

FALLING SEEDS. By ELISABETH COBB CHAPMAN. Doubleday, Page. 1927. \$2.50.

Sara Spain, the heroine of "Falling Seeds," joins a rather large sisterhood when she says early in her career, "I don't know what I want, but I want it awful bad." Not until the end of the book does she find out what it is she really wants, and then it is almost too late. Meanwhile she has rebelled in turn against the small Southern town of her birth, against her husband's domineering family, and against the futile suburban society into which she is thrown by her marriage. Meanwhile, too, she has sought anodynes and taken one at least that might well have been labelled "Poison."

"Falling Seeds" is a refreshing first novel by an author who does not dodge the issues she raises. In treating the problem of what happens when a woman who no longer loves her husband meets the man she thinks she has always loved, Mrs. Chapman is not afraid to follow through. She not only asks what a woman would do in the circumstances, but what happens after she does it. Throughout the book the characters stand squarely on their feet and can turn around without showing their leading-strings. And, as was to be expected in a tale by Irvin Cobb's daughter, the author is quite willing on occasion to smile at her heroine. Indeed many a more experienced writer has seen less wisely and less humorously into his own creations.

One feels, however, that this thorough acquaintance with Sara Spain has come to Mrs. Chapman only with the growth of her book. Perhaps Sara took matters into her own hands and changed the sympathies of her author. In any case toward the end there is a shift of emphasis, possibly a shift in point of view, for which the reader is unprepared. Moreover the final chapters, admirable as they are in their sincere effort to solve an unsolvable problem, do not quite come off artistically. They are a bit too hurried for the bigness of the questions involved and might well have furnished the theme for a new novel instead of serving as the conclusion of this one.

However, the book tells an interesting story with a forthrightness and ease in the telling that make it very readable. Its frontal attack on problems that are real and not concocted for the occasion combines pleasantly with its gaiety and competence. The result is a novel that is serious but not too serious, light but not too light.

THE HALF-BREED AND OTHER STORIES. By WALT WHITMAN. Now first collected by THOMAS OLLIVE MABBOTT. Columbia University Press. 1927. \$4.50.

One of the "fifty best printed books of the year," this thin volume makes a handsome collector's item. Most of the half dozen tales and sketches are reprints from the extremely rare *Aristidean Magazine* of 1845. The typography is beautiful, and the book is profusely illustrated with woodcuts by Allen Lewis. Thirty copies of a limited edition printed on hand-made paper are illustrated with proof pulled directly from the wood blocks and signed by the artist.

No pains of scholarship have been spared by Dr. Mabbott in his editing of the selections. It is true that these fugitive and forgotten early pieces add little to our knowledge of Whitman the poet. The longest of them, an Indian tale of sixteen thousand words, does show, however, how much Whitman had improved his handling of melodramatic themes since his bizarre "Franklin Evans" in 1842. Moreover, the selections, taken together, reveal still more clearly than we had before known that the themes and the style he affected were in strict conformity with the fashion of the day. His sentimental interest in the Indian, in the Bible narratives, in the abolition of capital punishment, in children, and in exhibitions of personal heroism is made in these hundred pages of his early prose.

ALLAN AND THE ICE-GODS. By H. Rider Haggard. Doubleday, Page. \$2 net.

THE FINANCIER. By Theodore Dreiser. Boni & Liveright. \$3.

THE MAN WITH THE YELLOW EYES. By Bertram Atkey. Dial.

THE MULTITUDE. By William Garrett. Appleton. \$2.

INNOCENTS ALOFT. By Henry Justin Smith. Covici. \$2.

TWO STOLEN IDOLS. By Frank L. Packard. Doran. \$2 net.

THE HOUND-TUNER OF CALLAWAY. By Raymond Weeks. Columbia University Press. \$2.50.

BOLD BENDIGO. By Paul Herring. Lippincott. \$2.

SARDONIC TALES. By Villiers de l'Isle-Adam. Knopf. \$3.

WHOOPS, DEARIE! By Peter Arno. Simon & Schuster. \$1.75.

THE RAT. By Phyllis Bottome. Doran. \$2 net.

THE THIRD MESSENGER. By Patrick Wynnton. Doran. \$2 net.

STREET OF THE MALCONTENTS. By Cyril Hume. Doran. \$2.50 net.

ROWFOREST. By Anthony Pryde. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

BUT YESTERDAY. By Maud Diver. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

WAPSIPINICON TALES. By Jay G. Sigmund. Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Prairie Publishing Co.

THE TAVERN KNIGHT. By Rafael Sabatini. Houghton Mifflin.

THE ARISTOCRAT. By Martin Mills. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.

PILGRIM. By Ethel Mannin. Doran. \$2.50 net.

BEADS OF SILENCE. By Lillian Bamburg. Dutton.

THE BRETHREN OF THE AXE. By John Somers. Dutton.

THE SERPENT HEADED STICK. By John Hawk. \$2 net.

TWILIGHT SLEEP. By Edith Wharton. Appleton. \$2.50.

WE LIVE BUT ONCE. By Rupert Hughes. Harpers. \$2.

THE TALK OF THE TOWN. By Lynn and Lois Montross. Harpers. \$2.

Juvenile

THE PLAYBOOK OF TROY. By SUSAN MERIWEATHER. Harpers. 1927. \$2.

This is the first of a new series of books for children which develop what seems to us a good idea. The playbook series will, in simple language, open before the child the great stories of history and the myths and epics of peoples. The text of Miss Meriweather first presents the tale and the illustrations by Esther Peck, in the form of colored cutouts, make possible the playing out of the events described against a background supplied by the inside of the detachable covers, representing the scene of the story.

This first book deals with the tale of the Trojan War. Subsequent ones, now in preparation, will deal with ancient Greece and Rome, with Columbus, Washington and Lincoln, and with Robin Hood, King Arthur, and Shakespeare.

THE RELIEF PITCHER. By RALPH HENRY BARBOUR. Appleton. \$1.75.

Barbour's athletic stories for boys are always in steady demand by the youth of the country. Mr. Barbour can tell a school story with gusto and plenty of lively incident and his boy dialogue is adept. "The Relief Pitcher" is, naturally, a baseball tale, and a tale of school life today as exemplified in our large prep schools. What more need be said, save that Mr. Barbour's hand, even after penning an almost interminable series of stories for boys, has not lost a whit of its cunning in concocting them agreeably. Ever since his Harvard yarn, "The Arrival of Jimson," he has excelled at tales of school and college, of camping and of out-door life.

Miscellaneous

THERE'S NOT A BATHING SUIT IN RUSSIA. By WILL ROGERS. A. & C. Boni. 1927. \$1.75.

This particular reviewer does not find Will Rogers very funny in print, at least not in this particular volume. We have listened to Will Rogers on the stage as he twirled his rope and drawled his pungent comment on topics of the time. That seemed to us a great deal better. One did not expect actual brilliance or profundity; one was there to be amused; the figure of the man himself, his face, his voice, his mannerisms contributed to the effectiveness of spontaneous "wise cracks" racy of the soil. But the Will Rogers of the printed page, the Artemus Ward of our twentieth century, makes us laugh only very occasionally, and the conviction grows that one could be even funnier about Russia and, at the same time, tell us a good deal more. Rogers has been praised for his "horse sense" as well as for his humor. But compared, for instance, with Don Marquis he is not much of anywhere—in print and in this particular volume. He is decidedly a likable fellow but to us he is disappointing to read. He seems to us to fall between two stools, between humor and philosophy. The spontaneous, off-hand, casual remark on the stage, managed by one with a gift for clowning usually turns out to be nothing in particular when repeated in print, though it may have made you roll into the aisle when you heard it. There is an art of burlesque on the stage that simply can't be put successfully between book-covers. And that, to us, is just what is the matter with this book.

(Continued on next page)

"A fascinating account."—*Liverpool Post*.



LISZT, WAGNER AND THE PRINCESS

BY WILLIAM WALLACE

"A snooty book. Its very churlishness makes it entertaining. It is well documented, but it reads like gossip, and it

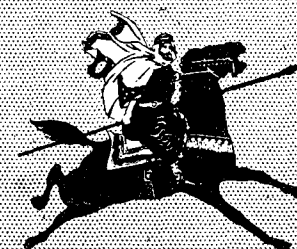


ought to bring a wicked sort of joy to anyone who isn't especially reverent."—*N. Y. Evening Post*.

Published by Dutton—\$5.00

REVOLT IN THE DESERT

by T. E. Lawrence



"is a great epic of deeds" *N. Y. Times*
"A literary classic" *Philadelphia Record*
"The most important book of my generation" *N. Y. Post*. "Most entertaining, adventurous and exciting" *N. Y. World*

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There is great power and strength in the simplicity of expression in which Miss Kaye-Smith portrays the "ingrownness" of the people of Sussex.

Published by
Dutton
\$2.50



The New Books Miscellaneous

(Continued from preceding page)

FAMOUS TRIALS OF HISTORY. By the RT. HONOURABLE THE EARL OF BIRKENHEAD. Doran. 1926. \$4.

FAMOUS CRIMINALS AND THEIR TRIALS. Intimate revelations compiled from the papers of Sir Richard Muir. By SIDNEY THEODORE FELSTEAD. Edited by LADY MUIR. Doran. 1927. \$5.

When Lord Birkenhead is discussing old, far-off forgotten things he is very good indeed. His account of Colonel Blood who stole the King's Crown, but was overawed by the sight of King Charles in swimming; his story of how Spencer Cowper, grandfather of the poet, defended himself on the charge of murder; and his narrative of the favorite old mystery of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey—to take three examples only—make pleasant little histories to read.

But when he comes down to his own times, and the trials in which he appeared in person, he is rather disappointing. He helped prosecute Sir Roger Casement; he successfully defended Ethel Le Neve, with whom Dr. Crippen eloped; and he sent to prison the curious group who tried to murder Mr. Lloyd-George. Here, where you expect something excellent, the author's lawyer-like discretion makes him a little brief, a little vague. Almost anybody could have told as much. The fact that he was once England's Lord Chancellor—as Strephon in "Iolanthe" would say—has cramped his style.

Even so, Lord Birkenhead's book is better than the memoirs of the famous Crown prosecutor, Sir Richard Muir, which is published in this country under the more popular title "Famous Criminals and Their Trials." Sir Richard was connected with the trial of almost every famous murderer and important criminal in England for the past twenty years. He measured their necks for the rope. This book about him is not easy to read nor is it of continuous interest. Instead, it is scrappy and confused; the material for a good book rather than the finished work.

BIRTH CONTROL LAWS. By MARY WARE DENNETT. New York: Hitchcock. 1926.

This book is recommended to all Americans who labor under the delusion that they live in a free country. It is an exposé of the worst features of Comstockery.

RETURN TO SECRET PARTY FUNDS. By Perry Belmont. Putnam.

THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN SOCIAL WORK. By William J. Norton. Macmillan. \$3.50.

HOW YOU CAN KEEP HAPPY. By William S. Sadler. Chicago: American Health Book Concern.

THE DE IMPERATORUM ET PONTIFICUM POTES-TATE OF WILLIAM OF OCKHAM. Edited by C. Kenneth Brampton. Oxford University Press. \$2.50.

THE PAGEANT OF CIVILIZATION. By F. B. Warren. Century.

COVERING WASHINGTON. By J. F. Essary. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

WHERE IS CIVILIZATION GOING? By Scott Nearing. Vanguard Press. 50 cents.

THE STORY OF CIVIL LIBERTY IN THE UNITED STATES. By Leon Whipple. Vanguard Press. 50 cents.

CERTAIN SAMARITANS. By Esther Pohl Lovejoy. Macmillan. \$3.50.

NURSES AND NURSING. By Alfred Worcester. Harvard University Press. \$2.

SWIMMING SCIENTIFICALLY TAUGHT. By Frank Eugen Dalton. Funk & Wagnalls. \$1.75.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. Oxford University Press. \$1.75.

THE RURAL INDUSTRIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES. III. By Helen E. Fitzrandolph and M. Doriell Hay. Oxford University Press. \$1.75.

MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS OF THE CORPORATION OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON. Oxford University Press. \$11.75.

Pamphlets

THE SPIRIT OF ISRAEL. By Oscar Levy.

THE ESSENTIALS OF FRENCH SYNTAX. By C. J. M. Odie. Oxford University Press. 40 cents.

THE ROBINSON LOCKE DRAMATIC COLLECTION IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY. New York Public Library.

EDITIONS OF BEAUMARCHAIS IN NEW YORK CITY. By Harriet Dorothea Macpherson. New York Public Library.

SELENIUM: A List of References. Compiled by Marion Foster Doty. New York Public Library.

THE ORLANDO GIBBONS TERCENTENARY. By Jeffrey Mark. New York Public Library.

EARLY LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK STATE. By George Watson Cole. New York Public Library.

HENRY GEORGE AND THE SINGLE TAX. By Rollin Alger Sawyer. New York Public Library.

THE NEW YORK TERCENTENARY. Arranged and described by Victor Hugo Paltsits. New York Public Library.

JEWISH LIFE IN ORIENTAL COUNTRIES. By Joshua Bloch. New York Public Library.

MACPHERSON'S OSSIAN AND THE OSSIANIC CONTROVERSY. By George F. Black. New York Public Library.

SECURING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED. By Mary La Dame. Welfare Council of New York City. 50c.

LES PROPHECIES DE MERLIN. By Lucy Allen Paton. 2 parts. New York: D. C. Heath & Co.

Poetry

MASS AND OTHER POEMS. By ABE CRADDOCK EDMUNDS. Brown-Morrison Company. 1927.

This is a tiny book of fragments. For the first and longest poem the author has

attempted to bring music to the aid of poetry and to give this combination the advantage of drama, as he states it. But the orchestral directions and the stage directions he uses to do this are devices that fail of producing the effects he intends because they are but superficial adornments of the poems, the content of which is not unusual. Part Two is made up of Miscellaneous Poems, all slight, but an occasional phrase moving. Several of the poems of Camelot and one or two of those entitled "Four Men" may be cited as evidence. To our mind these six lines taken from still another sequence are the poet's best work:

*You should be one of whom old women talk
To sleepy children after day has gone:
"Last night I saw her where a twisted tree
Was smoking by the moon . . ."
That is what they'll say
To children at the end of the day.*

SELECTED POEMS. By WALTER DE LA MARE. Holt. 1927.

The poems in this volume have been chosen from "The Listeners," "Poems" (1904), "Flora," "Motley," "The Veil," and "Crossings" (a play). Nothing has been included from the volumes intended for children. In a fashion this cheats us, for certain triumphs of the fantastic in these volumes for children promptly recur to us: "Melmillo," "The Isle of Lone," "Off the Ground," a myriad others, as it seems. Here, in "Selected Poems," to be sure, is Mr. de la Mare's marvelous angler who fished up a mermaid, here are "Arabia" and "Alexander" and that deeply tender and vivid fantasy "The Last Coachload," but there is a sadness sadder than that in "The Children of Stare" in most of the other poems,—sadder because, though Mr. de la Mare always writes as though in half-trance, the outer world is also perceived only too keenly. For evidence we cite "Haunted," "Innocency," the portraits of people, "Forgiveness," "Mrs. Grundy," "Winter Dusk," "Futility," "The Old Men," "In the Dock," "Drugged," "Anatomy," "Not that Way," "Even in the Grave." The burden of one's own individuality is here, the thought of "Death, who, stranger, fairer than any siren turns his head," and this, possibly the deepest meditation the poet has given us:

*Rave how thou wilt; unmoved, remote,
That inward presence slumbers not,
Frets out each secret from thy breast,
Gives thee no rally, pause, nor rest,
Scans close thy very thoughts, lest they
Should sap his patient power away,
Answers thy wrath with peace, thy cry
With tenderest taciturnity.*

To those who think that objective vision and objective statement alone prove one alive to the world as it is, de la Mare's

deep subjective brooding is a quiet but powerful reply. It is the reply indeed of the philosophic temper to the restlessly active. The restlessly active live on the surface of the world, not at its heart. And the poet's observation of natural things, of bird and flower, sun and sea, is delicate and intimate. "Look thy last on all things lovely, every hour" is his rede, this giving his earthly eyes their piercing and poignant insight.

Here also are the old masterpieces, "The Little Salamander," "The Sleeper," "Miss Loo," "The Ghost," "All That's Past," "The Listeners," "An Epitaph," "The Scribe." The essence of his beautiful art is here.

A LITTLE BOOK OF AMERICAN HUMOROUS VERSE. Compiled by T. A. DALY. Philadelphia: David McKay. 1927. \$1.50.

The author of Canzoni, "Madrigali," etc., one of the most individual humorous verse-writers in America, excelling in dialect (as well as being a poet of some stature) has here brought together a selection of humorous verse by other hands, beginning with "Yankee Doodle," ascribed to Edward Bangs who flourished at the time of the Revolution, and bringing the work down to date with two inclusions from the less well-known light verse of Elinor Wylie, whose reputation rests upon her serious poetry and fantastic novels. Mr. Daly had originally contemplated a larger and completer anthology. He puts this forward as a mere skeleton of the scheme of the larger one, with a charming preface.

He notes that there is very little American verse "of manufacture earlier than 1800 that could, by any stretch of fancy or fond partisanship, be called even mildly humorous." He gives the reasons for this. Beside Bangs, he includes Benjamin Franklin, Philip Freneau, St. John Honeywood, John Quincy Adams, C. C. Moore, of "A Visit from St. Nicholas," and Joseph Smith, his "Eulogium on Rum."

Thence we trace naturally through Emerson, Willis, Hoffman, Longfellow, Holmes (still our most accomplished), Fields, Saxe, Lowell, Leland, Silas Weir Mitchell, Emily Dickinson, Stedman, Charles Frederick Johnson, and Aldrich. Bret Harte is not forgotten, and Edward Rowland Sill's "The Fool's Prayer" is (we think somewhat doubtfully) included. Both Carryls and Bunner are, of course, sure shots; Bierce, for his brief ironies; O'Reilly, Lanigan and Clarke for their persuasive Irish journalism. Gene Field and Riley and Joel Chandler Harris are profoundly native. We have Hovey and Robinson, though the reputations of both are as serious poets; Guiterman, Daly himself, Bert Leston Taylor, F. P. A., Don Marquis, Christopher Morley, and Edwin Meade Robinson of our own day. The volume is pocket size and the range is wide.

SONNETS. By Amory Hare. Macmillan. \$1.25.
THE OXFORD BOOK OF FRENCH VERSE. Chosen by St. John Lucas. Oxford University Press. \$3.75.

SONNETS TO AN IMAGINARY MADONNA. By Vardis Fisher. Vinal. \$1.50.

YOU THAT CAME AFTER. By Mary Siegrist. Vinal.

MOON OF THE DESERT. By Florence Annette Wing. Vinal.

THE RIVERSIDE BOOK OF VERSE. Edited by Robert M. Gay. Houghton Mifflin.

SONGS IN THE SUN. By Caroline Haward. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.25.

COUNTERPOINT FOR BEGINNERS. By C. H. Kitson. Oxford University Press.

OUR AMERICA. By Alice Fay. Putnam.

DARK WINDS. By Marshall Johnson. Four Seas. \$1.50.

THE SON OF MAN. By John Bernard Kelly. Doran.

IDYLLS OF THE GHETTO. By S. A. DeWitt. New York: Rand. \$1.50.

THE LONE ADVENTURE. By Stanton A. Coblentz. Unicorn Press. \$2 net.

GOD'S TROMBONE. By James Weldon Johnson. Viking.

HANOVER POEMS. By R. A. Lattimore and A. K. Laing. New York: Harold Vinal. \$1.50.

THE GEORGETOWN ANTHOLOGY. Edited by Al. Philip Kane and James S. Ruby, Jr. Dorance. \$2.

PAINTROCK ROAD. By Edwin Ford Piper. Macmillan. \$1.50.

Travel

LLAMA LAND. By Anthony Dell. Doran. \$10 net.

ALONG THE RIVIERAS OF FRANCE AND ITALY. By Gordon Howe. Dutton. \$3.50.

BERBERS AND BLACKS. By David P. Barrows. Century. \$3.

FIRST CROSSING OF THE POLAR SEA. By Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth. Doran. \$5 net.

FIFTY MILES ROUND PARIS. By Cecilia Hill. McBride. \$2 net.

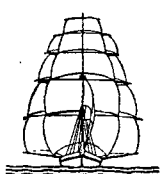
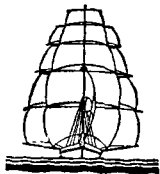
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