

## 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

THE HUMAN FORM IN ART. By F. R. YERBURY. Marshall Jones. 1928.

The title of the book would suggest an encyclopedic scope. Actually the subject is more modest—the use of the model in advertising design. There are about ninety half-tone cuts of nude models, single or grouped, and the text is largely confined to suggestions by which these photographs may serve as the basis for effective commercial design. The merit of the method can only be weighed by a practitioner of commercial art, which your reviewer is not. In any other form of art, to consult the model before the design had been conceived would be to put the cart before the horse. In advertising art it may be otherwise. The book is well printed, the cuts clearly made from carefully chosen models, with a minimum of that disagreeableness with which the camera ordinarily invests the human altogether.

### Belles Lettres

THE ESSAYS OF MICHAEL, LORD OF MONTAIGNE. Dutton. 3 vols. \$10.  
20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, OR DAVID COPPERFIELD. By Robert Benchley. Holt. \$2.

### Biography

TAMERLANE THE EARTH SHAKER. By HAROLD LAMB. McBride. 1928. \$4.

This, a companion volume to the author's recent book on "Genghis Khan," narrates the history of the other great Asiatic world conqueror. It is based on a variety of authorities ancient and modern, and gives something of the atmosphere of the Oriental world and of the fourteenth century. Whether any one can explain Tamerlane to the western mind is another question. His pyramid of skulls is merely the biggest one of the kind, and his military genius is still an unsolved problem. The volume is well illustrated and makes interesting reading.

SAMUEL PEPYS. By Arthur Ponsonby. Macmillan. \$1.25.  
TIBERIUS CESAR. By G. P. Baker. Dodd, Mead. \$3.50.  
FAMILIAR LETTERS ON IMPORTANT OCCASIONS. By Samuel Richardson. Dodd, Mead. \$4.  
MARY SHELLEY. By Richard Church. Viking. \$2.  
RACHEL. By James Agate. Viking. \$2.  
THE LIFE AND WRITING OF JOHN BUNYAN. Harpers. \$2.  
STALKY'S REMINISCENCES. By Major General L. C. Dunsterville. Macmillan. \$2.50.  
THE LETTERBOOK OF SIR GEORGE ETHEREDGE. Edited by Sybil Rosenfeld. Oxford University Press. \$7.50.  
MEMORIES OF A NUN. By Denis Diderot. Brentanos. \$4.  
THE LETTERS OF DOROTHY OSBORNE TO WILLIAM TEMPLE. Edited by G. C. Moore Smith. Oxford University Press. \$7.  
LIFE AND TIMES OF C. R. DAS. By Prithwis Chandra Ray. Oxford University Press. \$5.  
MEMORIES OF THE DUC DE LAUZUN. Translated by C. K. Scott Moncrieff. Brentanos. \$4.

### Drama

THE BEST PLAYS OF 1927-1928. Edited by BURNS MANTLE. Dodd, Mead. 1928. \$3.

Once again the indefatigable Burns Mantle has performed for the theater the service that Edward J. O'Brien so untiringly performs each year for the short story. In this volume, which is the ninth of his annual collections of "Best Plays," Mr. Mantle chooses for inclusion from the season just past, "Strange Interlude," "The Royal Family," "Burlesque," "Coquette," "Behold the Bridegroom," "Porgy," "Paris Bound," "Escape," "The Racket," and "The Plough and the Stars." There is room for quarrel with the selection, as there always is in such a list. Objections may be raised against "Behold the Bridegroom" and "The Racket," in favor of "Marco Millions," "Maya," "The Trial of Mary Dugan," "Twelve Thousand," or any other candidate which personal preference may nominate. But no one can fail to be grateful to Mr. Mantle for the rôle he so ably undertakes as statistician to each year's theater. His own chronicle of "The Season in New York" is as direct as it is helpfully reminding. Against it, it is interesting to read the subsequent records by Virginia Dale and George C. Warren of the seasons in Chicago and San Francisco.

The great value of Mr. Mantle's book, however, is not in its signed summaries of past events, or even its condensation of the ten "best plays." It lies, instead, in

the rich data the volume affords. It is his inclusion of the full casts for each production of the year, the number of the performances each play has achieved, the date on which it opened and the theater at which it played, the complete facts of the Little Theater Tournament, the statistical summary of the season, the list of plays "that have run over five hundred performances on Broadway," the birthplace and birth dates (perhaps not so accurate) of prominent actors, and the "necrology," the sad department with which the volume ends that makes it indispensable both for the worker in the theater, and the out-of-town playgoer who wants to keep up with what he may not have had the chance to see.

EVA LE GALLIENNE CIVIC REPERTORY PLAYS. Edited by Miss Le Gallienne. Norton. \$3.50.

ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK STAGE. By George C. D. Odell. Vols. III and IV. Columbia University Press.

YOUNG LOVE. By Samson Raphaelson. Brentanos. \$2.

THOMAS HEYWARD. By Otelia Cromwell. Yale University Press. \$2.50.

BETWEEN FAIRS. By Wilfrid Gibson. Macmillan.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF DRAMATIC ART. By Donald Clive Stuart. Appleton. \$6.

THE AGAMEMNON OF ÆSCHYLOS. Translated by Sir Henry Sharp. Oxford University Press. 85 cents.

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER. By Allison Gaw and Ethelean Tyson Gaw. Longmans, Green. \$1.50.

### Fiction

SECOND EDEN. By FLORENCE WARD. Macrae Smith. 1928. \$2.50.

"This is a good, honest book. Florence Ward, an enthusiastic, hard-working writer, has the intelligence, which, in her case serves instead of talent, to write about the life she knows best. At a time when our really excellent young men go as far afield

(Continued on next page)

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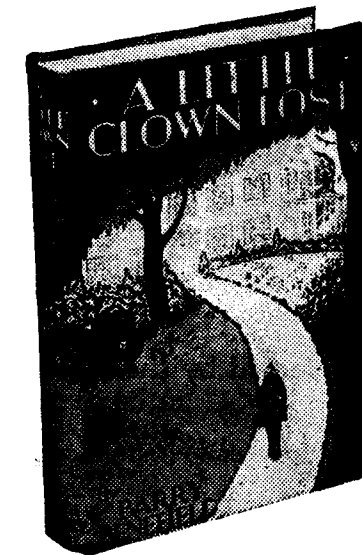
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### The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

as possible for material, or when they stay at home find it fashionable to scoff at Main Street, it is refreshing to read a straightforward, objective story of a small town woman who finds no cause for self pity in her lot, and who takes life very directly with considerable courage and zest. Small town journalism, small town politics and ethics, are Miss Ward's materials, and she makes them very much alive.

Humor is totally lacking, and Miss Ward is an example of the hideous enslavement to the *cliché*. There are sentences, even whole pages, which should simply be struck out. The plot is obvious—the devoted wife and happy family, the sudden discovery of the husband's infidelity, the faithful friend-of-the-husband, worshipping in loyal silence. The husband gets his due, the friend's lifetime devotion is rewarded, and in this case the happy couple go off to start all afresh on another newspaper. But there is considerable feeling for character, and a satisfying, detailed, but not dragged-in reality of background, which comes from knowledge of the subject in hand.

**THE WORLD I SAW.** By ANNA SHANNON MONROE. Doubleday, Doran. 1928. \$2.50.

The world this lady saw was that through which she passed while making her way upward as a novelist and as the author of articles and short stories in widely circulated magazines. She came unheralded to Chicago for her start, there soon had a first book accepted, and while awaiting the fate of numerous fiction manuscripts which she sent to popular Eastern periodicals, earned her living as a free-lance contributor to the daily press. Success shone permanently upon her when Theodore Dreiser, then editing the *Delineator*, bought twelve articles from her dealing with business women's careers. There soon followed flattering receptions from *Good Housekeeping*, the mighty *Bok*, Mr. Lorimer, and other editorial moguls, which proved that she had positively arrived to stay. We have found her cheerful, unpretentious reminiscences agreeable and entertaining, but that portion of her book which dwells upon the author's life of several years ago in Chicago and her associations with the Press Club of that city, seemed to us decidedly the most interesting.

**THE LAND OF THE GOLDEN SCARABS.** By DIOMEDES DE PEREYRA. Bobbs-Merrill. 1928. \$2.

Besides other merits, this unusual South American adventure tale has the distinction of being written by one of the very few men who has penetrated and explored the

(Continued on page 526)

By ARTHUR STRINGER

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—NATHANIEL A. BENSON in *Toronto Saturday Night*

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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*.

L. O., Palo Alto, California, says, "I should be glad of a list of standard books on the subject of demonology and animism, with some indication of their cost."

THE reader who begins a tour of witchcraft books with "The Witch Cult in Western Europe," by M. A. Murray (Oxford University Press), is fortified against an error to which many modern readers are prone. Because the phenomena of "bewitchment" are handily explicable by modern psychiatry, it is often hastily assumed that the whole thing was only wholesale hallucination and hysterics. Now, that men and women, young and old, were ever really witches one may be permitted to doubt, but many men and women certainly thought they were; that witches ever did any damage with waxen images and incantations one may cheerfully deny, but one must admit that many of them tried to. That they flew through the air to Sabbats we need not credit, but they were going to them on Long Island as late as the 'forties, when the father of a friend of mine was taken by his nurse to peep through the cracks of a deserted barn and watch a circle of elderly ladies dancing widdershins around the "head-devil," a masked man in a woman's petticoat, playing the fiddle—to the end of his days the boy could whistle that tune. The dance concluded, they withdrew decorously enough to Connecticut, no doubt to New Haven, for there was a coven nearby—or was it Hartford? I cannot admit the statement of one of his family's servants that they crossed the Sound by changing a bone into a boat, though his account of finding the bone buried in the sand ready for a return-trip is quite precise. There certainly was a well-defined ritual of witchcraft, an extraordinary and fascinating survival: the ceremonies of the Sabbat, of the Beltane celebrated in John Buchan's "Witch Wood"—where they are performed by a strong delegation from the local Presbyterian church—are ancient, however dishonorable. They are, according to Prof. Murray, debased forms of the prehistoric earth-worship that took to earth when Christianity invaded and conquered Europe. Their fertility-rites, come down from a day before agriculture, are celebrated at the turns of the pastoral year.

One could, of course, begin with the "History of Witchcraft and Demonology," or the huge "Geography of Witchcraft" (Knopf), authoritative works on demonology by the Reverend Montague Summers, but while he knows all about witches, he also quite clearly believes in them—warlock, stock, and barrel. Of the Rev. Montague Summers I know nothing more than his books, but having read these with some care, I think his mind must be one of the most interesting anachronisms of modern times. Not long since he translated the "Demonology" of Ludovico Maria Sinistrari, published in a limited edition by the Fortune Press, and this summer the "Maleus Maleficarum" noticed above. The "Dæmonologie" of King James I, another earnest witch-fighter, is one of the Bodley Head Quartos published by Dutton. William Roughhead's story of James's dark adversary, black Bothwell, the "head devil" of his day, is told in "The Rebel Earl" (Dutton), which one might not guess from title or appearance to be as neat a demon-story as one would wish.

The reader content with a popular "general survey" can find it in "The Mysteries and Secrets of Magic," by C. J. S. Thompson (Lippincott), which runs from ancient times to the present amulet-sellers on Oxford-street, and has charms, pentagrams, magic squares, and exorcisms enough to bring in or put out any number of spirits, granted the proper ingredients and conditions. I learned from this book that the famous sorcerer, Doctor Dee, had his laboratory just where I lived last summer, "between Mortlake Church and the Thames"; it was not in our house, for that was not built before 1690 and it was around 1570 that Queen Elizabeth used to drop in on her way from hunting in Richmond Park and consult his celebrated "black mirror." He showed it her once against the wall of the church, across from my window, and in the church he now lies buried—not, I notice, being shown off to visitors. The air in our garden was clear of phantoms all summer: what magician could hold out against three hundred years of Mortlake bells ringing the changes over his head?

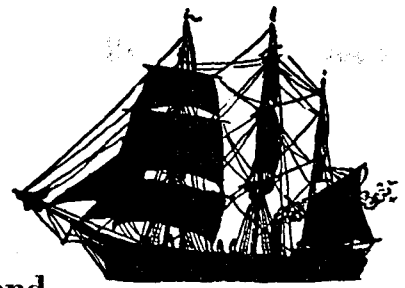
A popular work now out of print was Moncure D. Conway's "Demonology and Devil Lore"; a more recent one is J. W. Wickwar's "Witchcraft and the Black Art" (McBride). "Animism," by E. Clodd, is in the "Religions Ancient and Modern" series published by the Open Court, and G. W. Gilmore's "Animism" is published by Marshall Jones. One may go up several branch roads of the subject without getting out of the English language: "The Pagan Bible," compiled by Kenneth Sylvan Guthrie (Platonist Press), is an anthology of the soul of man and its helpers according to the ancients, from Hesiod to Dionysius the Areopagite; in a little pamphlet, "Negotium perambulans in tenebris" (Oxford), Paul Perdrizet collects "études de démonologie Græco-Orientale"; "Devil Worship," by I. Joseph (Badger), is "the sacred books and traditions of the Yezidiz," and Revell publishes "Satan, his Personality, Power, and Overthrow," by E. M. Bounds, and "Spirritism and the Fallen Angels in the Light of the Old and New Testaments," by J. M. Gray. "Are Mediums Really Witches?" by John Touey, is one of the books reviewed in the latest Benchley, "David Copperfield, or, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" (Holt), for which I have had my ear to the ground for some time, but as any book used by Robert Benchley for one of his serious book-reviews promptly takes on thereby an airy incredibility, I am not at all certain that there is really such a volume. If there is, according to the notice it must be nice and creepy. "Masks and Demons," by Kenneth MacGowan and Herman Rosse (Harcourt, Brace), is concerned as much with stagecraft as with witchcraft.

With "Irish Witchcraft and Demonology," by St. John Seymour (Oxford), we enter a new and fertile field. Are there not witches in the two volumes of "Visions and Beliefs of the West of Ireland" (Putnam), collected by Lady Gregory and William Butler Yeats? I cannot now say, for when I lent the book to a family retainer, some time since, she told me it was not right for me to have it back, because I did not believe in the Shee. So she gave me an extra copy of the "Glories of Mary" for it, and having thus ransomed the Little People from under the hand of the unbeliever, retired from domestic service and took the book with her—and I have never felt it quite polite to get another copy.

Goodspeed's in Boston publishes the three-volume "Witchcraft Delusion in New England," and "Annals of Witchcraft in New England and Elsewhere in the United States," both compiled by S. G. Drake. "Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1648-1706" are in the series of original historical narratives issued by Scribner. "Salem Witch Trials," by W. N. Gemmill, comes from McClung. There is a "Philosophy of Witchcraft," by F. Watson (Appleton), and by all means read the chapters on the subject in Lea's history of the Inquisition. It was here that first I read the statistics of Nicholas Rémy, witch-judge of Lorraine, who based his book on 900 cases executed in fifteen years; the total number executed in Germany in the seventeenth century is estimated at 100,000, France somewhat less, though Henry of Navarre had a heavy hand at it; there were 30,000 victims in Great Britain, Scotland being especially given to it.

One may watch Scotch witches in action in John Buchan's remarkable novel, "Witch Wood" (Houghton Mifflin), as reliable as any of the works of reference. An English village does its spiriting more gently in Sylvia Townsend Warner's "Lolly Willows" (Viking), and there is a deadly magic in her admirable short story, "The Maze," which makes its first appearance as one of the luxurious type-specimens with which the current volume of "The Fleuron" (Doubleday, Doran) is embellished. The very title of H. S. Gorman's novel tells a tale, "The Place Called Dagon" (Doran), but one must go deeper to get the symbolism of "The Strange Case of Miss Annie Spragg," Louis Bromfield's recent experiment in demonology (Stokes). There is a collection of "Devil Stories" (Knopf) compiled by M. J. Rudwin, but the most touching story in which a demon lover appears is "A Mirror for Witches," a story of old New England by Esther Forbes (Houghton Mifflin) that no sympathetic reader is likely to forget.

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