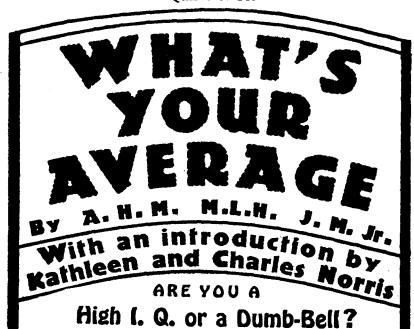
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## Books of Special Interest

### An Empire-Builder

THE EMBASSY OF SIR THOMAS ROE TO INDIA, 1615-19, as Narrated in His Journal and Correspondence. Edited by SIR WILLIAM FOSTER. New York: Oxford University Press. 1926. \$7.

Reviewed by LEWIS REX MILLER Harvard University

THE fullness of life in the age of Shakespeare is constantly being brought to our attention. For example, Sir Thomas Roe was not one of the greatest men of that age, yet he was among other things the firm friend of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James 1, who often spoke of him as "Honest Tom;" the friend of Sir Walter Raleigh, who assisted him in making a voyage which took him 300 miles up the Amazon River; member of Parliament; ambassador to Constantinople, to whose mission there the British Museum owes one of its greatest treasures, the Codex Alexandrinus; counsellor of the great Gustavus Adolphus; Chancellor of the Order of the Garter; ambassador to numerous German courts; and member of the Privy Council. Above all else, he was, insofar as any individual can be given that title, the founder of the British empire in India.

The same epoch-making years which saw the first permanent settlements established in Virginia and New England found Sir Thomas Roe on the other side of the world, laying the foundations of England's oriental empire, not only in India proper, but also in Persia and Arabia. It is interesting to note that this first English ambassador to the court of the Great Mogul enunciated a policy which successive British consuls and viceroys in India repeated, and violated. Roe advised the East India Company not to assume any political obligations in India, not to annex any territory, nor build any forts. He urged them to follow a policy of "hands off," to make peaceful trade their only concern.

A warr and trafique are incompatible (he wrote). By my consent, yow shall no way engage your selves but at sea, wher yow are like to gayne as often as to loose. It is the beggering of the Portugall, notwithstanding his many rich residences and territoryes, that hee keepes souldiers that spends it; yet his garrisons are meane. He never profited by the Indyes, since he defended them. Observe this well. It hath beene also the error of the Dutch, who seeke plantation heere by the They turne a woonderfull stocke, they proule in all places, they posses some of the best; yet ther dead payes consume all the gayne. Lett this bee received as a rule that. if yow will profitt, seeke it at sea, and in quiett trade; for without controversy it is an error to affect garrisons and land warrs in

So said the servants of the Company for more than two centuries. Yet they gradually fought more and more wars, built more and more forts, took over the administration of greater and greater territories. It was inevitable. In India, there could be no trade without empire.

Sir Thomas's own story of his embassy is, fortunately, preserved for us. Published by the Hakluyt Society in 1899, this small edition was soon exhausted. The work has been for many years out of print, and this new edition is most welcome. As all new editions should be, it is an improvement over the first. Not only is it in one volume instead of two, but a great many letters not published in the first edition are included in this, and a number of new illustrations, well chosen, make the book still more attractive. The Introduction has been rewritten in the light of increased knowledge, and the notes supplemented and improved. The learned Historiographer of the India Office has added another admirable volume to his long list of useful and interesting publications.

#### Science for the Man

THE STREAM OF LIFE. By Julian S. HUXLEY. New York: Harper & Bros.

SCIENCE OF TODAY. By SIR OLIVER LODGE. The same. THE AGE OF THE EARTH. By ARTHUR

HOLMES, The same.

ARTIFEX OR THE FUTURE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP. By JOHN GLOAC. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1926. \$1. Reviewed by Albert Parsons Sachs

If science can be said to have a new outlook at present its chief manifestation is in its viewpoint of all nature in a state of continuous flux, of all existence as a permanent evolution.

We have before us three of the "Things-

to-Know Series" put out by Harper & Bros. in the pocket size format and containing some sixty or eighty pages so that the popular craving for a diet of simplified knowledge can be satisfied. It is astonishing what a wealth of knowledge can be condensed into a few pages if the author knows his subject matter thoroughly and understands the limitations of his public.

Julian S. Huxley writes on "The Stream of Life" in the form of a series of lectures intended for oral delivery. His presentation of the facts which prove that evolution is an incontestable fact is commended to all doubters. "If a jury had circumstantial evidence one-tenth-one-hundredth-as strong and as extensive before them in a case, they would unhesitatingly convict on it." Admitting the fact of evolution, the mode and cause of evolution are more difficult to determine and are still controversial. Professor Huxley's attitude is tolerant and liberal. Human evolution and the hope of future betterment are

wisely discussed.

Sir Oliver Lodge in "Science of Today" gives a splendid introduction to modern physics, especially to the theory of the structure of matter. "The fundamental ideas underlying modern science [are] . . . Uniformity, Continuity, Evolution." In inanimate nature as in organic nature continuity and evolution prevail; atoms evolve and the great nebulæ evolve in a slow course. Sir Oliver treats of both atom and nebula and shows how the knowledge of both has given a firm footing in cosmology. His attitude of scientific interest in all phenomena of heaven or earth has given Sir Oliver an undeservedly sinister reputation in some circles. His attitude towards physical science has always been correct, his learning profound and his powers of exposition almost poetical in their directness and force.

The universe may be infinite in an infinite number of ways: it may be infinite in size, and also consist of things which are infinitesimal in smallness. It must contain things of which we at present have no conception. All we can do is to go on exploring, and thus stretch and enlarge the capacity of the human mind.

Professor Holmes considers "The Age of the Earth" and gives the geological, astronomical, and finally the radio-active evidence in the case. The radio-active rocks are the most marvellous watches in creation dating their origin with remarkable exactness. The concluding chapter on "The Convergence of Evidence" shows that by eight independent methods ranging from the tidal theory of the origin of the moon or the journey of the Solar System from the Milky Way down to the analysis of radio-active minerals the age of the earth as a planet is between 1,600 and 3,000 million years which one can readily admit is a relatively narrow range in view of our own distance in time from the birth of the

In another series, "Today and Tomorrow" which has already given us splendid books by J. B. S. Haldane, E. M. C. Joad, Bertrand Russell, and many others we have a stimulating book called "Artifex or the Future of Craftsmanship," by John Gloag. Few of us realize how dependent our entire culture is on the crafts and how modern production methods are endangering craftsmanship. A history is given of the crafts, particularly in Britain, showing the rhythm of craftsmanship through periods of vigor followed by decline and again succeeded by a rebirth of good taste. "Real craftsmanship must be a part of real life, for unless it plays a vital part in a living system, its products are insincere shams."

This machine age has its craftsmanship no less than the age of manual labor. A mastery of machine-craft, education fostered by capitalistic manufacturers and by trade-unions, a true jointure of labor and capital will tend to improve productive craftsmanship while an increase in public taste fostered by education will create the demand which is perhaps as important a factor in craftsmanlike production as the ability to produce articles in good taste.

Beside all the artists, a Republican Governor and a Democratic Attorney-General signed a telegram drawn up and circulated recently by Witter Bynner and forwarded to Senator W. E. Borah, congratulating Borah on his stand against the Kellogg policy in Nicaragua. Many in Santa Fé N. M., were sympathetic to this non-partisan protest. The telegram says: "Is the secretary trying to consolidate, not only South Americans but North Americans against Washington? We have the advantage of living among Spanish-Americans and of understanding and respecting them."

## A Letter from France

ITERARY news is not lacking, and, as LITERARY news is not meeting, usual in Paris, is being given wide publicity even in the daily press. Roland Dorgelès has bought back for the here—enormous sum of 45,000 francs the Ms. of his own book "Les Croix de Bois," several years ago presented by him to the artist who illustrated it, M. Daragnês; the original version of Hugo's "Les Misérables" is going to be published under its primitive title, "Les Misères"; a complete edition of Madame Desbordes-Valmore's Poems is, after seventy years' apparent neglect, to be given by M. Jean Variot; finally, M. Pierre Champion issues an appeal to possessors of letters or Mss. of Marcel Schwob preparatory to a complete edition to be published by F. Bernouard whose first important venture this

The veterans of fiction are represented by M. Paul Bourget with a two-volume novel entitled "Nos Actes nous Suivent" (Plon), M. André Gide with "Si le Grain Ne Meurt" (Nouvelle Revue Française), in three volumes, and Maurice Barrès with a posthumous book entitled "Le Mystère en Pleine Lumière" (Plon). Bourget's first volume, the story of an intelligent Revolutionary who loses his nerve in a riot and, from sheer cowardice, causes the death of another man, (afterwards going to America and making an immense fortune there), is a powerful study of remorse; but the second volume is made dull and endless by the too protracted narration of a criminal trial and by disquisitions which belong to a theological treatise rather than a novel.

M. Gide makes us wish for the daysprevious to the publication of "Les Caves du Vatican"-when he could say so much in a small volume like "La Porte Etroite"; Maurice Barrès is as usual praised by literary critics who believe in his politics, and unjustly ignored by the others.

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Louis de Robert, Paul Ginisty, and Edouard Estaunié have been almost as long before the public. But while Ginisty and Robert are the kind of writers who, through long lives, achieve decent but never complete success, Estaunié at nearly seventy writes as freshly as when he delighted his first readers with "L'Empreinte." A scene in his present story, "Tels qu'ils Furent" (Perrin), when German soldiers forcibly enter an elderly French lady's room during the war of 1870, a dramatic scene between a girl and her family in a Bishop's provincial drawing-room stay in our memory like life itself. Louis de Robert's "Ni Avec Toi ni Sans Toi" (Flammarion), shows the hesitation of a man (who, at fifty, finds at last real love), between his old mother and a very young girl. The resemblance between this situation and that so powerfully handled by François Mauriac in "Genitrix" is obvious, but M. de Robert is an optimist whereas—as we shall have occasion to show -M. Mauriac is not. P. Ginisty's "La Véritable Histoire de la Belle Tiquet" (Fasquelle), is a tale of adventure written in pastiche French of the eighteenth century.

Younger writers appear in full force. First among them, M. François Mauriac, who is rapidly rising to a position of undisputed mastery. His "Thérèse Desqueyroux" (Grasset)-which took the Grand Prix du Roman, 1926-is another study in feminine baseness in what he himself calls "a heart hopelessly imprisoned in a miry body." But it is entirely without any inartistic effort to produce an effect, it is absolutely sincere. M. Mauriac has succeeded in giving reality to six or seven beings of this kind, and although there rises this so-called Catholic novelist is not healthy, we are not on our guard against him.

Drieu La Rochelle's "La Suite dans les Idées," (Editions Sans Pareil), is a collection of tales and poems which may have been mere "studies," not originally intended for publication, but are the more striking for their vehemence and directness. Drieu La Rochelle is the literary twin brother of M. de Montherlant.

M. André Thérive's "Les Souffrances" (Grasset), is, like his previous novels, a semi-theological study of expiation. Madame Plavigneux is a martyr: her husband, a country notary, is a monster: one atones for the other's inhumanity. M. Thérive has read all the classics professionally and his style is of remarkable—though no doubt conscious—purity. But he has also read Balzac, and his country town characters are convincing. M. de Puortalès's "Montclar" (Nouvelle Revue Française), consists of the several romances making up a modern man's life between his

twentieth and his fortieth year. Sincere in conception, less so in treatment, this volume will not probably be as successful as its predecessor, "Liszt," written while "fictional" history was still the rage. Of the latter genre M. Octave Aubry's "Le Roman de Napoléon" (Fayard), is a new and very interesting example. It is, of course, the story of Josephine. The theme will always repay study, but one is a little tired of the

Other novels of the month are "Gai! Marions-nous!" (Plon), by Mme. Germaine Acremant, which was a success in the "Correspondent"; "La Maison du Maltais" (Plon), a novel by M. J. Vignaud, an orientalist of no ordinary power; and "Le Voleur d'Enfants" (Nouvelle Revue Française), by M. Jules Supervielle, whose inventive pen describes an elephant as "an enormous baby with the thickest kind of skin." M. Giraudoux must have smiled approval.

Grave writers, bearing the future of Europe on their shoulders, are taking the habit of seeking relaxation in novel-writing (for we are in France where everything has to be turned into literature). After M. Fabre-Luce and M. Romier, M. Bainvillethe masterly writer of foreign editorials on the Action Française and on three other dailies-treats his admirers to an imitation of Lesage, "Jaco et Lori" (Grasset), with not a few reminiscences of Voltaire to help the writer's own causticity. Jaco and Lori are two parrots, changing owners to suit M. Bainville's mischievous designs.

Contributions to literary history are varied and plentiful. Romanticism and its sources are still in the forefront. Paul Plan's monumental editions of Rousseau keeps the father of French Romanticism constantly before the public. Simultaneously the "Grands Ecrivains de la France" collection gives us four volumes on "La Nouvelle Heloïse," the first of which, from the pen of M. Daniel Mornet, tells us how the famous romance was composed. The study of sources, as Teutonic erudition of forty years ago used to understand it, was a more or less methodical accumulation of data, some important, others not. The pupils of G. Lanson-Michaud, Giraud, Foullée, Hazard, Masson, Mornet-still use that method as a preparation, but their final exposé shows us, as clearly as if we were watching the writer at his work, the way the novel or poem was conceived, written, and improved or spoiled. Erudition of this kind constantly chooses, instead of merely disgorging, and is illuminating because of its human character.

"Muses Romantiques" (Le Goupy), by M. Bouteron, and "Le Paris de la Comédie Humaine" (Le Goupy), by H. Clouzot and H. Valensi, less thorough and more discursive in presentment, are, however, products of the same method, and are made fascinating by reproductions of patiently collected pictures.

Baudelaire—the link between the Roman-

ticists proper and their present successorsis still a favorite. M. Valéry introduces him in a new edition of the "Fleurs du Mal" published by Payot. Simultaneously M. François Porché, the well-known poet, gives us "La Vie Douloureuse de Charles Baudelaire" (Plon). M. Valéry's introduction lays considerable stress on Baudelaire's volonté d'originalité, that is to say, his consciousness of the working of his mind while writing poetry. We are not surprised. Baudelaire was the greatest admirer Edgar Poe ever had, and he had read and reread the latter's famous remarks on the composition of "The Raven." On the other hand, M. Valéry-whom Abbé Brémond regards as the best modern representative of poésie pure, i.e., poetry apart from its subject, has something mathematical in his intellect. His hero is Leonardo da Vinci, a geometrician even when he is an artist. Hence his tendency to explain, and even over-explain, the minds of discoverers whether philosophical or literary. This tendency is also exemplified in M. de Lacretelle's "Aparté" (N. R. F.). One of the three essays making up this volume is a "Praise of Anger." Appended to it we find a diary entitled "Journal de Colère," tracing the progress of this essay from its germ to its completion. M. Gide gave us something similar a few years ago. Such confidences are undoubtedly useful. They are a contribution to the Art of Thinking, on which poets and philosophers alike have collaborated since the working of the mind began to be a matter of interest.

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