

The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

THE QUEST OF YOUTH. by JEFFERY FARNOL. Little, Brown. 1927. \$2.50.

Jeffery Farnol has written a new book! A new book, you cry, and rush at it. And then you find that after all, it is not a new book. Once, Mr. Farnol wrote a book called "The Broad Highway." It was extremely popular. And so now, every time Mr. Farnol feels the urge to write, he takes out "The Broad Highway," polishes it up; knocks off a few incidents here and there, substituting others in their place; twists its not very flexible plot into a not very different position; and with his blessing and a new name, sends it out again.

"The Quest of Youth" is one of these foster children. Again the road is the back-bone of the story. Sir Marmaduke, forty-five, bored with life, and inclined toward biliousness, takes up his gold-headed cane to tramp the road in search of youth. Under an assumed name, he rescues a beautiful Quakeress from a scoundrel, and incriminates himself in a murder of which she is suspected; although he, of course, knows that she is only trying to shield someone else. Accordingly, they set out for London, as the best place in which to lose themselves. Needless to say, they are followed, and fights ensue, in which Sir Marmaduke is always the victor. Also needless to say that he has by this time fallen violently in love with his Quakeress. They finally reach London, where—but then, you can finish it for yourself.

If you have ever read anything else of Farnol's, you will readily recognize the nobility once more posing as common folk. You will doubtless find joy in tracing the similarities between his books. But you will also find the same vigor, freshness, and swift action of style. The book reads very easily—Mr. Farnol does not bore you with long descriptions or other such literary matters, but gives something doing on every page. He is even exciting at times, if we may call exciting the adventures of pedestrianism of the eighteenth century, in comparison with the more lively dangers of pedestrianism today. It is fair enough entertainment for a few hours, but do not expect any deep significance of plot, seriousness of characterization, or brilliant writing, for you will be disappointed.

GOBLIN MARKET. By H. DE VERE STACPOOLE. Doran. 1927. \$2.50.

Those who like the quieter type of romance in which incident is subordinated to emotion, and emotion is held in restraint, will find in "Goblin Market" a novel to their taste. It is a touching story, the chronicle of middle age stumbling into an affection that develops into love, and of wasted youth flickering out as the breath of happiness touches it. Mr. Stacpoole writes with tenderness but without sentimentality, and his portrayal of the relationship between the staid, conventional husband who first through pity and then through a stronger feeling gives shelter and companionship to a girl of the streets, the girl herself, innocent despite the life she has led, and the wife whose humanity can meet her husband's defection with understanding and sympathy, is developed with delicate but effective strokes. His tale has a gentle distinction, and leaves a memory both pleasing and sad.

KNOCK FOUR TIMES. By MARGARET IRWIN. Harcourt, Brace. 1927. \$2.50.

Margaret Irwin's novel labors under the double handicap of a misleading title and an awkward opening device. "Knock Four Times" suggests mystery and it is fair to suppose that many of the followers after *le dernier cri* in fictional crime will be very much disappointed when they discover the real nature of the book. And to introduce a character sympathetically and minutely at the beginning of a novel only to drop him, after he has served his prologue rôle, from practically any further part in the story, is playing fast and loose with the reader's amiability. But readers who have achieved these initial hurdles will be amply rewarded by the amusing and very exuberantly written novel which follows.

It is an open secret, much more open than secret, that Miss Irwin's unheroic hero is the prototype of a certain young author and playwright who a few seasons since burst into sudden and dazzling fame as the creator of a young lady whose heart and headgear were almost equally vernal. Whether or not Basil Dictripoulyos is alive and real outside the novel is of little importance; what matters is that he is very much alive within it. Miss Irwin has given

us a portrait of this playboy of the London *literati* without any photographic retouching. He is presented to the reader as he presents himself to the people in the book—an alien and an enigma. Into the vortex of this meteor-like personality are drawn the strangely assorted group who make up the personnel of "Knock Four Times." To the shabby house in Rainbow Row where "Dicky" lives they all come, snapped suddenly from old orbits into new and dizzying parabolas where, as might be expected, collisions are not infrequent. When "Dicky," the center, drops out (to meet success half-way in America) the members of this new little universe find themselves in an awkward position, with nothing to hold them to their new courses and with no going back to the old. . . . There is not a character but intrigues the interest. The interplay of personality on personality is a delight as caught and recorded in Margaret Irwin's brilliantly staccato style.

AMARILIS. By CHRISTINE TURNER CURTIS. Doubleday, Page. 1927. \$2.

There has not unnaturally grown up in America within the past few years a decided opposition to the pleasant, feminine, rather spineless type of personal narrative of which "Amarilis" is a good example. The matter of such a book is generally slight, and its sole distinction lies in the author's handling of a series of small incidents and fleeting impressions. Miss Curtis has a talent for recording in her quiet homeopathic prose the beauty of a California sunset, the emotion of some bit of her life in Monterey. She has seen and felt these things, and she is able to give us her story, inconclusive love affair and all, with little excessive romantic decoration. Her perceptions are not always important, but they are at least honest. Yet it is doubtful that many people in this age will find pleasure in her modest, slightly dull book. They are more apt to agree with the tactics of her rival, a Spanish girl of superior vitality, who carries off the artist lover in summary fashion, leaving the author to soliloquize on resignation and spiritual peace. Her book is well enough in its way, but that way is somewhat anemic, lacking in both life and reality.

VENTURE. By Max Eastman. A. & C. Boni. \$2.50.

THE GULF OF YEARS. By Watson Griffin. Toronto: Point Publishers.

THE MOSAIC EARRING. By Columbia Boyer. Henkle. \$2.

THE WORKS OF FRANÇOIS RABELAIS. Translated by Sir Thomas Urquhart and Peter Motteux. Boni & Liveright. 2 vols.

THE MUSIC MAKER. By Muriel Edmonds. Vinal.

DAYBREAK. By Arthur Schnitzler. Simon & Schuster. \$1.50.

NEW WINE. By Geoffrey Moss. Doran. \$2 net.

THE GENTLEMAN IN ARMOR. By Robert J. Casey. Sears. \$2.

THE AFRICAN SAGA. By Blaise Cendrars. Payson & Clarke.

THE CRIME AT RED TOWERS. By Chester K. Steele. Clode. \$2.

EROS, THE SLAYER. By Aino Kallas. Macmillan. \$2.

DEPARTING WINGS. By Faith Baldwin. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

THE STORY OF A COUNTRY TOWN. By E. W. Howe. Dodd, Mead. \$3.50.

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE. By Ambrose Bierce. Modern Library. 95 cents net.

YVON TREMBLAY. By Louis Arthur Cunningham. Ottawa: Graphic Press. \$2.

THE WIDECOMBE EDITION OF EDEN PHILLPOTT'S DARTMOOR NOVELS. Macmillan. 20 vols.

SILENT STORMS. By Ernest Poole. Macmillan. \$2.50.

TRISTAN AND ISEULT. By Joseph Bedier. Translated by Hilaire Belloc. A. & C. Boni. \$2.

JACKSON STREET. By Anne Austin. Greenberg. \$2.50.

OUR MR. DORMER. By R. H. Mottram. Dial. \$2.50.

ON THE KING'S COUCH. By Octave Aubry. Boni & Liveright.

LOVELY LADIES. By Ferrin L. Fraser. Sears. \$2.50.

THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND. By Jules Verne. Sears.

FAIR GAME. By Olive Wadswley. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

VENTURE'S END. By Karin Michaelis. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

THE GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES. By Willard Huntington Wright. Scribners. \$2.50.

THE REVENGE OF FANTOMAS. By Marcel Allain. McKay.

RED BEARD OF VIRGINIA. By Rupert Sargent Holland. Lippincott. \$2.

WE CAN'T ALL BE BLONDES. By Helen J. Stone. Vinal.

SPLENDOR. By Ben Ames Williams. Dutton. \$2.50.

THE NOVELS OF WINSTON CHURCHILL. Macmillan. 10 vols.

A BOOK OF LONG STORIES. By Eminent Authors. Selected and edited by Arthur H. Nethercot. Macmillan. \$3.50.

JUGGLER'S KISS. By Manuel Komroff. Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.

IT IS BETTER TO TELL. By Kathleen Coyle. Dutton. \$2.50.

Juvenile

(See Children's Bookshop, pp. 347 and 360)

THE JANITOR'S CAT. By THEODORE ACLAUD HARPER. Appleton. 1927. \$2.

By means of the Janitor's Cat a group of children are enabled to meet some of their favorite book characters—Alice, Peter Pan, Dr. Dolittle, and others. Such attempts are apt to lack spontaneity; to be rather too mannered and made to order. This is no exception to the rule.

MRS. CUCUMBER GREEN. By MARY GRAHAM BONNER. Milton, Bradley. 1927. \$1.50.

THE POPOVER FAMILY. By ETHEL CALVERT PHILLIPS. Houghton Mifflin. 1927. \$1.75.

PANTALOON. By EDITH KEELEY STOKELY. Doran. 1927. \$3.

Little girls are the heroines of this group of stories of which "Mrs. Cucumber Green" is much the most appealing, to our way of thinking. A publisher's note describes it as "the kind of story a child would write if a child could be an author" and in a sense this is true for Mary Graham Bonner has been able to keep the little story free from adult interference. The imaginings are the same definite, rambling inventions of a happy child in an old-fashioned household. Townspeople wander pleasantly in and out, and all the toys, especially a favorite doll, take on real personality. A friendly, unpretentious book with plenty of gay, colored pictures.

"The Popover Family" is the same in general type but more content with everyday doings than flights of childish fancy. The Popovers themselves were a family of makeshift dolls living in an attic, who, along with an obliging mouse, did many good turns for the small heroine. An undistinguished child's book of the realistic sort that practical little girls will always read and enjoy—more's the pity!

"Pantaloon" was a great disappointment to us. The child in the soap-bubble idea (she is supposed to sail off in one christened the "U.S.2") and a good many other of its whimsicalities seemed rather far fetched and too consciously fantastic. It has been lavishly endowed with colored pictures and is much too large and pretentious a volume for the slim thread of fancy it contains.

EMMY, NICKY AND GREG. By ALINE KILMER. Doran. 1927. \$2.

This book falls between those written for children about children and those written about children for older people. Of the two it seems to belong to the latter group, though here again it falls a little short by reason of its over-sentimental attitude. The author never allows us to forget for a single page that the children are hers and that she considers them very exceptional. Their sayings are set down in far too much detail and with all the lisps carefully spelled out so that the reader cannot escape a single one. As it stands now the chapters seem more like entries in a mother's diary, with rather an over-supply of personal description and doting comment thrown in. It seems a pity that we could not have had an account of these children and their doings free from this sort of sentimental sugar-coating. One wishes it could somehow have turned into an American version of "The Golden Age."

THE LITTLE BLACK AND WHITE LAMB. By INEZ HOGAN. Macrae-Smith. 1927. \$1.50.

Here is another book for little children in which the fantastic element has been overworked. The lamb was black on one side and white on the other; the rake, the kitchen-sink, the furnace, and the shovel all become alive and give him advice. This is all done with too much conscientious whimsy. One cannot help contrasting the beautiful simplicity and naturalness with which the same sort of thing was handled in Maeterlinck's "Blue Bird." Some of the author's own illustrations are, however, quite gay and spirited.

THIS EARTH WE LIVE ON. By Elizabeth W. Dunsell. Stokes. \$3.

THE OUT-OF-DOORS CLUB. By Samuel Scoville, Jr. Harpers. \$1.50.

THE WONDERFUL GIFT. By Clara McKinney Edmonds. Four Seas. \$2.

LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI. By Mark Twain. Illustrated by Walter Stewart. Harpers. \$2.50.

ÆSOP'S FABLES. Illustrated by Louis Rhead. \$1.75.

THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH. By Charles Dickens. Illustrated by Francis D. Bedford. Harpers. \$2.50.

JACK HORNER'S PIE. Selected and illustrated by Lois Lenaki. Harpers. \$2.

Miscellaneous

FREE-LANCING FOR FORTY MAGAZINES. By EDWARD MOTT WOOLLEY. Cambridge, Mass.: The Writer Publishing Company. 1927.

One impression that Mr. Woolley's narrative makes upon us is this: it is a history of consistently hard work, of a dogged persistence that conquered all sorts of difficulties to attain free entry through the portals of the *Saturday Evening Post* and the authorship of a thousand published stories and articles. That is the sum of the success. It is fundamentally a journalistic success. Nor is such success to be despised. But Mr. Woolley's is distinctly the story of a writer made not born. The manner in which he writes today is straightforward, energetic, but without style, without (that is) the stamp of genuine personality upon it. Yet what experiences he has had, what a wealth of human material he has tackled, how admirably he has grappled life to wring from it what he wished most! A born writer with this spirit, with this opportunity for observation, with this stomach for hard work, would today be a master in creative writing, or near it.

There are a number of writers in America today like Mr. Woolley. They are dynamic, they "break through," they contribute largely to many periodicals. They have "both feet on the ground," a news-sense, a graphic power moulded by newspaper-work, an ability to gather material together on short notice for articles accurate in their facts and not too profound in their implications. They are the mainstay of the magazines; and would-be writers for the magazines will do well to listen to their histories. Mr. Woolley is entirely frank about his.

The purpose of this work is to chronicle the realism of the writing vocation, along with some of its romance; but my immediate inspiration is the arrival at a memorable mile-post in my life—a point where I can reckon at least a thousand of my published special articles and fiction stories, done for newspapers, magazines, and periodicals in general. Bulk of course gives me no claim to glory, though it may reflect my industry and the strategy I learned of getting through the editorial doors.

It does. But his has not been a vocation in the sense that it was a true "call." His is an *occupation* in which he has trained himself with extreme assiduity. He is a successful workman in that occupation. He deserves the success that crowns hard work. And there is no particular reason why such a practising writer should not occasionally create literature. The fact remains, however, that he seldom does.

The tale of Mr. Woolley's experiences has vigor and practical value. Neophytes will gain considerable knowledge from it of the rocky road to auctorial "success."

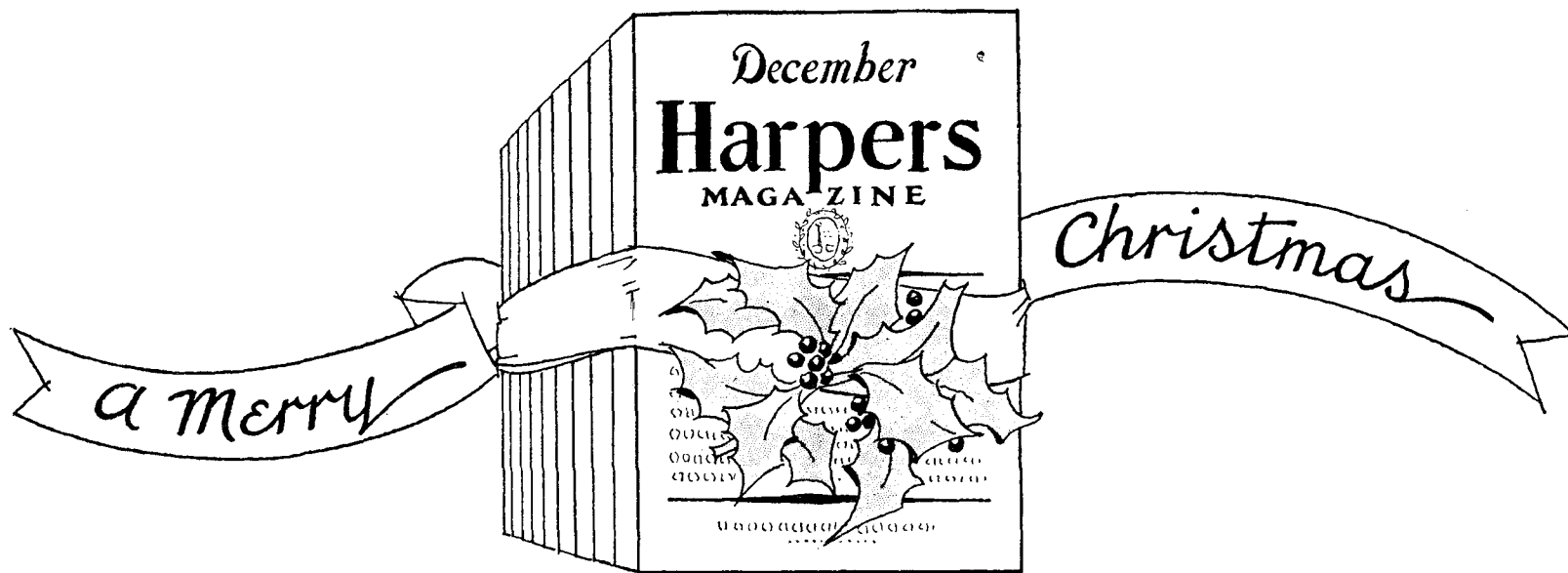
THE QUESTING COOK. By RUTH A. JEREMIAH GOTTFREID. Cambridge, Mass.: Washburn & Thomas. 1927. \$3.

Mrs. Gottfried has accomplished the seemingly impossible, for she has produced a cook book that is more than a variation on the usual manual. And despite the fact that its recipes are uncommon when not unfamiliar it does not bear too heavily upon the skill of the cook or the purse of the housekeeper to make it a volume practicable for the modest household as well as the more elaborate establishment. Many of its dishes in modified form are to be had in restaurants in America and in a considerable number of homes, but whereas there they are usually found in some debased version, Mrs. Gottfried furnishes directions that should reproduce them with the full flavor of the lands of their origin.

Success, we should say, was the word best describing the culinary dainties which Mrs. Gottfried includes for all that they are frequently humble concoctions, and we are not sure that tables regulated on a system of calories calculated to reduce flesh had not better eschew them. But for those fortunate mortals for whom farinaceous food and gravies and cream hold no terrors the book should prove a boon. Harassed housekeepers, seeking to lend variety to their tables, will find in the recipes in use in Italian, Scandinavian, Slavic, or other foreign kitchens palatable dishes with which assembling her ingredients. Mrs. Gottfried has so arranged her directions for preparing them that the merely competent cook as well as the expert should be able to produce them without great risk of failure.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty that confronts the amateur cook is that of properly assembling her ingredients. Mrs. Gottfried has listed her instructions in such fashion that she should find it possible to have everything at hand at the proper moment instead of spoiling her dish by having one part of it cooking overlong on the stove while the rest is being prepared. Nor are

(Continued on page 356)



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To give a friend HARPERS MAGAZINE for Christmas implies that he—or she—possesses a vigorous inquiring mind, daring imagination, and impeccable taste. For, after all, that is the sort of person for whom the new HARPERS MAGAZINE is published, and who, in turn, finds it sympathetic.

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THE EXPLOSION ON THE DUQUESNE, Leland Hall.

COTTON DOLLY, A Story, Ada Jack Carver.

MICE AND MEN, Julian Huxley.

HOT COPY, A Story, M. C. Blackman.

OUR PERMANENT CRIME WAVE, Edward Hale Bierstadt.

IF WAR SHOULD COME, H. M. Tomlinson.

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DUTTON

The New Books Miscellaneous

(Continued from page 354)

the ingredients difficult of purchase, or, as we said before, high in price. The greatest demands it makes are upon the time and the pains of the cook. But then, with cooking, as with nations, eternal vigilance is always the price of safety.

ROMANTIC AMERICA. By E. O. HOPPE. New York: B. Westermann Co. 1927.

If there be Americans who think their country scenically uninteresting or lacking dignity and beauty in its cities they would do well to secure this book. Mr. Hoppé has here brought together a large number of photographs of outstanding points of interest in the United States, towns and places remarkable either for association or character, and prefaced them with a chapter briefly rehearsing the outstanding phases of American territorial expansion. His graphic survey of picturesque America is an impressive one both for what it portrays and the manner of its portrayal. The photographs that compose the book are superb and there is a wealth of them. Indeed the volume is one that anyone interested in his country might well wish to own.

THE CHARM OF BIRDS. By Viscount Grey of Fallodon. Stokes. \$3.

THE ZEPPELINS. By Capt. Ernst Lehmann. Sears. \$4.

THE LAW RELATING TO AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS. By B. Mackay Cloutman and Francis W. Luck. Bowker. \$3.

DAYS AND NIGHTS IN MONTMARTRE AND THE LATIN QUARTER. By Ralph Nevill. Doran. \$5 net.

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MADRIGAL AND MINSTRELSY MUSIC. By Juliet Raphael. Illustrations by Mae Harshberger. A. & C. Boni. \$3.50.

THE AMERICAN SONGBOOK. By Carl Sandburg. Harcourt, Brace. \$7.50.

THE ROMANCE OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY. By L. S. Wood and A. Wilmore. Oxford University Press. \$2.

A GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON. Compiled by Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott. Edited and revised by Henry Stuart Jones and Roderick McKenzie. Oxford University Press. \$3.50.

PEASANTS AND POTTERS. By Harold Peake. Yale University Press. \$2.

THE APPRECIATION OF MUSIC. By Roy Dickinson Welch. Harpers. \$2.

THE BUSINESS OF THE SUPREME COURT. By Felix Frankfurter and James M. Landis. Macmillan. \$5.

SPEECHES. By the Earl of Oxford and Asquith. Doran. \$5 net.

PROHIBITION IN OUTLINE. By F. Ernest Johnson and Harry S. Warner. 75 cents.

THE PROCESSION TO TYBURN. Edited by William McAdoo. Boni & Liveright. \$3.

THE EXECUTIVE AND HIS CONTROL OF MEN. By Enoch Burton Gowin. Macmillan. \$2.

DOUG AND MARY AND OTHERS. By Allene Talme. Macy-Masius. \$2.

DOG STORIES FROM PUNCH. Illustrated by George Morrow. Doran. \$2.50.

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ACROSS THE SEVEN SEAS. By E. Keble Chatterton. Lippincott. \$1.75.

OLD SHIP PRINTS. By E. Keble Chatterton. Dodd, Mead. \$15.

A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN. By John Langdon-Davies. Viking. \$3.

FARM YOUTH. Proceedings of the Ninth National Country Life Conference. University of Chicago Press. \$2.

BOOKS AND BIDDERS. By A. S. W. Rosenbach. Little, Brown. \$5 net.

TROUBLES WE DON'T TALK ABOUT. By J. E. Montague, M.D. Lippincott. \$2.

WEEP SOME MORE, MY LADY. By Sigmund Spaeth. Doubleday, Page. \$4.

FROM GRIEG TO BRAHMS. By Daniel Gregory Mason. Macmillan. \$2.25.

THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF STEAM PLANTS. By J. S. Braham and C. E. Stromeyer. Pitman. \$1.50.

THE COTTON WORLD. Compiled and edited by John A. Todd. Pitman. \$1.50.

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CHURCH MUSIC AND MUSICAL LIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. Vol. I. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Society.

FEDERAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES. By Robert D. Leigh.

FUNDAMENTALS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS. By Charles W. Disbrow. Doubleday, Page. \$2.50 net.

LIFE'S SUNSHINE. By George H. Bruce. Avondale Press.

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR ENTERTAINING. By Mrs. Herbert B. Linscott. Macrae Smith.

LONDON TRADESMEN. By Anthony Trollope. Scribners. \$4.50.

THE TEETH AND THE MOUTH. By Leroy L. Hartman. Appleton. \$1.50.

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH. By Ronald Campbell MacFie. Holt. \$1.

THIS SMOKING WORLD. By A. E. Hamilton. Century. \$2.50.

THE WEALTH OF THE SEA. By Donald K. Tressler. Century. \$4.

SOME FAMOUS SEA FIGHTS. By Fitzhugh Green and Holloway Frost. Century. \$3.50.

BROWNING'S PARLEYINGS. By William Clyde De Vane, Jr. Yale University Press. \$4.

ENGLISH HANDWRITING. Edited by Robert Bridges. Oxford University Press.

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH PROBLEMS. By James D. Edmonston and Arthur Dondineau. Macmillan.

AMERICAN MEDICINE AND THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH. By Harry H. Moore. Appleton. \$5.

FATHER MISSISSIPPI. By Lyle Saxton. Century. \$5.

CANDLE DAYS. By Marion Nicholl Rawson. Century. \$3.50.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MANHATTAN. By Will Irwin. Century. \$6.

AMUSEMENTS SERIOUS AND COMICAL. By Tom Brown. Edited by Arthur L. Hayward. Dodd, Mead. \$6.

YOUR WEIGHT AND HOW TO CONTROL IT. Edited by Dr. Morris Fishbein. Doran. \$5.

THE WOMAN OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. By Edmond and Jules de Goncourt. Minton, Balch. \$5.

PEAKS AND PEOPLE OF THE ADIRONDACKS. By Russell M. L. Carson. Doubleday, Page. \$2.50 net.

THE NEW HUMANITY. By Mirza Ahmad Sohrab. Persian American Publishing Co., 261 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, Cal.

HOME MAKING. By Elizabeth Forrester Macdonald. Marshall Jones. \$2.

RIFTS IN THE UNIVERSE. By Jared Sparks Moore. Yale University Press.

THE OUTLINE OF MAN'S KNOWLEDGE. By Clement Wood. New York: Copeland.

SCIENCE AND MODERN PROGRESS. By Marshall Lloyd Dunn. Shanghai: Edward Evans. \$1.

THE HUMAN HABITAT. By Ellsworth Huntington. Van Nostrand. \$2.

TREES. By MacGregor Skene. Holt. \$1.

BIRDS. By A. L. Thompson. Holt. \$1.

THE EARTH AND ITS RHYTHMS. By Charles Schuckert and Clara M. Le Vene. Appleton. \$4.

Poetry

STEEP ASCENT. By Jean Starr Untermeyer. Macmillan. \$1.25.

NATURE LOVER'S KNAPSACK. Edited by Edwin Osgood Grover. Crowell.

SELECTED POEMS OF ANGELA MORGAN. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

KANAKA MOON. By Clifford Gessler. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

THE THIRD BOOK OF MODERN VERSE. By Jessie B. Rittenhouse. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

THE CENTAUR. By James Sydney Johnson. San Francisco: Windsor Press. \$1.50.

THE KEYS OF HEAVEN. By Barbara Young. Revell.

THE POEMS AND LETTERS OF ANDREW MARVELL. Edited by H. M. Margoliouth. Oxford University Press. 2 vols. \$10.50.

THE HORNED SHEPHERD. By Edgar Jepson. Macy-Masius. \$1.60.

KANAKA MOON. By Clifford Gessler. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

THE ETERNAL BABE. Edited by Francis X. Talbot. New York: America Press.

RUDYARD KIPLING'S VERSE: Inclusive Edition, 1885-1926. Doubleday, Page.

THE BRIGHT DOOM. By John Hall Wheelock. Scribners. \$2.

THE EEL. By Evan Morgan. Brentanos. \$1.50.

THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND HELL. By William Blake. Dutton. \$10.

Brief Mention

THERE seems never to be a dearth of books of travel. On our shelf this sennight Italy appears as the most popular country. *Imprimis*, here is "Italy from End to End," by H. Warner Allen. (Dodd, Mead.) The front end-paper is an excellent map, and there is an introductory chapter on the art of traveling which tourists would do well to read. Along his road the author takes up anecdotally the Rome of the Borgias, Tuscany, the Adriatic and Umbria, the mountains and the plains, Naples and the South, and Sicily. The book is provided with a good index. E. M. Newman's "Seeing Italy" (Funk & Wagnalls, \$5) is profusely illustrated with photographs having 300 half-tones. It is a larger book than the other. The narrative, (Continued on page 358)

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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*.

I. A. J., New York, asks for books or articles on conversation.

ANYTHING that J. B. Priestley writes is worth reading and when he writes on a subject of such general interest as "Talking" one may well be glad that the volume is published here by Harper; it is one of a series on the joys of life. "Conversation," by Olive Heseltine (Methuen), is a history of "the oldest of games," beginning with the Middle Ages and tracing its mutations through the centuries one by one. The American reader who may have longed for more light on the "Souls" mentioned in Wells's "Meanwhile" (Doran) as supreme at the period when people read Stevenson's "Talk and Talkers" to improve their style of conversation, will find them described in this book's second chapter on Victorians; the author makes bright reading for us, even if she does speak of "Germany, America, and other non-English-speaking countries." "Talking Well" (Macmillan) is a book on the art of conversation by W. L. Harrington and M. G. Fulton, and there is a volume by Grenville Kleiser of "Talks on Talking" (Runk & Wagnalls). There is a pamphlet on "Table Talk in the Home," published by the Abingdon Press in its American Home Series—I wonder what effect, if any, the prevalence of restaurants is having on conversation?

And while I was in the act of wondering, the postman brought "An Essay on Conversation," by Henry W. Taft, just from the press of Macmillan, a little book strongly recommended by John H. Finley for—among other purposes—the use to which this inquirer wishes to put his list, the enlightenment of young men and women. For since the "line" has gone out to the ends of the earth, conversation does seem to be heading toward a simple exchange of *clichés*. The effect of social changes in America upon the nature and extent of our social discourse, makes one of the chapters; and the one on occasions suited to conversation is full of unexpected openings. Who would expect, for instance, that golfing would be given as one such occasion?

E. P., Washington, D. C., on behalf of a group of men readers, asks for titles of books that have no women characters, or at least where such characters are not prominent.

THESE embattled gentlemen may hold out for some time on the powerful and impressive stories by Ernest Hemingway in the volume called "Men Without Women," lately published by Scribner, and on the practically womanless "Gallions Reach," (Harper). Nor will they find, in a novel that fills the mind with deep breaths of pure and cleansing air, Willa Cather's "Death Comes for the Archbishop," (Knopf), more than passing interest attach to any woman. I have found, by the way, that the title of this novel has been keeping some people away from it, they should be reassured to learn that death does not come or cast its shadow till the last paragraph, and then it comes as an apotheosis. Not one in ten who looks back on Conrad's "Lord Jim" after a number of years can so much as remember a woman in it, while he will have a vivid mental picture of at least six of the men. Stevenson's few women characters are largely concessions; in "The Master of Bullenrae," for instance, there must be something to fight over. There are so many plays in which no woman appears that Little, Brown publish a large volume of them called "A Treasury of Plays for Men," and good plays they are too, while relations of men to women have nothing to do with the plot of Ibsen's "Enemy of the People," and if anyone thinks this handicaps a play, let him just take a look at this one as it is now being gloriously given by Walter Hampden in this city.

But the true Adamless Eden is to be found in stories for boys. I used to wonder why cowboy novels, dealing with a kind of life I find immensely attractive, filled me with paralyzing boredom. It was not until I began to read stories of this type written for boys—such as the admirable "Cowboy Hugh" (Macmillan)—that I realized that the grown-up stories had been gummed up with girls, who in the nature of things would have been irrelevant in such surroundings. Unless, of course, one admits such company as appears in Duncan Aikman's new book, "Calamity Jane and the Lady Wildcats" (Holt). This sparkling

volume introduces Pickhandle Nan, Kitty the Schenker, and other dashing ladies of the frontier.

S. L. R., Boston, Mass., asks for a selection of books suitable for preparing holiday programs.

DODD, MEAD publish a series called "Our American Holidays," edited by Robert Haven Schauflier and covering all the important celebrations in the calendar. The latest to appear is "Armistice Day," which has not only poetry but some uncommonly good prose, and two plays not too long or difficult for school production; one is by Percival Wilde, the other by Mary Reeley, and there is a pageant by Nora Archibald Smith. "Why We Celebrate," is a set of seven short plays by Marjorie Woods for as many holidays (French), tested by actual production with groups of young people. The Christmas playlet, by the way, could be further developed if so desired, and is in reverent spirit. There are plenty of poems suitable for school use in "The Nature Lover's Knapsack," edited by Edwin Osgood Grover (Crowell), and though the book is light enough to go into a real knapsack, it could be used in more than one holiday celebration. The latest collection is "Highdays and Holidays," by Florence Adams and Elizabeth McCarriek (Dutton), an unhackneyed selection of poems short enough to be readily learned, arranged to apply not only to the standard celebrations, like those of Thanksgiving, Flag Day, or the Fourth, but also to Bird day, Mother's Day, Music Week, Roosevelt's Birthday,

CONSIDERING the flood news from Vermont, there should be a special vote of thanks from this department for the following information from Mary A. D. Thomas, of Windsor in that state, which arrived while the countryside must have been still digging out:—

I notice in this week's *Saturday Review* you ask for reports on books on archeology for children, but judging by some of the books mentioned below, I gather that "archeology" here includes ancient history, as well as historical fiction. I send you the names of some books which have been read to or by my own children.

"Buried Cities," by Fannie Hall, you have already noticed. All my children who can read at all are familiar with at least the illustrations in Layard's "Nineveh" and Tsountas's "The Mycenaean Age." "The Everyday Life Series," by the Quennells (Putnam), and "History of Everyday Things in England" (Scribner), while possessing no literary merit whatever, have excellent illustrations and a great deal of information interesting to children. "The Book of the Ancient Greeks," by Dorothy Mills, is quite as good as her earlier volume, and rather better than her last, "The Book of the Ancient Romans."

"The Court of the Saxon Shore," by A. F. Church (Seely, Service Co., London), is very popular with my older children, and we have several other books by the same author: "Stories of the East from Herodotus," and "Three Greek Children" (children of any age will love this), and Church's "Children Homer" and "The Iliad and Odyssey for Boys and Girls" are excellent too.

"Ten Boys Who Lived on the Road from Long Ago to Now," by Jane Andrews (Ginn), is one of the very best books for children I know, and I enjoy it quite as much as they do. Everyone must know "Puck of Pook's Hill" and "Rewards and Fairies," which I use as reading for English history. "Viking Tales," by Jennie Hall, is very good indeed and her "Men of Old Greece" is a great favorite with us. My boys of seven and eight listen entranced to "Number Stories of Long Ago," by David Eugene Smith (Ginn), who can make even arithmetic fascinating! I have found that children of ten enjoy having selections from Pliny's Letters read aloud to them. I think most of Lanciani's book would be very interesting, too, if read aloud to quite young children, but I have not tried them. My children were delighted with Schliemann's autobiographical sketch which is printed in "Troy and Its Remains"—I don't know whether it has ever been separately printed or not. "Stories of the Stone Age," by Fellows (Small), was much enjoyed by my small boys. We have a book, "Stories in Stone from the Roman Forum," by Isabelle Lovell (Macmillan). My oldest child read "A Friend of Caesar" and "A Victor of Salamis," by William Stearns Davis (Macmillan), with complete absorption, when she was eleven. Any child in his teens would certainly enjoy them. I hope this random list may prove suggestive.

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