

## Points of View

### The Minority

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:  
SIR:

Your editorial on standardization in letters, art, and education was excellent and pertinent, and particularly good was the bit of advice to the critical tribe. He or she who can do fine, serious, artistic work had better do that work than indulge in lamentation and cynical complaints. As you say, a little less recrimination and a little better example!

However, I beg to take exception to the statement that our mass culture is deadly for civilization, or that it is always possible that the minority will be swallowed by the Babbittian majority. There is no such danger, save in academic theory. Genius and ability will out, and neither tyranny nor standardized hosts can stifle them. The artist will write, or paint, or compose to please himself, and the audience will have to come to him, not he to the audience.

The author of "Babbitt" and "Elmer Gantry" had his temptation, but he resisted them. He knew what the commercial publishers wanted, but he deliberately turned to something else, and his success is not attributable to any concession to vulgarity or hypocrisy. There are, as you know, other graduates from the school of conventional and vapid weeklies and magazines. Man does not live by physical comforts and luxuries alone.

Consider some of the recent literary productions—"The Time of Man," "Mr. Fortune's Maggot," "Tristram," etc.—and ask what the mob and the market had to do with them. The answer is—nothing.

Nature may love the average or common man, but she manages to throw up not a few sports, eccentrics, original, and unconventional individuals who form their own notions and ideals, criticize themselves more severely than does any professional censor, and despise work made to sell.

It is not true that the demand for leaders, pioneers, and revolutionary innovators always and necessarily brings the appropriate supply, but it is true that no generation or period lacks its radicals, heretics, and audacious experimenters.

There is no occasion for pessimism as to American letters and thought. Standardization, as you observe, has its encouraging aspect. It increases the number of half-educated and half-uplifted persons who furnish recruits to the inevitably small minority of discriminating judges and lovers of the best work.

VICTOR S. YARROS.

*The Daily News*, Chicago.

### A Close-Up

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:  
SIR:

May I be permitted to say a few words of praise in behalf of "Cleopatra's Private Diary," by Henry Thomas, which is a most successful attempt to visualize the modes and customs of ancient Rome in modern terms?

It is quite the custom now for authors to give us "close-ups" of famous men and women in history, with "enough of their lives to explain their characters." Two of the most familiar examples are, of course, John Erskine's "Helen" and, "Galahad," but it seems to me that "Cleopatra's Private Diary" is much more successful than either of these books in its attempt to get under the skins of famous historical characters, such as Caesar, Cleopatra, Mark Antony, Brutus, and other members of Rome's early smart set, who are made to live for us in this book. They come out of the dry pages of history under the magic of Henry Thomas and "strut their stuff" as humanly and vitally as Al Smith, Al Jolson, Senator Borah, or any of our other present-day immortals.

Mr. Thomas has also been most successful in satirizing the intelligentsia of today by bringing to life some of the Heywood Browns and the Menckens of Rome's Hotel Algonquin days, when little groups of serious thinkers were fond of saying the last word on the literature of the day. Verily one realizes in reading "Cleopatra's Private Diary" that history hath indeed a most uncanny way of repeating itself.

"Cleopatra's Private Diary" is, in my estimation, a most brilliant piece of writing. Its humor is deliciously satirical and the dialogue is pungently witty. The character of Cleopatra is a masterpiece of shrewd insight into feminine psychology, and the accompanying dialogue is a spicy mixture

of paprika and French dressing that seasons the whole dish and makes it appetizingly piquant to the palate of the most fastidious literary epicure.

CARTY RANCK.

Cambridge, Mass.

### Exception Taken

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:  
SIR:

I am grateful for Mr. Leonard Bacon's sympathetic review of "Red Damask," but I must protest at, "He (Mike Heron) is rather a woman's idea of an interesting man than an interesting man." Now what's the difference between an idea of an interesting man, and an interesting man, in a book? In actuality, isn't an interesting man somewhat of an idea in the mind or senses of the beholder? He isn't a definite thing like an umbrella, which is apt to be an umbrella to everybody.

Then Mr. Bacon says, "He is blood brother to Will Ladislav and Thaddeus of Warsaw, and even Darcy, and all that long array of heroes created by the feminine mind, who madden men as Eustacia Vye, and Cleopatra, and She who must be obeyed infuriate actual women." I wouldn't elope with Will Ladislav, though he'd be a charming companion for awhile; I don't remember Thaddeus, but Darcy I adore! He's as enchanting as Paul Emmanuel, or Gösta Berling, or Cleopatra. For Cleopatra would infuriate me only if I had to compete with her.

Ask ten people of assorted sexes to name an interesting man in life or literature. After the argument, look at what they married.

Anyway, unless Mr. Bacon is in training, he'd better not punch Mike Heron's eye! And anyway, I am deeply thankful for Mr. Bacon's understanding of the book.

EMANIE SACHS.

### One of the Masters

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:  
SIR:

The somewhat condescending review of Sir Hugh Clifford's latest book, which appeared in your issue of May 7, stirs me to address you. I have no quarrel with anyone who dislikes or fails to appreciate any book whatsoever. I sometimes pity, but I have learned not to reprobate. It would be unfortunate, however, if someone did not point out to such of your readers as have never encountered Sir Hugh Clifford's work that many persons of discrimination regard him as one of most distinguished and accomplished story-writers now living. This group of persons would also agree, I believe, in considering "In Days That Are Dead" one of his best books. For my own part, I should suppose it to have a more general appeal than "The Further Side of Silence" or "Malayan Monochromes," although I am not sure that it is more remarkable than those volumes. At all events, no one who cares seriously about fiction as an interpretative art can afford to ignore Sir Hugh Clifford. Whether liked or disliked, he is one of the masters. It is high time for American readers to awake to the fact, as—somewhat belatedly—they awoke to the significance of Conrad.

GORDON HALL GEROULD.

Princeton, N. J.

### Words, Words, Words

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:  
SIR:

Your very interesting article in this week's *Saturday Review* concerning the literary antics of lady Stein and her little group reminds me of the following quotation from a book published in 1923:

"Myriads of us keep growing in numbers, also in largenesses; locks and keys, keys, locks, locks, keys, keys, locks, keys, keys, locks. Myriads of us quick-foot full through, ev-er no mat-ter. Locks, keys, keys, locks, locks, keys, keys, locks. Myriads of us ev-er full as keep lives giant's growths, ev-er lives giant's keeper, ev-er no mat-ter. Locks, keys, keys, locks, locks, keys, keys, locks. Lives giant's wealth, health and pleasures, ev-er no mat-ter. Lives sweet foreigners, ev-er no mat-ter.—I cannot give any more; locks, keys, keys, locks, locks, keys, locks. Me don't know any more; locks, keys, keys, locks, locks, keys. I will get in trouble. I have been raking away at it outside and in and inside out again. I have tried to write poetry, but could not write any more than six fools."

But the book from which this is taken

is the work of no expatriate genius. It is White's "Outlines of Psychiatry," published not in Paris but in the very respectable city of Washington, and the quotation is from an example of the kind of language characteristic of a certain type of dementia præcox. Yet the insane mind which produced this has produced something which the great Gertrude might envy, but would probably praise.

So, if the Stein influence grows, we might do well to look to the asylums for the Great American Work of Genius, and require of reviewers a knowledge of psychiatry rather than of literature.

Easton, Pa.

W. B. SCOTT, JR.

## The New Books

### Miscellaneous

(Continued from page 886)

LAUGHS FROM JEWISH LORE. By Jacob Richman. Funk & Wagnalls. \$2 net.

AN OUTLINE OF SALES MANAGEMENT. By Charles C. Knights. Pitman. \$1.50.

ORNAMENTAL HOME-CRAFTS. By Idalia B. Littlejohns. \$3.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF WITCHCRAFT. By Montague Summers. Knopf.

PUBLIC WELFARE ADMINISTRATION. By Sophonisba Preston Breckenridge. University of Chicago Press. \$4.50.

HERE ARE MYSTERIES. By J. C. Lockhart. Stokes. \$3.

SURNAMES. By Ernest Weekley. Dutton. \$2.50.

PUTNAM'S BOOK OF PARTIES. By Marguerite Aspinwall. Putnam. \$1.75.

MORROW'S WORD FINDER. By Paul D. Hugon. Morrow. \$4.

SCENES FOR SCENE-PAINTERS. By A. Rose. Dutton. \$1.60.

THE PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE REGION OF CHICAGO. By F. M. Fryxell. University of Chicago Press.

NUMBERS. By Isidore Kozminsky. Putnam. \$1.25.

THE WOMAN'S SIDE. By Clemence Dane. Doran. \$1.50 net.

TOOLS AND THE MAN. By Helen Drusilla Lockwood. Columbia University Press. \$3.

VACATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. By Charles M. Mills. Ronald Press. \$5.

THE CASE OF PATIENCE WORTH. By Walter Franklin Prince. Boston Society of Psychic Research.

BESTLAPPS OF THE YEAR. Harpers. \$2.50.

BALBUS OR THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE. By Christian Barman. Dutton. \$1.

RIDDLES IN RHYME. By L. B. R. Briggs. Washburn & Thomas. \$1.75.

THE TEACHING OF THE EARLY CHURCH ON THE USE OF WINE AND STRONG DRINK. By Irving Woodworth Raymond. Columbia University Press. \$3.

WAR AND INSURANCE. Yale University Press.

I OUGHT TO KNOW THAT. By Berton Braley and George B. Hill. Appleton. \$1.50.

### Poetry

GEMS OF CHINESE VERSE. Translated by J. B. FLETCHER. Shanghai, China: The Commercial Press. 1927. \$2.

MORE GEMS OF CHINESE POETRY. The same.

The liberalizing influence of trade has frequently been pointed out. In the effort to do business, we learn to understand the heritage of alien groups. The Commercial Press of Shanghai, China, was originally intended to serve only utilitarian ends, but it has now branched into *belles lettres*. Mr. J. B. Fletcher has translated two volumes of Chinese poetry, giving a disproportionate amount of space to Li Po, but on the whole representing adequately the bards of two thousand years. He is a good sinologue, but he is not as fortunate in copying with verse. Unfortunately, he did not follow the free verse form of Amy Lowell and Florence Ayscough, and some of his rhymed songs are as bald as George Borrow's translations from the Welsh. He has no biographical notes, but in his second volume, he shows the universality of the poetic impulse by quoting parallel passages from the poets of the Victorian era.

KENSINGTON GARDENS. By Humbert Wolfe. Doran. \$1.50 net.

FOUR NEGRO POETS (The Pamphlet Poets). Simon & Schuster. 25 cents.

THE NEW YORK WITS (The Pamphlet Poets). Simon & Schuster. 25 cents.

WITTER BYNNER (The Pamphlet Poets). Simon & Schuster. 25 cents.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON (The Pamphlet Poets). Simon & Schuster. 25 cents.

EMILY DICKINSON (The Pamphlet Poets). Simon & Schuster. 25 cents.

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (The Pamphlet Poets). Simon & Schuster. 25 cents.

LAMPOONS. By Humbert Wolfe. Doran. \$1.50 net.

POETRY OF TODAY. Edited by Rosa M. R. Mikels and Grace Shoup. Scribners. \$1.20.

## Sociology

SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE FAMILY.

By ERNEST R. GROVES. Lippincott. 1927. \$2.50.

So rapidly in the medical sciences does new discovery follow close upon the heels of formulation that a medical text is almost out of date before it can be printed and bound. But the maker of textbooks in one of the social sciences is usually confronted with the reverse difficulty. The present volume, for example, is a gallant attempt to state fairly the present day trends in family life, and the subject is one about which everyone has views while few have facts. Evidently Professor Groves feels that the great practical importance of the subject to each college and normal school student compels us to face it in the class room even though we can do no more than sift out there our guesses and opinions with regard to courtship, marriage, the companionate, birth control, the economic independence of women, and the new, somewhat paralyzing notions about the relations of parents and children. He discusses all these things and many more with frankness and, on the whole, without bias, recognizing that it is "merely mischievous dogmatism that leads some interpreters of our present psychological and sociological sciences to formulate their teachings with finality." This attitude, combined with no small degree of industry in gathering together what is now definitely known, makes his new volume the best handbook on family life in America that has yet appeared. What is still needed is a series of careful, strictly objective stream-pictures of family life, for any cross-section view would ignore the fact that a family is really a slow-developing, long-term experiment. As it is a human institution, its successes and failures can be measured, but measured very inadequately if the period covered is less than a generation. A family may fail lamentably at certain points—it is almost certain to fail at some—and yet may become a very valuable asset in the community of which it is a part. Wise Benjamin Jowett once said, "A man's life must be taken as a whole." It is so that we should learn to take the family, dealing with it in all our studies both concretely and inclusively.

## Science

INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE. By George Sarton. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins.

THE WAR ON MODERN SCIENCE. By Maynard Shipley. Knopf. \$3.

THE GENERAL THEORY OF THERMODYNAMICS. By J. E. Trevor. Ginn. \$1.60.

EMINENT CHEMISTS OF OUR TIME. By Benjamin Harrow. Second Edition. D. Van Nostrand Co. \$3.

## Travel

LOAFING THROUGH THE PACIFIC. By Seth K. Humphrey. Doubleday, Page. \$3.50 net.

PERO TAFUR. Translated and edited by Malcolm Lettis. Harper's. \$5.

IN BORNEO JUNGLES. By William O. Krohn. Bobbs-Merrill. \$5.

A VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH SEAS. By John Bulkeley and John Cummins. McBride. \$3 net.

THE NARRATIVE OF SAMUEL HANCOCK. McBride. \$3.

THROUGH KAMCHATKA BY DOG SLED AND SKIS. By Sten Bergman. Lippincott.

ACROSS ARCTIC AMERICA. By Knud Rasmussen. Putnam. \$5.

THE FAMILY FLIVVERS TO FRISCO. By Frederic F. Van de Water. Appleton. \$2.

IN AND OUT OF THE OLD MISSION. By George Wharton James. Little, Brown. \$4.50 net.

IN CHINA. By Abel Bonnard. Dutton. \$5.

IN SAVAGE AUSTRALIA. By Knut Dahl. Houghton Mifflin. \$6.

THE SPANISH JOURNEY. By Julius Meier-Graefe. Translated by J. Bobroyd-Reece. Harcourt, Brace. \$5.

A ROYAL ADVENTURER. By H. H. Prince Aage. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.

WHAT ABOUT NORTH AFRICA? By Hamish McLaurin. Scribner's. \$3.

PHEASANT JUNGLES. By William Beebe. Putnam's. \$3.

MY JOURNEY TO LHASA. By Alexander David Neel. Harper's. \$4.

THE FURTHER VENTURE BOOK. By Elinor Mordaunt. Century. \$4.

MALLORCA THE MAGNIFICENT. By Nina Larrey Duryea. Century. \$3.

THE LAND OF MAGELLAN. By W. S. Barclay. Brentano's. \$4.

HERE IS ENGLAND. By Marion Balderston. McBride. \$3 net.

THROUGH EUROPE ON TWO DOLLARS A DAY. By Frank Schoonmaker. McBride. \$2.50 net.

BAEDEKER'S TYROL AND THE DOLOMITES. Scribner's. \$5.

JESTING PILATE. By Aldous Huxley. Doran. \$2.50 net.

THE SHIP OF REMEMBRANCE. By Ian Hay. Houghton Mifflin. \$1.25.

(Continued on next page)

# The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

## HENRY E. HUNTINGTON DIES

THE death of Henry E. Huntington, at Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia, May 23, closes a career unique in bibliographical annals. He first became widely known as a collector at the sale of the Hoe library in 1911 and 1912. In the comparatively short period of fifteen years since, he has brought more rare books and manuscripts together and paid a larger aggregate sum for them than ever has been done by any other collector in the history of book collecting.

At the Hoe sale his purchases amounted to more than a half million dollars. The splendid copy of the Gutenberg Bible alone cost him \$50,000, a record price that caused a world wide sensation. He has since bought some of the greatest collections of his time, and has been represented at all important auction sales in England and America, invariably buying what he wanted and never hesitating to pay the price.

Among the great libraries purchased en bloc and the prices which he is credited with paying for them were the E. Dwight Church library of Americana, \$1,200,000; the Beverly Chew library of early English literature, \$500,000; the Britwell Court collection of Americana, \$350,000; the Duke of Devonshire library, \$1,000,000; the Pembroke library, \$100,000; the Grenville Kane collection of Washington manuscripts, \$100,000; the Frederic R. Halsy library, \$750,000; the Bridgewater library, \$1,000,000; the Ward H. Lamon collection of Lincolniana, and the John Fiske collection of Americana, comprising books and manuscripts.

The climax of Mr. Huntington's career as a collector was reached in 1917 in the purchase of the Bridgewater library, renowned in England since the days of Queen Elizabeth. It contained 200 illuminated manuscripts, more than 10,000 historical documents and autograph letters, many dating from Elizabethan days, and a rich collection of plays by Shakespeare, his contemporaries and predecessors. The acquisition is said to have made Mr. Huntington's the finest collection of Shakespeareana in the world.

Mr. Huntington's original idea was to bring together a notable collection of books ultimately to be given to the public. With the Hoe sale, his plans broadened and matured. He gave to the task the great energy which had characterized his business

operations. The final result is the beautiful library building at San Marino, with its incomparable art and book collections, which by a deed of gift, executed in 1922, is put in the hands of trustees, and so will be available for the use of the public in perpetuity.

The day after Mr. Huntington's death, the announcement was made that a trust fund of \$8,000,000 had been created to be used exclusively in research work. Dr. Rosenbach says that "this fund for the creation of fellowships for scholars engaged in historical research and study of English and American sources, for research work by the staff of the Huntington Library, and for publication of research findings, will greatly enhance the value of the library, and will react to bring about a more thorough understanding of each other between Englishmen and Americans."

In 1911, Henry E. Huntington, like James Lenox before him, was regarded as a multi-millionaire, with more money than bibliographical knowledge, rashly upsetting the rare book markets of the world, for the pleasure that the notoriety gave him. This mistake is now apparent. His fame is world wide. His object as a collector is universally extolled. It is perfectly plain that he used the only means that could have brought the measure of success at which he aimed. In less than two decades, his achievement has been marvellous, and in his chosen field can never be surpassed.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

A SKETCH of one of the world's greatest and most famous publishing houses is given in "Some Account of the Oxford University Press, 1468-1926," just issued from the Clarendon Press. It is divided into four parts: (1) Historical Sketch; (2) The Press Today; (3) The Press Abroad; and (4) Oxford Books. Historically the Press dates back to the last years of the fifteenth century, and in 1636 the University was granted a royal charter to print all kinds of books. Its work during the Civil War is important because of the great number of Royalist pamphlets and proclamations issued there, and there has been no period in English history in which it has not played an active part. Two of the best known products of Oxford scholarship are the "New England Dictionary" and the "Dictionary of National Biography." Both came into existence in the

last half of the nineteenth century. This book contains excellent illustrative examples of title pages, maps, and other work of the Press. In it will be found accounts of the printing of Bibles, prayer books, its official publications, its medical books, and its fine and authoritative editions of the English classics.

## NOTE AND COMMENT

THE *Sir Walter Scott Quarterly*, edited by W. Forbes Gray, has had a very favorable reception in Scotland and England.

"A Golden Book of Swinburne's Lyrics," selected with a short introduction by E. H. Blakeney, finely printed in a limited edition of 250 copies, will be published by Martin Hopkinson & Co., Ltd., of London.

William Dana Orcutt, author of "In Quest of the Perfect Book," is busy at work on his new manuscript "The Kingdom of Books," which will be published in the early fall by Little, Brown & Co.

George Brandes, the Danish critic, who died last February, left his letters, manuscripts, and library to the Danish National Library. In regard to his manuscripts he said: "I have destroyed my manuscripts so far as I have been able to do so, but some of them may still be of a little interest and I shall leave them to the collection."

Pickering & Chatto, the London booksellers, have just issued Part XIV of their "Collection of Old and Rare Books in English Literature," which includes authors whose names begin with "S" from Settle to Smollett. This of course, brings in Shakespeare which comprises no less than 350 items under the heading "William Shakespeare," beginning with the offer of a nearly perfect Second Folio, with the rare Hawkins imprint, for £450.

An article in the April *Nineteenth Century* by Davidson Cook, reveals the fact that scores of fine unpublished letters written by Sir Walter Scott to various members of his family, and to his son-in-law Lockhart, are to be found in the Honresfeld Collection, along with the original manuscript of the "Antiquary" and "Rob Roy" and important Burns and Broome manuscripts. The owner of the Honresfeld Collection is Sir Alred J. Law, formerly a member of Parliament.

Robert Louis Stevenson had a romantic

love affair in his early manhood in Scotland, which always remained fresh in his memory. The heroine is said to have been a beautiful Highland girl worthy to stand beside Burns's Highland Mary. Years afterwards, in the maturity of his powers, Stevenson wrote the story of their great absorbing passion for publication, but for reasons now well known it was never published. Finding the material, which could not be appropriately included in his biography, and too interesting to be passed by, John A. Stewart has retold the story which he has just finished under the title "The Gap of Youth, being the Love Romance of Robert Louis Stevenson."

## The New Books Travel

(Continued from preceding page)

FINDING THE WORTH WHILE IN THE ORIENT. By *Lucian Swift Kirtland*. McBride. \$3.50 net.

BY-WAYS OF THE TROPIC SEAS. By *Hermann Norden*. Macrae-Smith.

THE GLORIOUS ADVENTURE. By *Richard Halliburton*. Bobbs-Merrill. \$5.

JUNGLE PATHS AND INCA RUINS. By *William M. McGovern*. Century. \$5.

TAWNY SPAIN. By *H. C. Chatfield-Taylor*. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

TRAVELLING LIGHT. By *M. H. Harrigan*. Brentano. \$2.

BRIMSTONE AND CHILI. By *Careton Beals*. Knopf. \$5.

THE EPICURE'S GUIDE TO FRANCE: PARIS. By *Curnonsky and Marcel Rouff*. Harpers. \$4.

MORE PORTS MORE HAPPY PLACES. By *Cornelia Stratton Porter*. \$3.50.

PANAMA OF TODAY. By *A. Hyatt Verrill*. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

## War

THE POILUS. By *Joseph Delteil*. Minton, Balch. \$2.50.

CARRY ON SERGEANT! By *Bruce Bairnsfather*. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

SINGING SOLDIERS. By *John J. Niles*. Scribner's. \$3.

THE SERVICES OF SUPPLY. By *General Johnson Hagood*. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.

ON SPECIAL MISSIONS. By *Charles Lucieto*. McBride. \$2 net.

THE EVOLUTION OF WAR. By *Emanuel Kanter*. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr Co.

THE MILITARY GENIUS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By *Brig.-Gen. Colin R. Ballard*. Oxford University Press. \$5.

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