

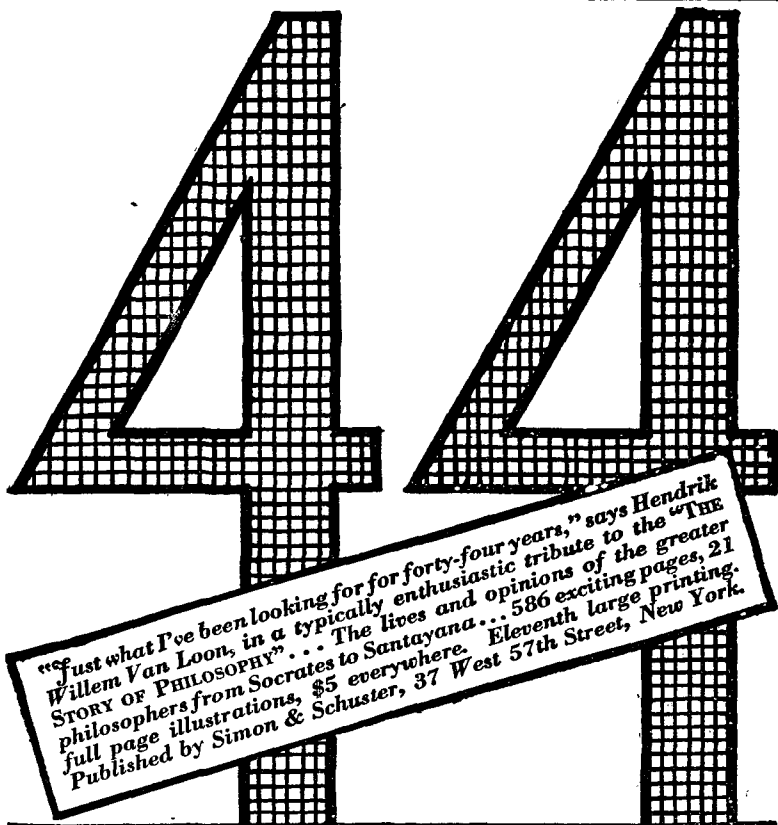
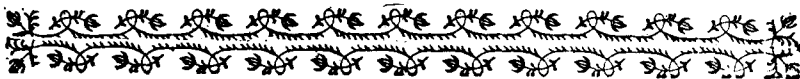
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The New Books Belles Lettres

(Continued from preceding page)

and an implacable observer of the great genius of the seventeenth century that he has made the subject of his study and in whom he has sought to trace, what one is too often tempted to overlook, that is to say the purely human side of his character.

The intervention of Pascal in the quarrel between the Jansenists and the Jesuits, the motives which determined his writing the Provincial Letters, the influence at work upon him, nothing is omitted in the work of M. Maire that could throw the least light on this part of the work and life of Pascal, which has since been the subject of so much controversy.

Following these introductions, which must be counted among the most conscientious of historical researches, one finds the nomenclature of all the different editions of Pascal as well as of all the works that have appeared from the seventeenth century up to the present time, treating of Pascal and his writings, including exact bibliographical details. Long years of patient and sustained research and of methodical classification of documents, to say nothing of immense study and reflection, have gone into the creation of this work.

Biography

RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

By NEWMAN SMYTH. Scribners. 1926. \$2.

Dr. Newman Smyth was one of the greater leaders of religious progress in our day. He was a true pioneer, and we live by the work of pioneers more than we know. As one reads this modest, quiet volume of his recollections and reflections, the realization grows how many of the axioms of our later thinking on church and religious matters in the Protestant world here were the contribution of a very small group of spiritual explorers who gave us this inheritance of what we consider obvious.

Within the span of one lifetime have come to substantial acceptance such convictions as the historical criticism of the Bible, the complementary truths of science and religion, the social service program of the churches, and of the iniquity and blasphemy of competitive denominationalism. Dr. Smyth was bound up with each one of those discoveries. From his vantage point at old Center Church in New Haven he launched many a message of sweet reasonableness in the cause of wholesome broad-mindedness. He was even liberal toward the illiberal and tolerant of the intolerant. He was companion in arms with most of the leaders in Christian statesmanship. In this book we cannot but read between the lines of that high mindedness which admitted him to such high companionship.

"Recollections and Reflections" is a modest book. It could easily have been expanded, made more thrilling, more "popular." One is almost sorry that the author did not let himself go a bit more freely. But culture builds inhibitions against too much self-exploitation, and Dr. Smyth was one who would come nowhere near the dangerous line in taste. We know him better because he did not indulge himself. He kept himself under a tight rein of humility.

Education

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE AND ITS RULERS. By J. E. KIRKPATRICK. New Republic. 1926. \$1.

"The American College and Its Rulers" is a title which perhaps suggests more than any writer could tell in a single volume or a single series. Dr. Kirkpatrick has written some interesting articles on the origin of several colleges and has joined with these a plea for faculty control of the colleges. The book is not as revolutionary as the second part of its title might imply. An obvious defect is that the historical sketches are hardly germane to the general thesis. Princeton may have originated in one way and Harvard in another. Historically this is of real interest and some importance but it is only padding for such a special plea as Dr. Kirkpatrick is making. Yale, for example, is used as the type of the "hired man's college." Yet on page 51 the writer quotes the popular and largely justified belief that at Yale the faculty rules. After all whether the corporation or the faculty or the president or the alumni or the undergraduates run a university is in each case to a certain extent a matter of opinion.

Certainly it is not determined by the history of the seventeenth century, and colleges do not fall so neatly into categories as the present writer would assume. What the faculties as a rule desire is control of the curriculum in the broadest sense and this they have to a much larger degree than would be judged by this book.

The idealizing of the Antioch venture which is an excellent but a very special experiment and the eulogizing of Mr. Nearring and Mr. Meikeljohn add to the impression of special pleading. Obviously Dr. Kirkpatrick considers Mr. Morgan as the first educator in the country and yet he himself admits that the teacher at Antioch cannot follow lines that are of special interest to him as a scholar. Any modern college teacher must smile at the suggestion that professors "lead a sheltered and cloistered life" and must also be skeptical of the implications that lie in the statements about Antioch where "a broad and human view of his subject" is given by the instructor and where he "prefers the Antioch job of developing men and women."

Dr. Kirkpatrick, in stating his creed, tells us that he believes that "our school youths with their own approved teachers and administrators must be permitted to face their own problems and their own responsibilities and determine for themselves the course they will take." One can almost hear a chorus from the Tutor's College, the Professor's College, the Hired Man's College and, I suspect, from the Log College saying "God forbid."

The book is in many parts interesting reading, sometimes informative, occasionally suggestive, but never very weighty.

Fiction

GROBO. By E. H. W. MEYERSTEIN. Doran. 1926.

One thinks that Mr. Meyerstein, perhaps, has not written exactly as his heart dictated, and that is why one feels the jar of "Grobo," through its stylistic inequality. Mr. Meyerstein has enclosed an intimate and very tender sense of life almost suffocatingly in a deliberate, fancy-woven facsimile of certain modern modes in fiction. Perhaps the works of Messrs. Van Vechten, Firbank, and others appealed to him entirely in a literary sense, and in that case one must chide Mr. Meyerstein for incompetent spirituality—but that is rather beating about the bush of "Grobo."

The soul in "Grobo" is the same subtly resentful elfin creature, inclined to acridity, that one finds in Mr. Van Vechten, Mr. Firbank, and, to some extent, in Mr. Arlen. But the individual temperaments of these men led them to their several methods of exposing it. Firbank has an insanely choleric satirical pattern in which to lay his, with gestures of pure disgust like quick whips; Van Vechten has a studied, more compromisingly logical, more genial, if authentically acid in part, whimsicality of purpose—a very blonde darkness; Arlen has given his to the imps of commercialism. The sentiment of these men is free to function along with their organic conception of style (Arlen, of course, is dubious). They have more or less hard free forms. But Mr. Meyerstein's soul and sentiment seem somewhat crowded by his attempt to do what almost seems like an undergraduate stunt. They are more valid as themselves, without the vesture of philosophed mind; they have little evidence of the cauterization by mind which is an inevitable part of those of the other men. So Mr. Meyerstein's jaunty, gesturing book is soon accepted as chiefly external. The very palpability of imitation is striking, even so as to give the necessary successful clue in the first chapter, when Cabell is invoked with an almost burlesque brashness.

"Grobo" hasn't much value as a good sophisticated entertainment; its stylistic lights, since they do not exist at all, have not so much individuality as those elsewhere. Most of the book's pleasure is adulterated or dispelled with mannerism. Only the symbolic character and destiny of Grobo stand out as the traits of the book which may be profitably connected to show a coherent original pattern.

OUR DOCTORS. By MAURICE DUPLAY. Translation and Preface by JOSEPH COLLINS. Harper. 1926. \$2.

Surely Dr. Collins has brought to the American public an original and a stimulating novel. In his preface he tells of finding M. Duplay's "Our Doctors" in a Paris bookstall, and determining to translate it into English. The story's chief claim upon our attention is its medical atmosphere; indeed any reader will feel that he is rapidly getting acquainted with the varied types of Parisian doctors, with their think-

ing, with their surroundings. For central character there is Daruel, a young surgeon of utmost brilliance, whose pilgrimage from cold-blooded disregard of humanity, through suffering, to a warm sympathy with the afflicted is the always pleasing thread of narrative. His regeneration is credible and entirely free from sentimentality; if the novel errs, it is upon the side of an over-scrupulous description of hospital wards and operations. But few will be offended. Certainly all medical men who can snatch an hour or two from their practice will delight in M. Duplay's novel and its background; the general reader will find much to hold his attention. Dr. Collins's eminence fortunately assures us of the novel's scientific accuracy.

Foreign

IM ANFANG WAR DIE LIEBE: Letters of Malwida von Meysenbug. Munich: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung. 1926.

Malwida von Meysenbug, thinking that her life was nearly completed, published the "Memoirs of an Idealist." She did not guess that thirty years were still allotted to her on earth. The record of these latter years is preserved in the form of letters to her foster-daughter. The title of this collection is taken from her last words, the epitome of her philosophy, "In the beginning was love. I always thought so, but today I know it better than ever." In this thought she befriended a great number of people, and it is to our advantage that these friends, of whom she wrote intimately and critically, were among the best-known personalities of contemporary Europe. In so conservative an age as the middle nineteenth century, this woman dared ignore the tradition of her aristocratic family and turn to the democratic movement which was just beginning in Germany.

She moved to Bayreuth to be in the company of her closest friends, Wagner and his family. Nietzsche, Björnson, Lenbach, and Liszt she was intimate with, and at home in the household of Von Bülow. In Rome, for the young Romain Rolland and his fellow-students she was a Lady Colvin. Carl Schurz, the revolutionist and American statesman, was her closest friend, and she met Anton Seidl at Wagner's house before Seidl had been heard of in the musical world.

Beyond being beautiful specimens of the "gentlest art," the expression of a most noble character, this sheaf of letters is a peep-hole into the lives of the musical, philosophical, literary, and political giants of the nineteenth century.

Miscellaneous

FIELDS OF WORK FOR WOMEN. By MIRIAM SIMONS LEUCK. Appleton. 1926. \$2.50.

It is an exceedingly practical guide-book that Miriam Simons Leuck has written in "Fields of Work for Women," discussing a wide range of activities, from stage dancing to farming. While written primarily for the college and high school graduate, with emphasis on the importance of a liberal and cultural education, Miss Leuck has not written down in her analysis of the opportunities for girls and women of lesser opportunities. Neither does she assume that higher education along general lines can be substituted successfully for specialized training. Her advice will carry particular weight because of this fact in the minds of the college women who have gone forth armed with the belief that a college diploma opens all doors, only to discover the sad fallacy of such optimism.

Writing from long experience in vocational guidance, with the Y. W. C. A., as Girl Scout leader and social worker, Miss Leuck has unusually thorough knowledge of the abilities, temperaments, and training necessary in a broad field of business and professional undertakings and she has kept her discussion a document of information rather than an appeal or argument for woman's enterprise. She makes only one plea; that is in her reminder of the value to all women in business that comes with the industry and success of each individual woman.

The emphasis upon the particular place of married women in the business world would mark the book as new, even if the wide scope of activities suggested did not. Her claim that married women have special value because they are "better disciplined" may be greeted with a shade of amusement in some homes and offices but the point is well-made, nevertheless.

The lines of work outlined and discussed include office work, salesmanship, teaching, recreational direction, dramatics, journalism, the law, medicine, and half a dozen others.

The enthusiastic professional woman might declare that Miss Leuck has not given due emphasis to the possibilities for definite success in law, medicine, and executive positions in big business; but she is clearly concerned with conditions as they actually exist at the present time for the average woman.

WOMEN POLICE: A Study of the Development and Status of the Women Police Movement. By CHLOE OWINGS. New York: Bureau of Social Hygiene, FRED H. HITCHCOCK. 1925.

The author has had a varied experience as social worker in the United States and war worker in France. In 1923 she obtained her doctor's degree from the Sorbonne with honors, and her thesis, "The Children's Court," was awarded the prize by the Academy of Political Science for the work of ameliorating the conditions of the people of Paris. She has since conducted courses in New York City for the training of police women, and has carried on research in social hygiene.

The reception of such a book as Miss Owings's "Women Police" depends largely upon the point of view of the reader. If he considers the function of the police force as punitive he will not find the book of vital interest. But if he considers the true function of the police as not primarily punitive but rather as preventive and protective, then the subject becomes of supreme importance to him. Indeed the value of women police can only be appreciated from this more modern and enlightened conception of the meaning of police organization.

The book contains an intelligent and concise historic account of the growth and development of the various women police organizations in the United States, Great Britain, and elsewhere. Besides this historic review, several other topics are considered, such as the meaning and value of the work which has been done in the past, the necessary educational requirements for police women, and the fields in which police women have been most successful. It is in this latter discussion that the value of women police in protective and preventive work with women, girls, and children, stands out; in such work as involves patrolling public places of amusement, court cases, detention, investigation, caution, advice, and so forth. The difficulties and discouragements facing the police women are also considered; difficulties of political,

financial, educational, and other origin. These considerations indicate the direction which any endeavor to increase the utility of women police must take.

The necessity and value of the book arises from the fact that the information brought together here, appears for the first time in book form. Such information, easily accessible, will do much toward removing the rather widespread ignorance in this field of social betterment. In these early days when the function and meaning of women police is not yet clearly defined, such a work as Miss Owings's, acts not only as a valuable reference book for police officials, social workers, economists, and others dealing specifically with social problems, but as an informational work to the much larger group of men and women interested in social reform in general. It is only through a comprehension of the aims and difficulties of the women police organizations that the intelligent public can give the encouragement and coöperation which such valuable forces for civic betterment deserve.

MURDER IN FACT AND FICTION. By CANON J. A. F. BROOKES. Brentano's. 1926. \$3.50.

Canon Brookes is widely read in criminology; there is hardly one famous criminal of any country, or of any century with which he does not seem to be familiar. His book is almost an encyclopædia of murder, with a wide range, and, it is to be feared, some lessening of interest to the reader. The Canon has tried to spread himself over the whole subject; he talks about the psychology of murderers, about titled murderers, political murderers, murders on trains, child murderers, sex murders, "baffled" murderers, and so on. He pads his book with two chapters of quotations from Shakespeare and from current novelists, and he explains his dislike of Bolshevism in politics and nearly all modern movements in art, music, and letters.

As a result, he can only hastily sketch most of the crimes he discusses. In one section of the book he really does himself justice as a writer. This is when he takes twenty pages to give a detailed and leisurely account of a curious and interesting crime, and of the detective work which resulted in the capture of the criminal. This is the so-called Bournemouth mystery; the murder of Miss Wilkins by Allaway, the chauffeur. The author, in this chapter,

shows what an interesting book he might have made had he concentrated his efforts, instead of wandering over the whole field.

MASTER MAN HUNTERS. By JOSEPH GOLLOMB. Macaulay. 1926. \$2.50.

The man hunters are the official detectives of London, Paris, Vienna, and other European cities. Mr. Gollomb has a strong admiration for them, especially for the men of Scotland Yard, and he writes a score of chapters based upon their actual adventures in capturing criminals. They are generally readable, and the first chapter, which tells about the solution of an obscure murder by Scotland Yard detectives, is as interesting a description of modern police work as one is apt to find.

It would not do to rely too securely upon all the details, nor upon all statements of fact in the book. In the chapter describing Dr. Neill Cream, the author says that the story was put at his disposal by Inspector John Hendry of Scotland Yard, who "had been refreshing his excellent memory of the case" by reference to the official records. It would have been well if the Inspector, or Mr. Gollomb, or somebody, had refreshed his memory by looking at such a simple and obvious authority as the record of the trial in the Notable Trials Series. It would have saved him from a dozen small blunders. To say that Neill Cream was tried in America for the murder of three girls, when as a matter of fact it was for the murder of one man, casts rather a dubious light upon the records in Scotland Yard—or upon somebody's memory of them.

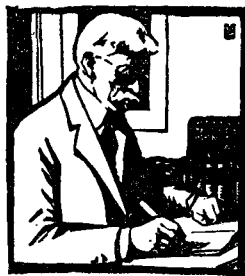
After all, these books are read for the good stories they contain, and perhaps it is only the fussy writer of reviews who cares whether they include minor errors or not.

HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE. By MARGARET SANGER. Brentanos. 1926.

Doctor Sanger dedicates her new book to "the new generation who seek happiness in marriage based on truth" and does her excellent best to state some of that truth for the guidance of those who need it. As almost everybody needs it we may say that they will be hard put to it to find elsewhere between one pair of covers so much admirable advice on the various aspects of married life. Unlike the forbidden Dr. Mary Stopes, her co-worker in England, Doctor Sanger can write a lucid and un-

(Continued on next page)

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