

The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

- LIONS IN THE WAY. By HUGHES MEARNS. Simon & Schuster. 1927. \$2. There is no good news here. In this, his fourth try at novel-writing, Mr. Mearns succeeds merely in being entirely dull and entirely implausible. Weighted down by the cosmic problem of a woman's unwillingness to have her hand kissed by a beneficent millionaire, the story ambles along loosely and interminably until it collapses in mid-course, having got nowhere. Against an elaborately unconvincing background of the theatrical world various half-baked characters struggle and moan against Life. What a shame that the good title is lost to some first-class novel!
- IMMORTAL LONGINGS. By Ben Ames Williams. Dutton. \$2.
- EAST INDIA AND COMPANY. By Paul Morand. A. & C. Boni. \$2.50.
- MARCHING ON. By James Boyd. Scribners. \$2.50.
- THE IMMORTAL MARRIAGE. By Gertrude Atherton. Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.
- THE TRIUMPH OF YOUTH. By Jacob Wassermann. Boni & Liveright. \$2.
- DEAR OLD TEMPLETON. By Alice Brown. Macmillan. \$2.50.

Poetry.

- SONNETS OF GREECE AND ITALY. By FREDERICK MATHEWS. New York: Oxford University Press. 1926. \$5. Bound beautifully and chastely in boards giving the appearance of vellum, and printed on Italian laid paper, this white and gold volume might well contain some exalted song. Actually it contains a series of formal antiquated sonnets with no freshness or distinction of phrase celebrating many aspects of Greece, Sicily, Rome, and Italy. There are many Greek names, many dryads, pans, satyrs, and centaurs in the first section. One of the most effective poems of this part is "The Dance of the Centaurs," yet it falls short of any great distinction. Throughout the book the elision of the article is a vexation to the eye and ear. Many of the sonnets are extremely wooden in construction. There is no genuine inspiration. The lyre is tuned to sing a spray of wild olive or the acropolis by moonlight with far more formality than fire. An analysis of the most solemn enunciations reveals no fundamental originality of thought.
- AMETHYST WALL. By Scott W. Shaul. Dorrance.
- A POTPOURRI AT DUSK. By Joanna Jungell. Dorrance.
- STAINED WINDOWS. By Mary Esther Tull. Dorrance.

Science

- CREATIVE KNOWLEDGE. By SIR WILLIAM BRAGG. New York: Harper & Bros. 1927. \$3.50.
- MODERN ASTRONOMY: Its Rise and Progress. By HECTOR MACPHERSON. New York: Oxford University Press. 1926. \$2.

Sir William Bragg contributes a volume on "Creative Knowledge" to Harper's Modern Science Series of which the subtitle "Old Trades and New Science" indicates the scope. Delivered originally as Christmas lectures before the Royal Institution they have the simplicity which renders them understandable even to the children who attend these lectures. Faraday lectured gloriously at the Christmas lectures and Sir William is no unworthy successor both for his achievements in physical science and in the quality of his lectures. The subjects are the "The Trade of the Sailor" followed by lectures on the smith, the weaver, the dyer, the potter, and the miner all illustrated generously by plates and in the text. In each case we have the history of the application of science to the craft and the developments to modern times. The great achievements of our ancestors are justly appraised and the development of the craft as a continuous and continuing growth is pointed out.

"Modern Astronomy," by Dr. Hector Macpherson is a valuable contribution to the literature of popular astronomy. It is free from the perplexities of mathematical formulæ but it is not as "popular" in nature as a Sunday supplement article. It is crammed full of the modern theories of the moon, sun, stars and is especially valuable for its concluding chapters on cosmology (structure of the heavens) and cosmogony (origin of the heavens) which contain the recent work of Dr. Shapley of Harvard on spiral nebulae, of Dr. Slipher of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff on giant planets, and of Professor Eddington on stellar theory. Professor Eddington's recent work on the "Internal Constitution of the Stars" has opened vast new vistas of heavenly vision. Dr. Macpherson's book (originally delivered as a course of lectures) is arranged in an orderly manner giving the history of the great advances in astronomical theory of moon, sun, and stars followed by the recapitulative sections on Cosmology and Cosmogony. "We may confidently conclude that we (i. e., the Solar System) are no more unique in origin than in location, and that the stellar dwarf which we call the Sun is not the only star which is attended by at least one inhabited world."

MALLORCA THE MAGNIFICENT. By NINA LARREY DURYEA. Century. 1927. \$3.

If Paris satiates and the Riviera stifles, if London is too foggy and California too brilliant with sun, there are always the Balearic Isles. Mrs. Duryea bows before the magnificence of Mallorca and calls it "a gift from the past to our weary and disillusioned world." Nor is she alone, for it was George Sand who proclaimed that the drive from Palma to Valldemosa excelled in beauty that of the Corniche.

Rising from the Mediterranean, Mallorca, the largest of the ancient and historic Balearic Isles, lies somewhere between Sardinia and Spain. Yet the exact location is immaterial, for excellent steamers run directly from Marseilles and Barcelona. Mallorca was one of the original islands of the Hesperides, and Ralph Adams Cram, who contributes an introduction to her book, agrees with Mrs. Duryea that its golden apples are still to be had for the plucking.

The volume begins with the story of the conquest by the Moors and ends with a dissertation on light housekeeping, the intervening chapters being given to history, random impression, and advice to the prospective traveller. An accomplished writer, Mrs. Duryea has organized and fused her material with judgment and good taste and the result is a travel book above the usual level. Her final plea: "Let none but understanding souls intrude" might be put on the fly-leaf of all the volumes that, in the language of the steamship agents, "stimulate travel."

CARAVANS AND CANNIBALS. By MARY HASTINGS BRADLEY. Appleton. 1926. \$5.

Not content merely with following Captain Traprock's admonition of some years back to "see the cute cannibals," Mrs. Bradley fraternized with one in the Belgian Congo to such good effect that her findings make some of the most interesting and valuable chapters of a thoroughly absorbing book. She and her party were more than once confronted with the fascinating choice of death by elephant or death by cannibal, but always escaped either by shooting the elephants (eight achieved and one thrust upon them) or by diverting the attention of the anthropophagi to safer topics. A wise mother as well as a skilled writer, Mrs. Bradley permits only occasionally some appealing glimpses of her eight-year-old daughter, a golden-haired Alice riding pluckily through a black Wonderland. An excellent raconteuse, she has many stories to tell as amusing as that concerning the young Englishman who tried to behave like the hero of "White Cargo," with humiliating results.

FROM CORSAIR TO RIFFIAN. By ISABEL ANDERSON. Houghton Mifflin. 1927. \$3.

"A party of four with light luggage, two motors, and a guide, I believe to be the best way. . . . If you feel adventurous, fly back to France in twenty-four hours, or go by airplane to Oran in Algeria. . . ." It will readily be discerned that Mrs. (or shall we say Dr.?) Anderson does not address her book to the tourist third class! At any rate, it is well for the unfortunate majority of us who cannot go from Tunisia to Algeria in a six-wheeled Renault motor that we may enjoy vicariously "unbelievable and wonderful experiences" at Fez (i. e., dinner with the Grand Vizier and General de Chambrun), and to hear more of those familiar topics the Riff, the Foreign Legion, and the Ouled Nails. As Dr. Anderson remarks, most of the regions she visited have been infested with writers, and we hope that the next time that she sets forth with typewriter and motor she will not only again travel more rapidly and cover more ground "than the average person does," but find something really new to write about.

SEEING THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS. By WILLIAM LEE CALNON. New York: Hitchcock. 1927. \$3.

Just as a cat may look at a queen, a Detroit newspaper man may survey the islands of the South Seas. Mr. Calnon took a good look, and the home-town papers published his observations in a series of sketches dealing with Hawaii, Samoa, Tahiti, Australia, and New Zealand.

Having been written as special articles, the chapters do not constitute a continuous narrative nor do they record the author's activities in diary form; grouped together between book covers, they convey random impressions of travel and adventure, of native custom and philosophy. The book is not recommended as a guide-book to the South Sea Islands, nor as an antidote for Frederick O'Brien, yet it will be found to contain notes of interest that frequently elude the more experienced chronicler.

Distinguished Novels

and something more

Ariane by Claude Anet

Translated from the French by GUY CHAPMAN

A love-story of two persons who, standing outside the conventions, come to grips with the essential and permanent realities. Third large printing. \$2.50

Love Is Enough by Francis Brett Young

The story of a normal woman's life and of what she learned in the course of it.

Second printing. Two volumes, boxed. \$5.00

An Indian Day by Edward Thompson

An Anglo-Indian story that goes to the root of the Indian problem through the story of an official who is also an idealist. \$2.50

Lud-in-the-Mist by Hope Mirrlees

A novel compact of fantasy, satire, and human nature humorously treated. \$2.50

Latterday Symphony by Romer Wilson

A novel of contemporary London, rendered notable by the portrait of a Negro whose beautiful simplicity renders him heroic in his preordained defeat. \$2.50

The Cross by Sigrid Undset

This novel, complete in itself, brings to a quiet and beautiful close the story of Kristin Lavransdatter, begun in *The Bridal Wreath* and continued in *The Mistress of Husaby*. \$3.00

Alfred A. Knopf



Publisher, N. Y.

Realism

Symbolism



HALF-GODS

By

MURRAY SHEEHAN

"Why, the thing's human!"

"I have just finished reading Mr. Sheehan's 'Half-Gods,' and I cannot keep from writing to tell you—although you did not ask me—that I consider it the most bitterly beautiful book we have had since Cummings' 'Enormous Room.' I shall recommend it to everyone I can."—Robert Nathan.

"This 'Half-Gods' is a remarkable study of certain phases of American life, as well as an engrossing novel."—Boston Herald.

"A remarkable union of romanticism and realism."—Baltimore Sun.

\$2.50

E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Ave.

Travel

ENCOUNTERS. By IFOR EVANS. Houghton Mifflin. 1927. \$3.

Among other institutions peculiarly English there is such a thing as an "Albert Kahn Fellowship." One who wins it "undertakes to travel around the world for one year to study the countries of Europe, the East, and America. He is to observe the social habits of each country through which he passes. He is to study their philosophy, their religion, their art, and their politics. Above all, he is to study their national ambitions and to relate them to international aspirations. Not only present times but past times are his province. He has regard for the past traditions and history of all these people whom he visits."

In 1923 a lucky young Englishman set out on a year of travel, with these things in mind, and his volume of reminiscences is ample proof that the award was well made. To his title, "Encounters," Mr. Evans adds a subtitle, "With All Sorts of People Including Myself," and recounts his experiences with a wandering psychoanalyst, a Florentine cabman, and the League of Nations Assembly; with Gandhi, with a man in search of faith, with Japan, with Chicago, with a man who hated England, and with other strange characters and remote corners of the modern world. With consummate tact, or possibly with no tact at all, "Encounters" is dedicated "To my wife who is my perpetual encounter."

There is little that is startling or profound in this book. Yet the emphasis is refreshing and the guide-book enthusiast is given an entirely new conception of travel. Enough for Mr. Evans to agree that: *Toutes choses sont dites déjà, mais comme personne n'écoute, il faut toujours recommencer.*

The History of MAR YABALLAHA

By J. A. Montgomery

Professor, Univ. of Pennsylvania

While Marco Polo was travelling through the far eastern dominions of the Mongol Empire, a Chinese Christian monk was sent by the Ilkhan of the Western Mongols to negotiate an alliance with the Frankish powers for the recovery of the Holy Land from the Saracens. He visited Constantinople, Rome, Genoa and Paris, meeting Pope Nicholas IV, Philip the Fair of France and Edward I of England. In his diary he left an accurate account of the things he saw and the interviews he had. Translated for the first time from the Syriac into English, this is a document of the first rank, to be placed along side of the travels of Marco Polo.

Just Published. \$2.00

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS
Columbia University, New York

The STORY of PHILOSOPHY by Will Durant

IN less than a year after its publication, "The Story of Philosophy" has run into twenty large editions. Over one hundred and forty-seven thousand copies have been sold, and still sales grow. This volume has aroused such interest that philosophy is now more popular than fiction.

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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

THE GOLDEN COMPLEX. By Lee Wilson Dodd. (Day).
MOTHER KNOWS BEST. By Edna Ferber. (Doubleday, Page).
TRISTRAM. By Edwin Arlington Robinson. (Macmillan).

L. R., Greenfield, Mass., asks for books with local color for a boy of twelve going this summer to Paris, through Switzerland, Holland, and Belgium, to London and Southern England. A correspondent in Maryland asks for books in which children go abroad.

THERE are not so many travel books for children as one would think, considering the number of American children taken along on a trip to Europe. Plenty of geographical readers, plenty of school books and story books telling how children live in other parts of the world, but few like "The Book of London for Young People," by G. E. Mitton, one of A. and C. Black's color-plate incentives to travel, published here by Macmillan. There is a corresponding volume, "The Children's Book of Edinburgh," by Elizabeth Grierson (Macmillan). I like this recognizing the existence of a children's city within the city of London, where the child seems to me to be reckoned with and taken into account, even in domestic architecture, to an extent that makes an embattled New York parent wonder if, after all, we do live for the future in the New World as much as we think we do. The Mitton book I found on the shelf of the American Library in Paris; I wish she had made one for Paris too. But there is an excellent book called "Two Children in Old Paris," by Gertrude Slaughter (Macmillan), that answers the requirements of both these correspondents. Two little American girls spend a winter there, before the war—this is an actual record, they go to school, meeting French children and going about with their mother on leisurely journeys around the city. It would give ideas to a mother planning to take a family abroad, but content with a shorter range of action than that of the family in "Ports and Happy Places," by Cornelia Stratton Parker (Boni & Liveright). The success of this exhilarating book is due as much to the vitality of the travellers as to the longevity of the places that they see; I have not read "More Ports, More Happy Places," but it was evident at the close of the first volume that so joyous an enterprise could not stop there. Gertrude Slaughter's "Shakespeare and the Heart of a Child" (Macmillan), though some of it takes place in America, is good preparation for the Shakespeare country.

The "Peeps at Many Lands" books, published here by Macmillan, have beautiful colored pictures, but in most of them the text is dull; there is very little of it, though, and any number of pictures: the volume for France is lovely, and so is "England and Wales." The "Children of Other Lands" series published by Lothrop, with titles such as "When I Was a Boy in Norway," by J. O. Hall, and "When I Was a Girl in Holland," by Cornelia De Groot, give a young reader local color and information without too much talk. There is a series like this called "Little Schoolmates" (Dutton), in which Padraic Colum's "A Boy in Eirinn" is as good for younger readers as his "Road Round Ireland" (Macmillan), is for older ones: there is even a play for boys in it.

"A Traveler's Letters to Boys and Girls," by Caroline M. Hewins (Macmillan), was made out of actual letters sent home from trips through Italy and the British Isles; I have tried this on travelling children and they like it. The novels for juniors by Katherine Adams are pleasant and informing; "Mehitable" is an American girl in school in France, who visits friends in Ireland and England: "Wisp" is a girl of Dublin; in "Midsummer" a girl visits her grandfather in Sweden, and in "Red Caps and Lilies" a group of young people escape from the terrors of the French Revolution, which are described with a propriety that should put shame on the shade of Anatole France. All these books are published by Macmillan, and are widely read by girls in the early 'teens. The works of Johanna Spyri have no doubt long since disposed this young traveller to find life in Switzerland

attractive, and for preparation for actual travel, there is a delightful book called "Yvette in Switzerland," by Neville Wilkinson, creator of the super-dolls-house known as "Titania's Palace," lately shown in the Sesqui and elsewhere in this country, and author of "Yvette in Italy," and "Yvette in Venice." All these are published in luxurious fashion by the Oxford University Press, with colored pictures and photographs of unusual distinction and large clear type. This series of travel-books for children, in which children are the travellers under the guidance of a painter, begins with "Yvette in Italy," which takes the party by way of Paris: the story is interwoven with accounts of how the famous miniature palace came to be made, and there are photographs of its most remarkable rooms. In May Emery Hall's "Dutch Days" (Dodd, Mead), a boy and girl travel through Holland with their parents; I take it for granted that this inquirer has already read "Hans Brinker."

Two of the latest and most practical little special guides to Paris could by no means be interpreted as belonging on this list, for they are adapted to a rate of speed in travel that I cannot recommend to anyone in charge of children. Chancellor's "How to Be Happy in Paris Without Being Ruined" (Holt), is by an Englishman who knows his way about and shares with English-speaking readers his information about hotels, shops, renting of apartments, ordering of meals, theatres, and other diversions, and in general explains the occupations of a tourist's city. The other little book is "France on Ten Words a Day" (Simon & Schuster), by H. M. Lee, illustrated by the ingenious Arno. This is not the only funny phrase-book I ever read, but it is the only one that knew it was funny. The humor, however, is the by-product of genuine instruction; by suppressing all verbs in favor of gestures, above all, by concentrating on the phrases that he knows the typical tourist will need and need in a hurry, he has produced a manual by which one does not learn French at all, but by whose aid it is possible to wring from the larynx sounds that will produce food, service, and a reasonable amount of amusement, if uttered in the City of Light. But I repeat, neither of these books is for a twelve-year-old. Tell him to put plenty of steam into his French lessons, and to take in as much history as he can absorb.

THIS seems to be guest day in the *Guide*. Professor Charles H. Tutt, Department of Romance Languages, Columbia, rallies to the aid of the dictionary-seekers:—

Once more I seem to be called on to give some information about dictionaries. While

I am not a German scholar, it happens that recently I had to do some investigation in German and procured me a dictionary which to my mind beats them all. It is in two volumes and is rather expensive, costing about five dollars per volume. The dictionary is Muret-Sanders Enzyklopädisches Englisch-Deutsches and Deutsch-Englisches Wörterbuch, published in Berlin at the Langenscheidtsche Verlagsbuchhandlung. A sample will illustrate its excellence better than any description I might make.

Krieg [mhd (ahd)] m. (ant. Friede) war (fare), (Fehde) feud; (Streit) quarrel; s. Bürgerkrieg; Krieg auf Leben und Tod, Krieg bis aufs Messer war to the knife; einem od, an einen (den) Krieg erklären to declare war against a p.; Krieg führen gegen einen o d. mit einem to wage (or to carry on) war against (or with) a p., to make war upon a p.; im Kriege sein mit to be at war with; ein Dand mit Kriege überziehen to invade (or overrun) a country; den Krieg wieder anfangen to resume hostilities; in den Krieg ziehen to go to war, to take the field.

Besides, immediately following this information for Krieg are found entries for the following words related to Krieg, entries of roughly the same nature and about the same length:—

kriegen sich kriegen
Krieger Kriegerin
Kriegerbund
kriegerisch

followed by all the words with the common stem Krieger, with the common stem Krieg, and a bit over two columns of words with the common stem kriegs. That's the kind of dictionary this one is.

And now that I'm on the subject of foreign books may I offer this as something which might be valuable to all those people who periodically buy books in French or in Italian? There are two places which have proved extremely satisfactory to me in this regard. From either of these places books may be bought at the price in francs and lire respectively and the purchaser will have to pay that and the cost of mailing only. The place in France is "Ecole Vivante," Bibliographical Office 17, Rue du Bouloi, Paris (1). The place in Italy is Ufficio Bibliografico, Via A. Depretis, 65, Roma (122). Either of these places may be written in English. Beside providing current books they are extremely helpful in finding books that are out of print, in making bindings, which come cheaper in Italy than in France. I get half leather in Italy for about 60 or 70 cents for the ordinary size volume. In short, if you want anything in the way of books or bibliographical information about either France or Italy, the best way of getting it, from my personal experiences, is to communicate with these two offices.

Donn Byrne, whose new novel, "Brother Saul," recently appeared, was born in New York, but was taken to Ireland at the age of three months and spent his childhood in the glens of Antrim. He is a good Gaelic scholar, and speaks the Irish language fluently.

A New Book by ALFRED NOYES



NEW ESSAYS

And American Impressions

This book presents the distinguished poet in the less familiar role of critic and essayist, a role in which his talents shine forth with no less brilliance. Most of the essays are on literary topics, but in the last and longest he has set down his mature convictions on the basic understanding between England and America and has contributed a study of great importance in explaining the principles of our racial characteristics and sometimes ill-defined *entente cordiale*.

Boxed \$2.50

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