burnett. Boston: The Medici Society of America.

ALL ROUND ROBIN HOOD'S BARN. By Walter A. Dyer. Doubleday, Page. \$5 net.

THE LINKS. By Robert Hunter. Scribners. \$4.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SCAPA SOCIETY. By Richardson Evans. London: Constable.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKPLATE LITERATURE. Edited by George W. Fuller. Spokane Public Library.

YOUR HAIR AND YOUR HEALTH. By Oscar L. Levin. Greenberg. \$1.50.

GOOD MANNERS FOR CHILDREN. By Elsie Cleveland Mead and Theodora Mead Abel. Dodd, Mead. \$1.25.

THE ROMANCE OF THE LAME AMERICA. By Heinrich Charles. Published by the author, 116 Nassau Street.

TOILETTE OF THE HEBREW LADY. By Thomas De Quincey. Hartford: Mitchell.

Poetry

LIGHTED TAPERS. By Evelyn M. Watson. London: Erskine MacDonald, Ltd.

POEMS. By Marie Corelli. Doran. \$2.

POEMS. By Kostas Palamas. Translated by Theodore Ph. Stephanides and George S. Katsimbalis.

MONICA, OR THE CHRONICLE OF MARCUS. By Samuel Valentine Cole. Marshall Jones. \$1.50.

WIDE PASTURES. By Marie Emilie Gilchrist. Macmillan. \$1.25.

NEW POEMS AND OLD. By Muriel Stuart. Hartford, Conn.: Edwin Valentine Mitchell. \$2.

GRAVEN IMAGES. By Caresse Crosby. Houghton Mifflin. \$1.50.

THE CHILD ON HIS KNEES. By Mary Dixon Thayer. Macmillan. \$1.25.

LILITH. By George Sterling. Macmillan. \$1.50.

A BOAT OF GLASS. By Frances Fletcher. Dorance.

CATULLUS. The Complete Poems. Translated and Edited by F. A. Wright. Dutton. \$3.

Religion

THE MIND OF JESUS. By Louis Howland. Bobbs-Merrill. 1926. \$2.50.

Here is another appreciation of Jesus by a newspaper man. The author is described as the editor of the *Indianapolis News*, but he writes a sermon style. In a series of twenty-six short chapters the outlook and qualities of Jesus's mind are described, such as its keenness, delicacy, poise, and flexibility, its poetry and logic, its inclusive, contradictory and prophetic character. The author keeps well to his subject, tries no psychological or theological *magnum opus*, uses the gospels suggestively and reverently, and gives each chapter one simple and worthwhile idea.

THE SPRINGFIELD CHURCH SURVEY. By H. Paul Douglass. Doran. \$4.

THE UNKNOWN BIBLE. By Conrad Henry Mochman. Doran. \$2.

AN OUTLINE OF CHRISTIANITY. In five volumes. Volume 3. Dodd, Mead.

THE OXFORD BIBLE FOR MASONS. Blue French Morocco Leather. Oxford. \$4.25.

THE EVOLUTION OF CHRISTIANITY. By Dr. Lyman Abbott. Doubleday, Page. \$2.50 net.

MY FAITH IN IMMORTALITY. By William E. Barton. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

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TRANSLATED BY ELEANOR AND VAN WYCK BROOKS

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