

## Books of Special Interest

### An Academic Utopia

**COLLEGE OR KINDERGARTEN?** By MAX MCCONN. New York: The New Republic. 1928. \$1.

Reviewed by JAMES L. MCCONAUGHTY

THE recent books on the American college would fill a two-foot shelf, at least. One thinks at once of the studies by Dr. Kelly, Warden Bell, Professor Richardson, Instructor Marks, the undergraduates of Dartmouth, and the criticisms by Veblen, Kirkpatrick, and Upton Sinclair—and, best of all, by a layman, a non-college graduate, "College," by John Palmer Gavit. Another worth while criticism is added to the shelf in this book, with its challenging, but scarcely justifiable title, by the Dean of Lehigh, formerly the Registrar of the University of Illinois, doubly interesting as a college critic because in spite of his long administrative experience, he has never been a college professor.

Most educational literature is Utopian in point of view,—Plato told of an ideal educational scheme, never yet realized; so did Bacon, Comenius, Rousseau, Jefferson,—and McConn. Educational daydreams are intellectually provoking and worth while, although the reviewer gravely doubts whether this one ever should, or could, be realized. Dean McConn's thesis is that most students go to college to-day for social prestige and advantages, but not for scholarship. He recommends a differentiation of our colleges into two types,—one, the "Kindergarten" or "Gentleman's College," with interesting lectures, easy courses, stimulating athletics and extra-curriculum activities, but little or no pretense of scholarly work. In the other, "the Real College," intellectual pursuits would be supreme, with inspiring teachers and preceptors, and no students except those who are earnest scholars. The description of the latter kind of college,—an academic Utopia,—fills most of the book. Admission to it would be by a combination of school certificate, questionnaire, psychological examination, and personal interview, rather than by College Board or other type of entrance examinations. The Survey course would play a large part in the curriculum of the first two years, and the work

of the last two would be largely preceptorial and in seminars. The faculty would have sharply differentiated duties: some would be merely quiz masters for elementary drill work, some lecturers, most would be preceptors or tutors, for the direction of individual student's work. Faculty research would not be stressed, as this, the author believes, is chiefly a university concern. All students and most of the faculty would live together; fraternities would vanish; 2,000 is the desired size of such a "Real College." It is to be coeducational, because the author believes the segregated college for men often results in vice and sends out graduates unable to understand and deal with women,—two conclusions with which probably most college administrators will disagree. Intercollegiate athletics would be lacking, or at least insignificant; intramural athletics would flourish, and student activities would be almost exclusively intellectual. The college would be governed by a combination of faculty, students, and alumni, and no trustees. Finally, this separation of colleges into "gentleman's institutions" and "real colleges" will soon be forced upon us by the Junior College movement, which Dean McConn believes dooms the present type of college.

Well, perhaps so, and quite probably not! It may be fairly stated that many colleges are "real" to-day,—or very close to this ideal. Again one wonders which college will, willingly, accept the "gentleman's kindergarten" ideal and give up any pretense of scholarly ideals. Certainly no state is likely to permit its own state supported institution to do so; and one mentally checks over the Eastern colleges in vain, to find one which to-day is not markedly emphasizing scholarship. Whether donors could be found to establish a new "kindergarten" type of institution, seems doubly doubtful. Furthermore, one wonders whether the "real" college, lacking the charming "gentleman" type, would not chiefly appeal to academic prigs, who decry athletics and all social contacts, and who, many of us feel, would make up a rather uninspiring group for a college undergraduate body. Would not a more normal application of this proposal be a common

freshman and sophomore year, followed by the differentiation, and perhaps segregation on a special spot on the campus, of those scholastically ambitious juniors and seniors who are intent on a "real" education,—leaving the gentlemen to carry on the college "activities," which *do* have a value, and letting each group, parts of the same institution, supplement the work of the other?

However, the book is stimulating, easy to read, cheap to buy, and worthy of consideration by all interested in the future of a rapidly changing institution,—the American college.

### The Savoyards

**THE STORY OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN: or The "Compleat" Savoyard.** By ISAAC GOLDBERG. New York: Simon & Schuster. 1928. \$6.

Reviewed by ROBERT W. MARKS

AS a mechanism of escape from the two dominant Victorian illusions—the illusion that motion is progress and that smugness is culture—English cynics developed the nonsense verse. In the days when a woman's leg was one of the unmentionable parts of her anatomy, and a woman's body was decorously camouflaged as a spool of cotton, W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan—the Savoyard twins—arose to parody queen, courtesan, and Mrs. Grundy in a mirror of tuneful nonsense. They held up the mirror to life; but their mirror was astigmatic and reflected unholy things. The British public had developed inhibitions. The mauve seriousness of a suddenly industrialized civilization and the pristine reins of the wife of Albert, prince-consort, had effected chafing suppressions in the subconscious of the Empire. The two pontiffs of Savoy, having combined talents at a psychological moment—the one biting maliciously at the absurdities of the day in an approved medium, the other fixing the venom firmly in the public mind with catching airs—became, almost overnight, the national apostles of escape.

This, in brief, is the leading motif of Mr. Goldberg's work. Gilbert and Sullivan were, after all, he says, moralists, not sociologists. They chided personal foibles, and only indirectly social abuses. Yet something vital in them lives beyond their time; they still speak to an age that knows neither corset nor petticoat, that votes with its women, and finds Freud insufficiently aphrodisiac. Perhaps it is because they chide individuals and not institutions that their works, so admirably held in solution by Sullivan's music, has lived.

The undercurrent of the book has to do with the paradoxes in the nature of this strange pair whose star was one of genius when their forces were joined, of mediocre oratory and oratorio when apart. Gilbert fights his way through the pages assigned to him, waging his inner warfare against pompous rhetoric, Katishas, or Queen Victoria-like women, and a prose style which was a cross between that of Jim Tully and the late Dr. Frank Crane. Sullivan, left to himself, would have kept onward with the Christian Soldiers, and all his life sung soprano—or falsetto—in the church choir.

The field of Mr. Goldberg's work includes a survey of the English drama and burlesque prior to the advent of Gilbert and Sullivan, the life and earlier works of each, and a historical and critical estimate of the substance of each opera . . . in chronological order. Its structure displays the same opaque quality that marked "The Man Mencken," of three years back—an opaque quality which results from too ponderous a mass of detail suspended from a framework in which there has been little economy of material, in which every available fact garnered from obscure sources had been fitted, even with a sledge hammer. The author's research in the files of Savoyana has been long and profound, as his contributions to current periodicals have testified. And in the hundreds of pages of this tome, he has endeavored to free his conscience of the sins of omission.

Regarded from a technical angle—the angle of the student, and not the lay, romantic reader, "The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan" is more significant. Mr. Goldberg has unquestionably chronicled the vital and interpretive statistics of the Savoyard period. Regardless of organization, this meat is there. And with judicious reading and due regard for the index and table of contents, it can be effectively extracted. But whether this is done or not, the book stands as the only American contribution to the literature of those two who defied a "wise—though not the only—attitude toward that bit of nonsense verse called existence," and perhaps the most complete work which in that field has yet been written.

### Walt Whitman's Workshop

Edited by CLIFTON J. FURNESS

A collection of hitherto unpublished manuscripts by Walt Whitman which clarify the purpose, growth, and gradual unfolding of "Leaves of Grass." The editor has added a large number of detailed notes for the purpose of clearing up various questions and to correlate as nearly as possible the whole body of Whitman's work with biographical and historical data. A unique feature is the inclusion of extensive quotations from unpublished notebooks of John Burroughs. The edition is limited to 750 copies. \$7.50 a copy.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

2 RANDALL HALL,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

### Highlights of a list

that has won the

APPLAUSE of a NATION!

Books — colorful books, gay books, thoughtful books—here is a rich list to choose from.

**Fabulous New Orleans** By Lyle Saxon. It makes the City of Mystery glow with color, carnival and voodoo. *Illus. by Suydam.* \$5.00

**Nights Abroad** By Konrad Bercovici. Unconventional prowlings through Old World capitals. *Illus.* \$4.00

**A-Rafting on the Mississippi** By Charles Edward Russell. Rugged, glorious days on the river fascinatingly retold. *Illus.* \$3.50

**Mexico and Its Heritage** By Ernest Gruening. A masterly, comprehensive study of Mexico and its problems. *Illus.* \$6.00

**The Last of Free Africa** By Gordon Mac Creagh. Laughing through Abyssinia with a high-spirited huntsman. *Illus.* \$4.00

**The Impatience of A Layman** By Hugh A. Studdert Kennedy. A ringing call to a new life of courage and common sense. \$2.00

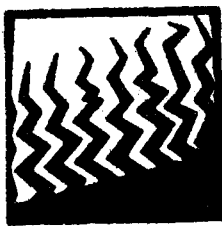
**The Chevalier Bayard** By Samuel Shellabarger. A plaster saint of the Middle Ages becomes a human being. *Illus.* \$4.00

For further information about these and other titles, send for a FREE copy of CENTURY BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

The Century Co.

353 Fourth Avenue, New York

# FIRE DOWN BELOW



We all know families apparently serene and prosperous, near which hovers a chaos ready to break into destroying flames. This is the story of such a family and of a young girl who was sacrificed to love. By the author of "Knock 4 Times." \$2.50

**BOSTON TRANSCRIPT:** "Peregrine is a very apt portrait of a man who feels the middle years of life hard upon him and who seeks to avert them by evoking the passions of youth."

**NEW YORK TIMES:** "The book is written in a musical, richly poetic style. Especially are the conversations and evocations of natural beauty noteworthy. She (Miss Irwin) has written something that hovers on the verge of being a really notable achievement."

By **MARGARET IRWIN**

Harcourt, Brace and Company  
383 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

Your  
**Christmas  
Gift**  
for every age—

Gift Edition  
**Winnie-The-Pooh  
The House At Pooh  
Corner**

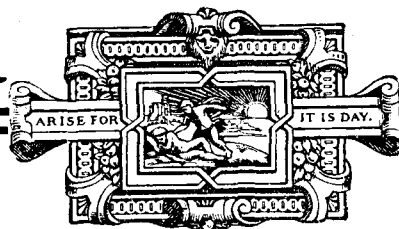
Together in a gorgeous box. \$5.00  
each vol. \$2.50.

**Now We Are Six  
When We Were Very  
Young**

Together in a gorgeous box. \$5.00  
each vol. \$2.50.

E. P. DUTTON & CO., Inc.  
286-302 Fourth Ave.  
New York City

## BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS



## The \$25,000 Prize Novel

"The Father should become a best seller. It has many appealing qualities—plenty of action, honest sentiment, picturesque details, and a striking personality in the father himself." Isabel Patterson in *The New York Herald Tribune*.



## THE FATHER

By KATHARINE HOLLAND BROWN

The love of Mercy Rose for her father is the kind of love which awakens a responsive chord somewhere in all of us. It creates the atmosphere of the novel—but there are so many delightful and homey incidents which make the plot and keep you

chuckling gently to yourself. Here is Abraham Lincoln, Mercy's faithful friend, at the time when he called himself "a backwoods country lawyer and a failure." And it was the father who converted Lincoln to the abolitionist cause. \$2.00

## If Your Friends Like Colorful Maps

for wall decoration, this beautiful map, in the antique style, will certainly be an appropriate gift. Ten colors, 2½x4 feet. On parchment paper.

## THE MAP OF LINDBERGH'S FLIGHTS

By MAJOR ERNEST CLEGG  
Rolled or Folded  
\$2.00

## THE GREAT AMERICAN BANDWAGON

By CHARLES MERZ  
Still rolling along. \$3.00

## GEORGE SAND: The Search for Love

By MARIE JENNEY HOWE

"A rounded picture of the life and career of one of the most fascinating women of all times."—Fanny Butcher in *The Chicago Tribune*. Illustrated. 3rd printing. \$5.00

## PASSION IS THE WIND

By BRIDGET DRYDEN  
Love against the background of a modern department store. "The author possesses an amazing ability to evoke places, people, and situations."—*N. Y. Herald Tribune*. \$2.00

## IN THE BEGINNING

By NORMAN DOUGLAS  
"A gorgeous piece of imaginative, ironic fiction."—Louis Sherwin in *The New York Sun*. \$2.50

## ROVING YEARS

By SIDNEY WALTER POWELL

A charming book by one who has wandered incorrigibly through the remotest corners of the world. \$2.50

## BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE

By DONALD BARR CHIDSEY

"A careful, honest life . . . written with literary grace and liveliness."—*Boston Transcript*. Illustrated. \$3.50

Let Old Trader Riddell solve the problem of a Christmas book for your literary friends

## MEANING NO OFFENCE

By JOHN RIDDELL

The Old Book Reviewer of *Vanity Fair*

GIVE them these saucy, impudent and uproarious parodies which have been delighting the readers of *Vanity Fair* for the past year, and now, with new material, are presented in book form. And read them yourself for the sheer delight of seeing John Riddell make joyful hash of a dozen current masterpieces. Pictures by Covarrubias. \$2.00

If you haven't read this novel—YOU WILL

## GIANT KILLER

By ELMER DAVIS

The story of King David of Israel who got the credit while others did the work

"VIVID, shrewd, skilful."—*New York Post*.  
"Vigorous, powerful, full of blood and as full of dreams."—Fanny Butcher in the *Chicago Tribune*.  
"A book to beg, borrow or steal. Incidentally, to buy. But by fair means or foul, read it."—Floyd Van Vuren in *Milwaukee Journal*. \$2.50

Just the gift for your outdoor sports enthusiast

## \$PORT\$

Heroics and Hysterics

By JOHN R. TUNIS

With drawings by Johan Bull

PROFESSIONAL amateurs and other sport paradoxes. "The first live, entertainingly breezy book on sports . . . superbly ironic."—George Trevor.

"Highly amusing, highly instructive . . . from the engaging pen of New York *Evening Post's* tennis expert. He has done a good job of airing his views."—*Saturday Review*. \$2.50

A beautiful illustrated volume boxed—just right for Christmas

## VATHEK

By WILLIAM BECKFORD of Fonthill

Introduction by Ben Ray Redman  
Illustrated by Mahlon Blaine

THE droll, luxuriant, oriental romance of Vathek, the most magnificent of caliphs and most curious of men. With 100 drawings, now grotesque now amusing, now tragic, all sensitively suited to the varying moods of the story.

In the same format:

SALAMMBO, THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

Each boxed, \$5.00

## Books of Special Interest

## STAGE

## DECORATION

By SHELDON CHENBY

Evolution of stage forms illustrated by 256 plates never before brought together, with full explanatory captions. Boxed, \$10.00

## CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN WRITERS

By WILLIAM A. DRAKE  
Biographical and critical discussions. \$3.50

## THE NEW DAY IN HOUSING

By LOUIS H. PINK

\$3.50

## THE BOOK OF WEAVING

By ANNA NOTT SHOOK

\$10.00

## SOVIET RUSSIA in the SECOND DECADE

A Joint Survey by the Technical Staff of the First American Trade Union Delegation.

\$4.00

## Books About Modern Education

## CHILDREN IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL

By HARRIET M. JOHNSON

Illustrated, \$3.00

## BETTER SCHOOLS

By CARLETON WASHBURN and MYRON M. STEARNS

\$2.50

## THE ACTIVITY SCHOOL

By ADOLPH FERRIERE

\$4.00

386 FOURTH AVENUE

THE JOHN DAY COMPANY

NEW YORK CITY