

The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Art

PRACTICAL PEN DRAWING. By E. G. Lutz. Scribner's. 1928. \$2.

Belles Lettres

ESSAYS IN PETTO. By the Rev. Montague Summers. London: The Fortune Press. 15s.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF SIR JOHN DENHAM. Edited with notes and introductions by Theodore Howard Banks, Jr. Yale Press. 1928. \$5.

TA HIO. THE GREAT LEARNING. By Ezra Pound. Seattle: University of Washington Book Store.

GARGANTUA AND PANTAGRUEL. By François Rabelais. Dodd, Mead. \$12.50.

THE ENGLISH ROGUE. By Richard Head and Francis Kirkman. Dodd, Mead. \$6.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SIR WALTER SCOTT. By Albert Caplan. Phila: The Head of Scott Press.

Biography

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE MARSHAL, THE DUKE OF RICHELIEU. Translated by F. S. Flint. Brentano's. New York.

The Duke de Richelieu was son of the famous Cardinal's great-nephew and heir. Beginning life as a young and inexperienced courtier during the latter part of the reign of Louis XV., he became, in time, an experienced and successful beau. Later, however, he gained a fair reputation in the French wars with the British and this won him the title of Marshal. His personal reputation, however, earned him the distrust even of Louis XV. and the hearty dislike of the royal pair who succeeded that monarch. Consequently, Richelieu was never, for more than a moment, a real national figure, and his greatest claim to distinction lay in his ability to win rapidly the hearts of virtuous bourgeois and easy duchesses, and, as quickly, to cast them aside. To this statement, there is only one exception.

These fragmentary memoirs, for they are written in the first person singular, have certain rather dubious reasons for their publication in a popular form. In the first place, there is some doubt as to their authenticity, and, in this age of jaded curiosity, anything that smacks of mystery is in demand. Another reason that is urged on their behalf is the fact that they served as fodder to feed the cannon that the "liberal Pamphleteers" of the revolution employed to discredit the *Ancien Régime*. Frankly, the Pamphlets themselves are much more exciting reading, and, from one point of view, far more important. In reality, these memoirs contribute nothing new. We have been told and told again *ad nauseam* that the French Court of Louis XV. was filthy in more ways than one. Aside from a few rather mildly interesting sidelights on the last days of Louis XIV. and on the already notorious character of the Regents who followed him, there is nothing of historical importance.

But, today, we are not always after that. So often we declare that we are in search of "things of human interest." Eh bien! Adultery in capital letters is written across the pages of this book. That may attract some readers and console a few surviving mid-Victorians who will discover that, after all, there is a similarity of subject and theme between the present and the eighteenth century. Probably, however, the consolation afforded the mid-Victorians will exceed the pleasure experienced by the sensation hunters. Even those jaded Babbittlike creatures will not find this attractively bound and beautifully printed volume to their taste. It is neither startling nor clever. There is a monotony of intrigue and a stupidity of method followed by this amorously inclined courtier that will bore them before many pages have been read. At least, if one must read such things, let us go back to the days when life was fresh and instincts were sharp. From the point of view of *amours*, the Renaissance is a spring of rippling, laughing water, and the eighteenth century, in France, at least, a small stagnant pool covered with the thick and gummy scum of the two hundred years of decline that intervened.

THE TRANSPLANTING: A Narrative from the Letters of Marie Balascheff, a Russian Refugee in France. Edited by Martha Genung Stearns. Macmillan. 1928.

Here is an interesting and a charming book. Madame Balascheff before her marriage was Princess Cantacuzene, daughter of the Russian Ambassador to this country

during the Cleveland administration. One of the most attractive things about this narrative made from her correspondence is the way her character emerges from it, strong, brave, many-sided, with a joy in life and a sense of beauty which nothing can veil for long.

She takes up her tale after her family are all safely out of Russia earning their living in various parts of Europe. She began by teaching languages at Lille, then took her eldest son, who was recovering from wounds and illness, to the fishing village of Le Crotoy for the summer holidays. There the relief from the sordidness of crowded poverty in cities and a sudden nostalgia for a home of their own determined them before autumn to spend the little money left them on the purchase of a single hectare of land, which, they were told was an amount sufficient, if well cultivated without hired labor, to keep a peasant family in decent living. On this farm the family reunited to work out their salvation together. They lived and they learned simultaneously, and the way they won through to success, provides a fascinating chronicle. Washington and the Cleve-lands, England and Queen Victoria, Russia and two Czars, figure in the pages very human. There is city life and country life in two hemispheres before the revolution and the transplanting.

LAFAYETTE. By Joseph Delteil. Minton, Balch. \$3.50.

LOUIS XIV KING OF FRANCE AND NAVARRE. By C. S. Forester. Dodd, Mead. \$4.

THE RISE OF THE HOUSE OF ROTHSCHILD. By Count Egon Caesar Corti. New York: Cosmopolitan Book Corp. \$5.

Drama

MR. PROHACK. A Comedy in Three Acts. By Arnold Bennett and Edward Knoblock. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.50.

MEN OF ANDOVER. By Claude Moore Fuess. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$3.

Education

THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF AMERICAN SECONDARY EDUCATION. By Charles Hubbard Judd. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Fiction

SO MUCH GOOD. By GILBERT FRANKAU. Harpers. 1928.

Reading "So Much Good" plays queer tricks with time. It is so much like the novels of Frank Danby in many ways that it is a surprise to consider that her son is the author, and in other ways Frankau's methods are so different from those used in "Pigs in Clover," for instance, that it seems as if more than a generation must have separated the two authors. For likeness, there is the preoccupation with the problems of love viewed from the woman's standpoint, showing woman in her relations with man as his superior in understanding, willingness to sacrifice, and fidelity. A very marked difference is apparent in the causes which bring the heroines to their situations beyond the pale of the conventionalities. The Danby women shrink behind incident and accident and are forced, helpless, by circumstances. Margery Nolan of "So Much Good" walks open-eyed through the social hedges. And, though Frank Danby in her day was considered dangerously realistic in her treatment of life and love, her son comes after much pioneering work along this line and can with safety go to lengths that would have caused a furore twenty-five years ago.

"So Much Good" is the book of Margery Nolan, an Australian, a tobaccoist's daughter, and a personality of frank magnetism. The path she follows is neither very straight nor very narrow, but she maintains an honesty with herself which prevents her story from becoming merely the record of a dame galante. Her first lover she sacrifices for his good. Her husband she leaves to go to a second lover. She loses him through death and yet life runs on a long time for Margery and brings her to strange ends in New York. This novel "in a manner" has a sort of hail-fellow-well-met air about it which seems to say that the characters have been allowed to follow out their destiny without interference—in reality they jump very neatly through the author's hoops and sit up when he snaps his fingers.

THE COWARD. By NEAL WAINWRIGHT. New York: Payson & Clarke. 1928. \$2.

In the sensual vein of a Remy de Gourmont, or the Stendhal of "D'Amour," Mr. (Continued on next page)

The Biography of an American Genius

Three years before Fulton's venture with the *Clermont*, John Stevens sailed the first successful steam vessel up the Hudson River—

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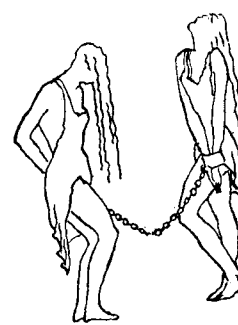
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Edited by

John Livingston Lowes

The White Slave Traffic between France and The Argentine The Road to Buenos Ayres by ALBERT LONDRES



Albert Londres became a member of "The Center", the ring that controls the international white slave traffic. All the way down from the respected "magnates" of this terrible traffic to the women themselves (some of whom earned as much as \$45,000 a year for their "managers"), he made a personal study. Every statement is based on direct experience. His book confirms the suppressed League of Nations report. It has made a sensation in France.

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GOOD BOOKS



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Leading Fiction

The Torches Flare

by **Stark Young**

A brilliant novel of the New York theatre and of life on a placid Southern plantation. \$2.50

Ambition by **Arthur Train**
Fifth printing. \$2.50

Queer Street

by **John Wiley**

\$2.00

They Could Not Sleep
by **Struthers Burt** \$2.00

The Black Cap

New stories of Murder and Mystery

compiled by **Cynthia Asquith** \$2.00

Blind Man's Buff

by **Francis Lynde**

\$2.00

at all bookstores

Charles Scribner's Sons
New York

The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

Wainwright has made what appears to be a sincere effort at being profound. Unfortunately profundity cannot be forced; like culture, it is the result of deep resources, not a sudden spurt of enthusiastic effort. Mr. Wainwright, by drawing two spontaneous characters into an exotic passion, synthesizing this passion and silhouetting it against various cosmopolitan backgrounds, has aimed at a stirring exposition of the anatomy and physiology of love.

"The Coward," or hero, of this romance is a handsome drunkard who is found in his cups at Barbizon by a very unusual lady. Thereafter, this ecstatic Earth-Mother stands in the same relation to our hero, though not so Platonic, as the scintillating duchess stands to Fabrizio in "La Chartreuse." In the end, the drunkard rides the water wagon, and writing a book, redeems himself. He thus earns the right to stand straight and proudly before the woman he loves . . . were she not already married and experimenting in new sensations.

The book is redundant with the sort of Bohemian material which made such profitable meat for Michael Arlen. And for this, if for no other reason, it is destined to go a long way. It has limitless potentialities for supplying the Hearst and MacFadden readers with a little-needed aphrodisiac, for replacing Elinor Glyn in the hearts of America's sex-starved youth.

Mr. Wainwright's ideas are not sparse. He has numberless things to say about love, and society, and intoxication . . . all of which, in themselves, have a certain novel value. Had his book less of a conscious striving for sensuous effects and fewer stilted conceits, it would rank along the "Blind Bow Boy" level. As it is, its flamboyant mannerisms, its excessive alliteration, and its "ticking, clicking, dotting, dashing Western Union" sort of atrocities effect a considerable discount.

AMBITION. By **ARTHUR TRAIN.** Scribners. 1928. \$2.50.

Mr. Train risks affronting the conventions by setting parts of his newest novel in Boston, without yielding to either necessity of the literary attitude, the faded one of the Village or the renovated one of Upton Sinclair. His heterodoxy extends to finding the civilization of the Back Bay in some respects still superior. That won't do at all, of course, and happily "Ambition" has faults enough to point the moral.

The faults are the familiar ones of Mr. Train's quality. Swift, superficially general characterizations with a momentary conviction make for good reading, but do not get very far toward reality. A hasty acceptance of well-smoothed devices achieves what is known as plot and keeps the story moving, but forbids any genuine exposition of life. Rapid competence of style suffices to make the way smooth but inhibits distinguished writing. The adjectives describe this novel of Mr. Train's and nearly all the rest of his work: swift, hasty, smooth, competent, superficially convincing. They may also indicate why his achievement in fiction has never equaled his endowment for it. That endowment is really immense: a life of action which makes the scope of most novelists seem valetudinarian, a knowledge of financiers, sportsmen, and wealthy women (the characters, remember, of seven-tenths of our fiction) which is real and not the grotesque fancy that gets into many good novels, a cosmopolitanism that has not been acquired during a single autumn in Montmartre, and genuine subtlety of what, for want of a stricter word, must be called culture. And yet out of all this comes only competence.

"Ambition" tells the story of Simon Kent. He is a Bostonian born to a tradition of liberal thought. After Harvard and the Harvard Law School he goes to New York and enlists with a law-factory, very distressingly model. This firm, several characters, and perhaps some incidents have keys, for it appears that Mr. Train is writing a tract as well as a novel, but the lay reader cannot identify them. Simon marries a climber, is rushed remorselessly on through a career that accomplishes more in a half-dozen years than one would think possible in twenty, and finally declares, against the law-factory, for righteousness. He thereupon resigns from the firm, is divorced by his wife, and delivers himself, spiritually cleansed, to a nicer girl. Just why the attainment of a wealthy virgin, after deliverance from a wife who was not originally quite that, should be confused with honor in the law is left unexplained. One wonders which is means and which is end.

The novel as a whole is only competent. It is good reading and no more. And yet—the first seventy pages, Simon's boyhood and youth, are far finer stuff. The Boston of thirty-odd years ago really lives in them, and in that Boston Simon Kent really lives. This part of the book, done almost perfunctorily as a necessary prelude to a story that is only ordinary, is genuine art. One would find no fault with Mr. Train if he would only do a book on that level throughout. All it takes is leisure: for some reason the only price Mr. Train is unwilling to pay

SEA LEGS. By **ALFRED F. LOOMIS.** Appleton. 1927. \$2.00.

WHEN the boys, Thad Putnam and Chuck Williams swim out to the yacht *Cygnat*, as pretty a yawl as ever dragged her anchor and veered cable, and save her from the rocks off Litch Haven, doing it all by luck rather than by knowledge, you still have to admire their spirit. So the *Cygnat*, saved under the eyes of her owner, Mr. Manson, a well-to-do bachelor, and duly grateful to the boys, starts us with a fair wind on as neatly spliced a sea yarn as you would want to find.

Alfred Loomis knows his yawl, and his boys, and he does a perfectly charming story of the adventures of Thad and Chuck under the tutelage of Jem Adams, an old square rigged sailor in semi-retirement at Litch Haven. Jem is the word and the law and the example of everything that is ship-shape and Bristol fashion, and he is full of the great tradition of the sea.

My boys, twelve and fourteen, both sailors of a sort, having cruised with me off soundings and twice across the Atlantic, rode the pages of *Sea Legs* before I could get hold of it to examine its lading. "That's a bully book, dad," was the verdict.

Mr. Loomis has gone a step or so beyond making a story that will appeal to boys. It is really an excellent guide in the fascinating sport of sailing like a sailor, and of doing things on board ship in a seamanlike and effective way. The older yachtsman may find in its pages a great deal of very valuable information. Seamanship and navigation are best gained by experience, but here the fictional experience makes the reading vivid and impressive.

Sea Legs is a mighty good book.

PEASANTS. By **KONRAD BERCOVICI.** Doubleday, Doran. 1928. \$2.

Even without the copyright notices, these short stories would betray the fact that they were written for magazines. They have the mark of *Collier's*, the *Woman's Home Companion*, and the *Pictorial Review*. As commercial magazine stories they are good; as attempts at literature they nearly all fall short of their mark. They lack the freshness, the rude strength, the originality of Mr. Bercovic at his best. Yet this collection of tales does have one virtue—it possesses far more unity than such sheafs usually have, and the cumulative effect of a succession of stories treating the same class of people in different countries is considerable. They are one and all stories of peasants; of workers on the land in France, Roumania, Sicily, Spain, and for good measure, Dakota. Mr. Bercovic is at his simplest and truest, and therefore by all odds the most satisfactory, when he is describing the shepherds, the woodsmen, and the farmer of his own Roumanian plains and mountains. Such a story as "The Master," a tale of a perverse dog, a Tartar girl, and the people of a Dobrudjan village, does leave behind the mere magazine effects achieved in most of the others, and enter within the bounds of literature; it is a poetic and yet realistic picture of a life that is both idyllic and strange.

SPRING TIDE. By **Octavus Roy Cohen.** Appleton. 1928. \$2.

THE SINGLE STANDARD. By **Adela Rogers, St. John, N. Y.** Cosmopolitan. 1928. \$2.

DARK PRINCESS. By **U. E. B. Du Bois.** Harcourt, Brace. 1928. \$2.

THE MYSTERY OF UNCLE BOLLARD. By **H. de Vere Stacpoole.** Doubleday, Doran. 1928. \$2.

MYSTERY RANGE. By **Charles Alden Seltzer.** Doubleday, Doran. 1928. \$2.

TRUB'S DIARY. By **John Taintor Foote.** Appleton. 1928. \$2.

ME & HENRY & THE ARTILLERY. By **William Hazlett Upson.** Doubleday, Doran. \$2.

THE SPLENDID CALIFORNIANS. By **Sidney Herschell Small.** Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

THE LOVE LETTERS OF A HUSBAND. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50.

THE NORNS ARE SPINNING. By **Andreas Hankland.** Translated from the Norwegian by **Barent Ten Eyck.** N. Y.: Macy-Masius. \$2.50.

Collector's Choice

By **John T. Winterich**

IN A PRIMER OF BOOK COLLECTING, Mr. Winterich succeeded in writing a manual calculated to guide the beginner's book collecting instincts without influencing his collecting tastes. Of this book A. Edward Newton said: "It is an invaluable little book for any one who is beginning to play this book collecting game. It has my unqualified indorsement."

IN COLLECTOR'S CHOICE, the author presupposes on the part of the reader only the will to collect books and no necessary fund of expert knowledge on how to go about it. He discusses the problems in which the collector must exercise a choice or make his own decision—as in the question of condition, of issues, of completeness, and so on. Joyously indeed does Mr. Winterich present the satisfaction which the collector derives from his discoveries. "There isn't a dull line in it," said the *Boston Transcript* of the *Primer*. Neither is there in *Collector's Choice*. It is a useful and entertaining book about books—a veritable treasure map for the collector. [\$2.50]

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