

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

- DRAWINGS OF THE EARLY FLEMISH SCHOOL. By A. E. Popham. McBride. \$5.
THEORY AND ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE. By Robert Atkinson. Vol. I, Part I. McBride. \$10 net.
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN OIL AND BRONZE. By John Clyde Oswald. Rudge.
PROUT AND ROBERTS. By Jane Quigley. Stokes. \$1.50 net.
GOTMAN. Edited by S. C. Kaines Smith. Stokes. \$1.50 net.

Belles Lettres

- A HISTORY OF PERSIAN LITERATURE IN MODERN TIMES (A.D. 1500-1924). by EDWARD G. BROWNE.

There is a kind of requiem note in these few paragraphs that call attention to "A History of Persian Literature in Modern Times (A.D. 1500-1924)" by the famous scholar, Professor Edward G. Browne, of Cambridge, England. The present writer was on his way to India and Persia, early in 1926, when he learned the sad news of the death of Browne, a friend for many years and one whose name will always be associated with the Land of the Shah because of his devotions to everything Persian.

It was not many months before his death that the noted Cambridge professor issued the above volume, the last of four monumental works dealing with the literary history of Persia from the earliest times to the present. This concluding one, a tome of over five hundred pages to match each that had gone before, has brought the subject down to date, and is a masterpiece like its predecessors. It possibly involved even more original research than the other three, because of collecting a mass of out-of-the-way material and rare documents and making these available in translation.

With a grasp as firm as it is far-reaching the author treats first of Persia's history during the last four centuries, bringing out the diplomatic relations between Persia and Europe from the sixteenth century on, and indicating what an important part Persia played in the life of the Lion and the Sun, and how statesmen to reckon with. The output of Persian literature in verse and in prose during this long period is then elaborately presented. In tenor, the religious tone was perhaps more dominant during the earlier centuries, the political not becoming more striking till later on. Modernizing influences have found their way in, to Persia's literary advantage. In the author's own words: "Especially since the middle of the nineteenth century, the old forms of literature, both prose and verse, took on a fresh lease of life, and so far from deteriorating, rose to a higher level than they had hitherto reached during the four centuries (roughly speaking A.D. 1500-1900) with which we are dealing." Adequate proof of this is adduced, thus giving us the significant later developments of Persia in the literary line. We can see throughout how Browne kept in close and constant touch with the Persians themselves, who rightly are his devoted admirers.

He died just as he had reached the age of sixty-four, having lived to see the birth of the Newer Persia, with all its promise. He left behind him a long list of standard books from his prolific pen, besides having supervised the editing of more than a score of Persian and Arabic works entrusted to the hands of other scholars in the Gibb Memorial Series. He was, moreover, an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher, and his memory will be cherished and revered by all lovers of Iran.

- LADY MILLER AND THE BATHEASTON LITERARY CIRCLE. By Ruth Avaline Hesselgrave. Yale University Press. \$2.

- THE BIBLE IN IRELAND. By Aenath Nicholson. Edited by Alfred Tressidder Sheppard. Day. \$3 net.

- PLATO: THE MAN AND HIS WORK. By A. E. Taylor. Dial. \$5.

- SPEAKING OF STORE TEETH. By Marshall Breeden. Dorraine. \$1.

- ABE MARTIN: HOSS SENSE AND NONSENSE. By Kin Hubbard. Bobbs-Merrill. \$1.50

- AMY LOWELL. By George H. Sargent. Rudge. \$4 net.

- PROSE PREFERENCES. By Sidney Cox. Harpers. \$2.

Biography

- LANES OF MEMORY. By GEORGE S. HELLMAN. Knopf. 1927.

This is not a biography but a collection of reminiscent essays. Mr. Hellman might

have improved it, perhaps, by more systematic grouping of his material. His collector's reminiscences are partly under titles that indicate the subject and partly here and there. Most of the first essay on "Collectors Luck" has nothing to do with that, but consists of recollections of Swinburne, Rodin, Von Bülow, and Sarah Bernhardt.

Mr. Hellman has known many famous and interesting people, and has the gift of being, if not at all vivid, at least pleasantly readable.

- EARLY LIFE AND LETTERS OF JOHN MORLEY. By F. W. Hirst. Macmillan. 2 vols. \$10.50.

- SAVONAROLA. By William Van Wyck. McBride. \$5 net.

- FRONTIER DUST. By John Lord. Hartford: Mitchell. \$2.50.

- ROOSEVELT AS WE KNEW HIM. By Frederick S. Wood. Winston. \$3.50.

- HENRY JAMES. By Pelham Edgar. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.

Drama

- CAPONSACCHI. By Arthur Goodrich and Rose A. Palmer. Appleton. \$2.

- DRAMATIC PUBLICATION IN ENGLAND, 1580-1640. By Evelyn May Albright. Oxford University Press.

- THE PLAY'S THE THING. By Ferenc Molnar. Brentanos. \$2.

- THE BARBER AND THE COW. By D. T. Davies. Brentanos.

- THE OLD ADAM. By Cicely Hamilton. Brentanos.

- THE MARBLE GOD. By Stephen Schofield. Brentanos.

- THE TENDER PASSION. By Hubert Griffith. Brentanos.

- THE MERRY, MERRY CUCKOO. By Jeannette Marks. Appleton. \$2.

- COSMAN EXILES. By John G. Jury. Published by the author. Berkeley, Calif.

Education

- ANGELA MERICI AND HER TEACHING IDEA. By Sister M. Monica. Longmans, Green.

- ENGLISH LITERATURE. Globe Book Co.

- EDUCATION FOR A CHANGING CIVILIZATION. By William Heard Kilpatrick. Macmillan.

- FEDERAL AND STATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION. By William A. Cook. Crowell. \$2.75 net.

- SCHOOL SUPERVISION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. By Ellsworth Collings. Crowell. \$2.75 net.

- THE PROBLEM CHILD. By A. S. Neill. McBride. \$2 net.

Fiction

- THE RUNAWAY TRAIL. By ALBERT M. TREYNOR. Dodd, Mead. 1927. \$2.

There are novelty of plot and a unified quickness of action in this Western story such as are not too often found in fiction of its kind. Scarcely a page of it seems extraneous to the narrative's movement, and though one may object to the obvious simplicity of the materials, one may not fairly cavil at the skill with which they are handled. Five years before the story begins, a railway train, carrying twenty race-horses, was destroyed by fire in the Arizona desert. The charred remains of only seventeen were recovered, it being therefore apparent that three, possibly including the world-beating Blueboy, had escaped the flames and sought refuge in remote regions of the desert. Two rival bands of hunters seek to track down and capture the missing thoroughbreds, now multiplied, it is rumored, into a herd, for the fortune they will bring. The hard-fought contest is well worth the following.

- SIR PERCY HITS BACK. By BARONESS ORCZY. Doran. 1927. \$2.

The author of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" romances once more presents her secret league of anti-Terrorist Englishmen, commanded by Sir Percy Blakeney, aiding proscribed victims of the French Revolution to escape the guillotine. Their efforts center upon the succor of a blundering girl whose foolhardy conduct has caused her imprisonment on a charge of treason. She is the daughter of Chauvelin, the ferocious colleague of Robespierre, whom readers of the earlier Pimpernel stories will recall as the relentless enemy of Sir Percy. The latter rescues her from the very jaws of death, amid the clamor of the mob for her blood, escorts her to safety, and in a final clash with her hostile father emerges the victor. The tale travels at a rapid gait, or at least the incessant bedlam of armed conflict gives one that impression, and again shows that the author is more proficient in the so-called "period" novel than in her stories which have dealt with modern life.

(Continued on next page)

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The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

LILIECRONA'S HOME. By SELMA LAGERLOF. Translated from the Swedish by Anna Barwell. Dutton. 1926.

In reading Selma Lagerlof's quiet romances of the Swedish country-side one slips back gently to the days of one's childhood when the world was full of fairies, when anything might happen, and when every story properly began with "Once upon a time." "Liliecrona's Home" was first published in Sweden in 1911, but the theme and treatment are equally ageless. Here are our old friends the wicked stepmother and her ill-storm-winds almost as real as the pastor's wife herself. Here are a kindly old grandmother, a proud aunt, a wild young lover of a fiddler, and all the rest of the gentry and peasantry 'round about Lövdala.

These simple folk provide no thrills—none of them is a pervert, introvert, or nymphomaniac—but each of them is thoroughly realized and all of them live in a plausible, fairy-tale world that for us, at least, has the added charm of exoticism. Selma Lagerlof's mannered and slightly archaic style—well enough reproduced in this translation—gives her novel the flavor of a Hans Christian Andersen story for adults. It is a good, wholesome, romantic flavor, slightly insipid perhaps but excellent for taking the taste of ultra-realism out of one's mouth. Some of the tonic cold of the northern hills blows through these pages—and some of the refreshing, ingratiating make-believe of the far-away and long-ago when we were very young.

THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES. By AGATHA CHRISTIE. Dodd, Mead. 1926. \$2.

The excellence of Miss Christie's recent "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" should whet the appetite of such lovers of mystery stories as have not read this earlier book to make its acquaintance. Like the former work it is a well-knit tale, which advances steadily to a plausible conclusion without attempting the mystification of the reader by the introduction of unnecessary detail and false clues. Yet at one time or another suspicion is thrown on all the leading characters, and thrown on them with sufficient naturalness to be justified even after the story has reached its conclusion. Miss Christie writes with economy of incident, and without finding it necessary to employ the stereotyped properties of the usual detective of fiction. Her story revolves about the poisoning of an elderly woman on whose disposition of her estate the well-being of the members of the group about her depends. It will furnish good entertainment to that constantly growing public which likes the mystery tale.

ALIAS DR. THAYER. By LEE THAYER. Doubleday, Page. 1927. \$2.

Mr. Thayer is the possessor of a style all too infrequently the asset of the writer

of detective tales, and as a result his book stands head and shoulders above the rank and file of its kind. It is an ingenious story, with plausible incident adroitly handled, and with the resolution of its complications skillfully held in doubt until the final chapter. Mr. Thayer employs, of course, perfectly familiar ingredients—a midnight murder, a group of persons to any one of whom the guilt for the crime might attach—the local detective and his more noted fellow from the city—but he introduces them with sufficient variation from the usual to lend distinction to his story and to maintain its interest throughout. And since Mr. Thayer writes well he is able to inject even sentiment into his story without its being banal. We commend his book to all who would read a clever, baffling, and well-constructed detective tale.

AT THE SIGN OF SAGITTARIUS. By Richard B. Ince. Day. \$2 net.

CRIME AND DETECTION. Oxford University Press. 80 cents.

THE RED PAVILION. By John Gunther. Harperts.

JENNIFER. By John Palmer. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

SACRIFICE. By Mary Larrimer. Vinal. \$2.

AND THE GARDEN WAITED. By Jeanne de Lavigne and Jacques Rutherford. Vinal.

THE YOUNG DUKE. By Benjamin Disraeli. Knopf.

PHILOPENA. By Henry Kitchell Webster. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.

THE TABLES OF AESOP. Translated by Sir Roger l'Estrange. Golden Cockerel Press. \$7.50.

THE HISTORY OF POMPEY THE LITTLE. By Frances Coventry. Golden Cockerel Press. \$6.

HULA. By Armine von Tempski. Stokes. \$10.

STRIKE. By Will W. Whalen. Dorrance. \$2.

THE STRONGER GOD. By Eric Waring. Brentanos. \$2.

THE CRIME AT DIANA'S POOL. By Victor L. Whitechurch. Duffield. \$2.

THE LAZY DETECTIVE. By George Dilnot. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

THE SMUGGLER'S CAVE. By George A. Birmingham. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.

WILD MONEY. By Freeman Tilden. Doubleday, Page. \$2.

WHISPERING CREEK. By Alma E. Henderson. Kansas City: Burton.

MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT. By Kenneth Phillips Britton. Hartford: Mitchell.

THE ENCHANTED RADIO. By Lillian Sincere Ahrens. Rockland, Mass.: Austin.

MONT-ORIOU. By Guy de Maupassant. Translated by Marjorie Laurie. Brentanos. \$2.50.

THE BLACK BLOODHOUND. By Farnham Bishop. Little, Brown. \$2 net.

THE LONGEST SHADOW. By Jeffery E. Jeffery. Little, Brown. \$2 net.

THE DANGERFIELD TALISMAN. By J. J. Connington. Little, Brown. \$2 net.

MR. GILHOOLEY. By Liam O'Flaherty. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.

ALPHA. By Emery Balint. Macy-Masius. \$2.

THE WAY OF ROMANCE. By Vivian Gilbert. Appleton. \$2.

THE GIRL FROM SCOTLAND YARD. By Edgar Wallace. Doubleday, Page. \$2.

I'LL HAVE A FINE FUNERAL. By Pierre La Mazière. Brentanos. \$2.

LUCKY NUMBERS. By Montague Glass. Doubleday, Page. \$2.

THE EYE OF LUCIFER. By Frederic F. Van de Water. Appleton. \$2.

THE PONSON CASE. By Freeman Wills Croft. A. & C. Boni. \$2.

RIVALRY. By Sarah Warden MacConnell. Macaulay. \$2.

PENELOPE FINDS OUT. By Pamela Wynne. Macaulay. \$2.

THE MINIATURE. By Edna Philpotts. Macmillan. \$2.25.

THE MOULE'S HOUSE MYSTERY. By Charles Barry. Dutton. \$2.

THE DRURY CLUB CASE. By Sidney Williams. Penn.

THE RESTITUTION OF THE BRIDE. Translated from the Chinese by E. Butts Howell. Brentanos.

THE HAPPY TREE. By Rosalind Murray. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.

Miscellaneous

EARLY AMERICAN WALL PAINTINGS, 1710-1850. By EDWARD B. ALLEN. Yale University Press. 1927. \$7.50.

It is a curious fact that, with the exception of a few in the South, these old wall paintings are all in New England. Mr. Allen thinks it was "probably a reaction to the early religious prejudice against all forms of art and luxury." From various points of view I suspect there is very little in that. If one is looking for a single cause, it is more probably to be found in the merchant marine, whose development in New England was so extraordinary. The incident of Cornè is suggestive. Cornè was an Italian refugee, a Neapolitan painter brought to Massachusetts in 1799 by a Salem merchant, General Derby, in his ship *Mount Vernon*, and the most notable work in Salem and Providence is by his hand.

New England ships were all over the world in the eighteenth century. More probably, then, it was a somewhat local fashion, starting early in the eighteenth century from incidents of New England shipping.

Many of the paintings are charming, and decoratively good. One is a little uncertain how strictly Mr. Allen uses the word "fresco." Cornè did not paint directly on the plaster but on paper pasted over it, and that is not fresco. The tradition that some of the paintings were done by Hessians, stranded waifs of the Revolution, is curiously supported by the occurrence of the Prussian eagle along with the American. There have been a few magazine articles written on this subject before but no book, so far as we know. Mr. Allen is perhaps the first to make any considerable investigations.

SCOTLAND YARD. By George Dilnot. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.

THE MAGIC OF HERBS. By Mrs. C. F. Leyel. Harcourt, Brace. \$3.

FAVORITE RECIPES OF FAMOUS CHEFS. By Emma C. Caron. McBride.

DINING IN PARIS. By Somerville Story. McBride. \$2 net.

MENUS FOR EVERY OCCASION. By Edna S. Tipston. Stokes. \$2.50 net.

LETTERS TO YOUNG FLY-FISHERS. By Sir George Aston. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

WINDJAMMERS AND SHELLBACKS. By E. Keble Chatterton. Lippincott.

THE FARMER'S CAMPAIGN FOR CREDIT. By Clara Eliot. Appleton. \$3.

THE QUEST OF THE QUIANT. By Virginia Robie. Little, Brown.

RURAL LIFE AT THE CROSSROADS. By Macy Campbell. Ginn. \$1.96.

THE TRUTH ABOUT PUBLISHING. By Stanley Urechin. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

FARMERS OF FORTY CENTURIES. By F. H. King. Harcourt, Brace. \$3.50.

CONTRACT BRIDGE. By Florence Irwin. Stokes. \$1.

A LABORATORY STUDY IN DEMOCRACY. By Earle D. Bruner. Doubleday, Page. \$2.50.

A DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION WITH AMERICAN VARIANTS. By H. E. Palmer, J. V. Martin, and F. G. Blandford. Appleton.

FOSTER'S CONTRACT BRIDGE. By R. F. Foster. Greenberg. \$1.

PRINCIPLES OF MODERN RADIO RECEIVING. By L. Grant Hector. Buffalo: Burton Publishing Co. \$5.

THE AMERICAN INDIANS AND THEIR MUSIC. By Frances Densmore. Womans Press.

COMMERCIAL RAW MATERIALS. By Charles R. Torstaker. Ginn. \$2.

THE FORE-AND-AFT RIG IN AMERICA. By E. P. Morris. Yale University Press.

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MUSIC SERIES PRIMER. By Walter Damrosch, George H. Gartlan, and Karl W. Gehrken. Hinds, Hayden & Eldredge. 56 cents.

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MUSIC SERIES. By Walter Damrosch, George H. Gartlan, and Karl W. Gehrken. Hinds, Hayden & Eldredge. Book I, Book II, 72 cents; Book III, 80 cents; Book IV, \$1.32.

THE UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MUSIC SERIES TEACHERS' BOOK. By Walter Damrosch, George H. Gartlan, and Karl W. Gehrken. Book I, Books II-III.

SUPPLEMENTARY SIGHT-SEEING EXERCISES. By Walter Damrosch, George H. Gartlan, and Karl W. Gehrken. Hinds, Hayden & Eldredge.

Pamphlets

ON THE STUDY OF POLITICS. By Harold J. Laski. Oxford University Press. 35 cents.

PROFESSOR SIR PAUL VINOGRADOFF. Oxford University Press. 35 cents.

THE WAR GUILT. New York: Steuben Magazine Corporation, 140 Cedar Street.

A TRIP TO CHINA. By William H. Ukers. New York: Tea & Coffee Trade Journal, 79 Wall Street. 25 cents.

Poetry

SILVER CLOTHES. By ANGELA MORGAN. Dodd, Mead. 1927. \$2.

Angela Morgan feels and expresses her environment with a child's enthusiasm and a child's spontaneity. She writes as naturally and fully as grain grows or winds blow. Every reaction to beauty, every pleasurable thought is poured forth; but as is only natural in a garden where no culling or pruning ever takes place, much arises that is neither wheat nor flowers. And the most promising of the flowers lack cultivation. Sentimental and indifferent verses crowd out those which contain the substance of real poetry.

Miss Morgan's social consciousness is tremendous, and people appear to be the greatest source of her stimulation. The reader is also sensible of a generosity toward life, a deep gratitude for all it has given her, quite different from the cynical wistfulness of other poets. If Miss Morgan would only indulge in a more restrained technique. But she never will. We do, however, appreciate the enthusiasm and light she throws upon the dingy screen of commonplace things.

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