

Thirty Days Hath September

and on the first of these the staff of THE SATURDAY REVIEW assembled for lunch at the Hotel Unabridged, across the street from the office. The editors were swapping ideas for interesting experiments in the fall issues and the business manager was bubbling over with enthusiasm about the tremendous response to the subscription expiration notices which had been mailed to Charter Subscribers. This swung the conversation from literature to the excitement of the business office and two of our poetically inclined members spoiled a perfectly good menu card writing alternate lines of sonnets to be used in getting renewals of those who had not yet sent in their checks. It is difficult to pick the *better* sonnet. Which would overcome the inertia of your fountain pen? There is only one title:

To An Expiring Subscriber

A very well known writer, *viz.*, John Erskine,
Has called intelligence an obligation—
Whoever now would save his skin (or her skin)
Must sit in at some literary ration—
And so, with no desire to seem too cruel,
This sonnet, written in the mode Petrarchan—
Is writ to urge you, where is your Renewal?
How dull and dim, crepuscular and dark an'

Completely without interest or cheer
Would be the prospect opening up for you
Unless you felt that for another year
You'd have your faithful *Saturday Review*.
Because we know you're careful, aye, and thrifty
The Business office cries—It's just Three Fifty!

Now that we've all survived the Heated Term
I'm sending you a line (a line that's dotted)
Observe, Napoleonically plotted,
This scheme to perforate your epiderm.
Why then, old thing, procrastinate and squirm?
How quickly can a check be signed and blotted—
Renew for your *Review* in space allotted
And save the U. S. postage of the firm.

No need to bother Lady Friend, and bribe her
To lend her copy of the S. R. L.
O lucky you, triumphant resubscriber,
For fifty weeks (and eke two weeks as well).
And so my parting word to you, by thunder:
Enclose your check . . . and sign your name hereunder—

THE SATURDAY REVIEW
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GENTLEMEN:

The enclosed check is for renewal of the subscription of:

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The New Books International

(Continued from preceding page)

consideration of the question whether it is desirable or not for the United States to become members of those organizations, but merely to point out the legal consequence of such membership, the inference is not disguised that the author regards such membership as of grave danger to the independence of the United States. Hence, the title of the work, *The Constitution at the Cross Roads between nationalism and internationalism*. The analysis of the documents and of the organizations involved, together with a description of the decisions of the Permanent Court of International Justice, are probably fairly accurate. There is nothing very original about the work.

Juvenile

OUR FRIENDS AT THE FARM. By E. CHIVERS DAVIES. Crowell. 1926. \$1.50.
OUR FRIENDS AT THE ZOO. By JULIA T. E. STODDARD. The same.

These companion volumes will make easy reading for youngsters of from four to seven. Uniform in size and clearly printed with plenty of pictures in black and white and a number of excellent full-page color illustrations, each book gives descriptions and anecdotes of various animals at the Zoo and on the Farm, with a running thread of narrative as well. We found the Farm book decidedly the more spontaneous of the two. Such a pleasantly conversational account of a little city-bred boy's recovery of his health on an old fashioned farm where he can be upon intimate terms with horses, cows, sheep, and every variety of barnyard creature should be appealing, especially as the small hero is natural and his speech has a twentieth century ring to it. Also the effort to impart information about the habits and uses of the animals is somewhat less apparent than in "Our Friends at the Zoo." The format of these books is attractive and in both cases the honors go to the artists rather than to the authors.

DANIEL DU LUTH, OR ADVENTURING ON THE GREAT LAKES. By EVERETT McNEIL. Dutton. 1926. \$2.

Besides the usual Boy Adventure stories turned out every year by the scores, this tale of early pioneer explorers of the Canadian border in the days when it was still a possession of France, stands out with a spirit and vigor all its own. Following frankly in the school of James Fenimore Cooper, the author has written a rattling good historical narrative of the adventures of a French youth, Paul Douay, who joins the explorer Daniel Du Luth on a remarkable journey through the wilderness about the Great Lakes. How the boy searches to find his lost sister, stolen as a child years before by the Indians; how he discovers her being worshipped by an Indian tribe; how she saves him from torture and death, and how in turn he saves her, after a mad race to reach Niagara Falls before the hostile Indians, and brings her home in safety to her own people, makes stirring reading for any boy in his teens. There is a good background of early American history here, which the author wisely enough subordinates to his action, and though there is plenty of romance throughout the tale, it is remarkably free from mawkish sentiment or a too mature love story. Plenty of fighting and bloodshed, yes,—but wonderfully free from "blood and thunder" of the movie sort!

AT BOW VIEW. By Gladys Blake. Appleton. \$1.75.

THE DONEGAL WONDER BOOK. By Seamus Macmanus. Stokes. \$2.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. By E. M. Wilmot-Buxton. Stokes. \$1.50.

LETTERS FROM UNCLE HENRY. By Henry B. Mason. Stokes. \$2.

VALERY GARRICK'S PICTURE FOLK-TALES. Illustrated by the author. Stokes. \$1.50.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE CLOTHESLINES. By James Woodward Sherman. Little, Brown. \$1 net.

THE QUEEN OF ROUMANIA'S FAIRY BOOK. Illustrated by N. Grossman-Bulyghin. Stokes. \$3.

KOOTENAI WHY STORIES. By Frank B. Linderman. Scribners. \$2.

PETER PAN AND WENDY. By J. M. Barrie. Retold by May Byron. Illustrated by Mabel Lucie Attwell. Scribners. \$1.

A RIDE ON A ROCKING HORSE. By Ray Garnett. Dutton. \$2.

LAPLANE LEGENDS. Retold by Leonne de Cambrey. Yale University Press. \$3.

IN THE BEGINNING. By Eva Erleigh. Illustrated by Mary Adshead. Doubleday, Page.

PEDRO OF THE BLACK DEATH. By C. M. Bennett. Dutton. \$2.

FIGHT 'EM, BIG THREE. By Harold M. Sherman. Appleton. \$1.75.

Poetry

SELECTED POEMS. By ALDOUS HUXLEY. Appleton. 1926.

A very much better selection than this is might have been made from Mr. Huxley's poems. Forty specimens, mostly of his earliest verse, make up a volume all too brief to represent his gift in its true dimensions. "Leda," his longest, if not his best poem, is not included. Nearly all the present poems have an experimental air and leave a curious sense of incompleteness. In his more formal moods Mr. Huxley is rather stiff and ungraceful. He does not belong to a "silver" age. Such things as "Songs of Poplars" and "Philoclea in the Forest" sit uneasily upon his literary character. In his freer verses he approaches so nearly to prose that only the alignment exists to distinguish them from parallel things in his prose works. Such a very characteristic poem as "On the 'Bus'" might easily have occurred in the midst of one of his novels. But Mr. Huxley's poetic gift is anything but slight. This is best evidenced, perhaps, in the remarkable translation of Stéphane Mallarmé's "L'Après-Midi d'un Faune," which is something more than a mere *tour de force*. His intellectual energy rather overbalances the other energies apparent in his verse, but, at the best, there are many such excellences as in the lines "In Uncertainty to a Lady"

*I am not one of those who sip,
Like a quotidian bock,
Cheap idylls from a languid lip
Prepared to yawn or mock.*

*I wait the indubitable word,
The green Unconscious Cue
Has it been spoken and unheard?
Spoken, perhaps, by you.*

This has an epigrammatic felicity and eighteenth century quality rare enough in our day, but, in common with the bulk of the present poems, it does not adequately represent the warmth of the author's poetic imagination. His verse has very little cadence. Mr. Huxley is one of the few of the younger living authors who has had the wisdom to leave verse and take to prose as the more suitable medium for the expression of the kind of thing he wants to say. His sharp wit never darts so well or so far in verse as in prose.

There is a shade more of queer looking than strange thinking in the author's own verse. But these are high reservations and in any strict account of contemporary verse Mr. Huxley would have to be considered to the exclusion of many a poet whose name and work are better known.

Science

WHAT EVOLUTION IS. By GEORGE HOWARD PARKER. Harvard University Press. 1925. \$1.50.

EVOLUTION AND GENETICS. By THOMAS HUNT MORGAN. Princeton University Press. 1925. \$2 net.

THE CHAIN OF LIFE. By LUCRETIA PERRY OSBORN. Scribners. 1925. \$2.

Here is a trio of interesting books. Professor Parker's covers the usual field of one setting forth an understandable account of the evolutionary theory bereft of the extremely detailed and sometimes questioned evidences which modern biologists are rightly concerned with but which are beyond the appreciation of the ordinary reader. His expositions are always clear and vividly interesting, and this book is no exception.

Morgan writes of comparable evidences, although in a somewhat more detailed manner with more of the argument and less in the manner of a simple, direct statement of the essentials. His is a book the reading of which might with great profit follow the first, as it would not only serve to refresh one's memory from a somewhat different angle but would serve to amplify the knowledge gained from Parker.

As a third review, although from a very different viewpoint, that of the paleontologist rather than the recent biologist, one should read "The Chain of Life," for by it, at any rate after the first chapter or so, the reader is led into a different field and may study in a far greater measure of detail evidences which are but briefly treated in the other two volumes. The story of life interpreted from the fossil record is a fascinating one, and Mrs. Osborn has not only the available information from her associations but the gift of lucid description which gives the book rare charm.

All three authors are to be thanked for a very real service to troubled humanity and one which will serve largely to put at rest vexatious doubts.

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

HER SON'S WIFE. By Dorothy Canfield. (Harcourt, Brace.)

A MIRROR TO FRANCE. By Ford Madox Ford. (A. & C. Boni.)

THE LETTERS OF WILLIAM JAMES. (Little, Brown.)

M. L., Montrose, N. Y., asks for a number of books, most of them not fiction, that will give the color and feeling of the American colonial period, saying, "I have been trying in vain to make the years 1750-1776, in which I am particularly interested, come alive for me."

RECOVERING the "color and feeling" of the decade just before our Revolution has been until lately like restoring the frescoes of an ancient church, by scraping away coats of whitewash. This has now been done for us by James Truslow Adams, in "The Founding of New England" (Little, Brown), a book that will send its readers scurrying through the two that follow it, "Revolutionary New England," and "New England in the Republic" (Little, Brown). The highest authority on its subject is Herbert L. Osgood's "American Colonies in the Eighteenth Century" (Columbia University Press), in four volumes, a lifework posthumously published, showing the growth of the American political ideal. For the French and Indian Wars and the chronicle of the forest there is nothing like Parkman. There is much illumination in "The Frontier in American History," by F. J. Turner (Holt), whose first chapters treat this period. There is C. M. Andrews's "Colonial Background of the American Revolution" (Yale University Press), and for a picture of modes of life robust to roughness, the story of the youth of John Marshall as told in Albert Beveridge's "Life of John Marshall" (Houghton, Mifflin) not only for larger views, but for homely details like the pins his mother used to make out of thorns. The pleasant books of Alice Morse Earle about customs and manners will help, especially "Colonial Dames and Good Wives" (Macmillan), Carl HOLLIDAY's "Woman's Life in Colonial Days" (Cornhill), and the unusual and effective way of bringing back "A Day in a Colonial Home" (Marshall Jones).

The novels of Mary Johnston are colorful in detail and spiritually trustworthy; the heroine of her "Croatan" is Virginia Dare (Little, Brown), and there is a new romance, "The Great Valley" (Little, Brown), that is breathlessly interesting and charged with deep feeling. I cannot resist recommending Honoré Willis's "We Must March" (Stokes) though it is not in just these years; it culminates in Marcus Whitman's ride from Oregon, and the pioneer conditions are near enough to those that prevailed earlier in the East. Robert Chambers's "Cardigan" is another reliable romance. Nor may I in gratitude omit the American part of Thackeray's "The Virginians," which gave me as a child the first glimpse of these years as seen from across the ocean.

But as I set down the names of these

books, I cannot restrain a chuckle at the thought of how some people in Massachusetts and Virginia will bounce at the idea that the years 1750-1776 need resuscitation.

R. B. G., New York, asks what books will help the parents of a growing girl to understand the problems of the teens. If these books may be given to her, all the better.

ONE of the problems that beset the minds of girls in high school being often what they are going to do for a living after they graduate, a book has just appeared that sets a girl at work for herself, in a practical and intelligent way, to investigate her own faculties and opportunities. This is "What Girls Can Do," by Ruth Wanger (Holt), a guidance text by the problem method. In a girl's own language it poses and resolves such questions as arise when she is trying to get some idea of what she will make of herself. By letting the girl work out many of them for herself, by directed research, the book keeps its quality of actuality.

"Girl and Woman," by Caroline Lattimer (Appleton), is called "a book for mothers and daughters" and is in information and encouragement a joint account, "either or both to draw." Sound in its ideas, it is sensible in their presentation, understanding and unsentimental. It clears away not a few misapprehensions about mental and moral disturbances of the period, and has a sound basis in physiology, with excellent chapters on school life and the adjustments necessary after leaving school. "The Adolescent Girl," by Winifred Richmond (Macmillan), is another new book, dealing mainly with normal types but not excluding the abnormal. "For Girls and the Mothers of Girls," by M. S. Hood (Bobbs-Merrill), is concerned with physiology and hygiene, it is intended to be read as much by girls as by parents. If this inquiry came from a rural district I would add to these Martha Foote Crow's "The American Country Girl" (Stokes), made with the cooperation of many girls on the farm, and so far as I know the only book to give their problems special and thoughtful consideration.

The latest novel of adolescence is translated from the Italian, and the central figure is a boy, but I cannot come so near it and not speak of Luciano Zuccoli's "Things Greater Than He" (Holt), a study of the misunderstandings that may destroy even a well-intentioned family. We learned much about boyhood from another Italian schoolboy story, "Cuore," and this family is not too Latin to be recognizable.

A. L. M., Battle Creek, Mich., asks what five contemporary American poets a woman's club should study.

MARGUERITE WILKINSON'S "The Poetry of Our Own Times," one of the "Reading with a Purpose" pamphlets issued by the American Library Association, chooses twenty English, Irish, and American poets of today, tells something about the work of each, and names a few of his poems likely to appeal to one who has not a background of experience in poetry. These little books are on sale in most libraries or may be bought from the A. L. A., 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago.

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By Judith Blow Williams
Assistant Professor in the Department of History in Wellesley College

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By Paul C. Weber

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Pp. 136. \$2.25

AT BOOKSTORES

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THE POETS TOO

PADRAIC COLUM

HARRIET MONROE

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HENRY BELLAMAN, himself a poet, reports a luncheon with Padraic Colum and Harriet Monroe, in *The Columbia, S. C. Record*:

"The talk fell naturally upon books and writers. But the two poets waxed most enthusiastic about — would you guess that it was about 'GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES'? This spirited little book is so much better than it seems to be to the casual reader that its genuine literary merit is likely to be overlooked. 'Balzac himself,' exclaimed Padraic Colum, 'could not have done it better'."

And from England comes the news that A. E. Housman is delighted with it.

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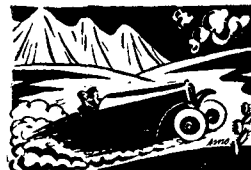
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Which of them are for you?

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