The New Books

(Continued from page 544)

Juvenile

down to boyhood—all of which, while negative, is fairly high praise, most books for boys being what they are. But it is as far in the direction of praise as one can go, especially since Johnson's own good book on his African experiences is well distributed and his gorgeous movie "Simba," which takes in his South Seas exploits, has been widely shown, and neither is over such heads as Commander Green aims at.

KATAHDIN CAMPS. By C. A. STE-PHENS. Houghton Mifflin. 1928. \$1.75. For the unfortunate boy or girl who does not have the opportunity of attending a summer camp, the next best thing is to read Mr. Stephens's fanciful account of the pleasant adventures and almost, but not quite fatal, mishaps that befell the strangely assorted group of boys which he conducted on a summer camping trip through the Maine woods in the days before the existence of organized summer camps.

Sound knowledge of how to deal with various woodcraft accidents-ranging from a fish-hook in the finger to a case of poisoning from eating old partridge eggs, is offered by the author. Something happens on the trip every minute of the six weeks that it lasts. There is bear hunting, trout fishing, mountain climbing, moose calling, and a thousand and one other suggested outdoor amusements. There is humor that appeals to the growing boy, discovered in such events as the hunt for that wary beast the "tree squeak." Furthermore, the author gives sensible advice on how to let boys in camp discipline themselves, under such a system as the "Katahdin Republic." Best of all, Mr. Stephens understands boyhood psychology and method of presentation to the juvenile mind so well that there can scarcely be a boy who will not say at some place in the book, "Gee, this might happen

HALSEY IN THE WEST INDIES. By HALSEY FULLER. Putnam. 1928. \$1.75.

The sole claim to attention of this book is not found, as is too frequently the case, in the extreme youth of the author, but rather in the engaging, clear, and amusing style in which the incidents that occured during a winter's sojourn in the West Indies are related. Pure and well-rounded sentences in juxtaposition to equally pure American slang form a combination which invests the most trivial happenings with an undeniable interest. But Halsey's adventures are far from trivial. Together with the "Padre," his mentor, and "Newt" he goes deep-sea fishing, searches for lost treasure, hunts tarantulas, and indulges in numerous other novel activities which must prove attractive to any normal boy between the ages of ten and sixteen. What should make this book irresistible to parents is the summation in the last chapter of the benefits derived by the author from this trip and from the teachings of the "Padre."

ONCE THERE WAS A PRINCE. By ALDIS DUNBAR. Little, Brown. 1928.

Medieval princes have long been a favorite medium for the authors of children's books. "Of the making of princes there is no end." From the earliest days of the fairy tale, when "The Little Lame Prince" sails into their vision on his magic carpet, to the more mature period when "The Prince and the Pauper" turns Edward the Sixth into a playfellow, the prince is to children the synonym for romance, glory, and adventure. Some princes we will always love for their own sake, while many others are in reality only pages decked in royal garb.

Of the latter type is Lillo, prince of Montaroya. When the story opens he is fifteen, very bored with life, and curious about the outside world, from which he has been shut away by the wicked Lord Treasurer. The very slender means of turning the entire course of Lillo's life is one sentence in a book, which he finds by accident . . . "Nothing to eat but coarse black bread." It sounds innocent enough, but for this prince it opens up endless avenues of mystery. He has never been allowed to eat,

see, or hear of bread. The meagre excuse is enough for him, and under cover of darkness he dashes forth.

The style has the advantage of simplicity, and suitability to the period. We cannot feel, however, that Lillo will be added unto

that immortal band of royalty who have

fairly leaped from the pages into flesh and

blood among the children who knew them. Lillo is a nice little boy, but his incentive for daring is just a bit far fetched.

BOB NORTH BY CANOE AND PORTAGE. By ROBERT CARVER NORTH. Putnam. 1928. \$1.75.

To set one's mind at rest as to the quantity if not the quality of American literary output in the future, one needs but to glance at the imposing list of child authors—those daring youths who each summer set out upon more or less hazardous adventures and each fall return with copious notes to be transformed into a "book written by a real boy for boys."

Such is this second literary effort of twelve-year-old Bob North, a "lone American boy traveling among strangers." In it he tells in a simple, straight-forward manner the story of his venturesome trip through the wilds of Canada. Accompanied by a Bishop and an Indian guide he shoots rapids, visits trading posts and Indian encampments, cooks flapjacks which "don't come out very well," joins in the games of Indian boys, and does a thousand and one other things which would make any youthful reader envious. He writes, "I haven't the knack of writing out what I feel"; and while it is perfectly obvious that he hasn't, this understandable failing is more than offset by an ability to write out what he sees. With a fine attention to details he presents an accurate picture of the Canadian Indian as he is today and his mode of life. An added touch of interest is furnished by the preface, written by his Indian guide, John Wesley.

Beginning to Garden. By Helen Page Woodell. Macmillan. \$1.75. FAIRY FLOWERS. By Isidore Newman. Oxford. \$3.50.

Travel

IN THE ISLES OF KING SOLOMON.
An Account of Twenty-four Years Spent
Amongst the Primitive Solomon Islanders.
By A. T. HOPKINS. Lippincott. 1928.

Anthropological and tribal lore of the black boys of these remote Solomon Islands has been assembled in this book by an author familiar for years with their characteristics and cognizant of the debilitating consequences of their contacts with Occidental civilization.

To these islands came for many years the blackbirding expeditions recruiting labor for the plantations of Fiji and Queensland. To them returned the laborer with his savings in his box of treasures, or displayed as finery on his person — but in whatever fashion, it was at once distributed to the tribal relatives, and the return to the loin cloth was swift and inevitable. Tribalism is the bane of these people and is doomed to decay as civilization presses in upon them and offers little in return save in the school villages, where private ownership of property and personal responsibility are slowly emerging. The author has given a sympathetic interpretation of their social and economic organization with its manas, tapus, the local feuds, the head hunting, the ceaseless strife of coastal and bush peoples, their harsh and often cruel customs and practices. The student of anthropology will find this book a storehouse of well-assorted information and the sociologically inclined reader interested in the latest movements of human society will find the contrasts which these primitive human organizations offer both interesting and challenging.

SEEING EGYPT AND THE HOLY LAND. By E. M. NEWMAN. Funk & Wagnalls. 1928. \$5.

This is a traveltalker's tale of the tourist route from Alexandria up the Nile to Aswan and thence from Cairo by rail to Mecca, and by camel caravan to Petra, the lost city of the Arabian mountains. Palestine is traversed from Beirut, Damascus, and Baalbek to Jerusalem. Along the route one learns much of the Zionist occupation of rural Palestine and of the efforts of American philanthropy and Hebrew industry to revive agriculture in the Holy Land. The book will be a boon to the uninformed and may be a welcome substitute for the use of those tourists who shun the services of the courier and are bored by the casual comment of the lecturer-guide. For those who can but will not read, the book has three hundred odd pictures of places and reputed sites of Biblical events and of familiar sights by the tourists' wayside of to-day.

ENGLAND BEAUTIFUL. By Wallace Nutting.

ON WANDERING WHEELS. By Jan and Cora Gordon. Dodd, Mead. \$3.50.

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AUCTION SALES

THE American Art Galleries announce the two following sales: January 30 and 31—The David Williams and the William Austin collections of Americana, consisting of letters written by George Washington, General William North, Baron von Steuben, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, and others. February 5 and 6—Whitman collection will be sold at the same time—it contains every issue and every edition of "Leaves of Grass," including the copy used by the District Attorney of Boston in suppressing the sale of the work in that city.

Later in February and in March, the Americana collection of George W. Paullin of Chicago will be sold at the same place. The collection includes books relating to the early voyages to America; the history of the West, and rare Indian captivities.

At the recent sale of the Leonard E. Opdyke library, a copy of the rare first Indian edition of the "Rubaiyat," privately printed in Madras in 1862 from the London edition, went to James F. Drake for \$690. Two other editions, the second London of 1868, the copy used in the preparation of the Columbus reprint, and the first American, Columbus, Ohio, 1870, were also bought by Mr. Drake for \$330 and \$230 respectively. A collection of first editions of the writings of Henry James in fifty-six volumes was sold to the Brick Row Book Shop for \$165, and the eight-volume 1889 edition of Audubon's "Birds of America," illustrated with five hundred colored plates, brought \$190.

In the sale the twenty-second of November at the American Art Galleries, Kipling's "Schoolboy Lyrics," Lahore, 1881, went to Dr. Rosenbach for \$2,900, while James F. Drake gave \$1,700 for twentynine numbers of the "United Services College Chronicle," of which Kipling was editor while he was at school. E. P. Dutton paid \$1,350 for a first edition of "Echoes." Lahore, 1884. James F. Drake also bought a complete file of "The Friend," thirty numbers, Bloemfontein, March-April, 1900, for \$1,025, and the "Letters of Marque," Allahabad, 1891, the rare first complete edition and a proof copy in sheets, for \$490. G. M. T.

Mr. Walter de la Mare's "The Captive and Other Poems" has recently been issued by the Bowling Green Press in an edition of six hundred copies, printed by William Edwin Rudge. For the sum of fifteen dollars, one receives Mr. de la Mare's signature on the half-title, a badly-spaced title page, a table of contents, thirteen pages containing six poems, the printer's colophon on a separate sheet, and eight blank leaves to be used, presumably, for the owner's comments or original compositions.

The R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company of Chicago has performed a genuine service to issuing "A Rod for the Back of the Binder," an intelligent, well-written discussion of bindings that, in many respects, can be looked upon as a dictionary of binding terms. The diagrams illustrating each section are particularly clear (which cannot invariably be said of all diagrams), and the full-page plates, showing various types of completed bindings, are most unusual and distinguished. The book is, of course, a kind of advertisement, but its entire purpose and execution are of so high a quality that it deserves to be considered with seriousness and respect.

There appeared recently in this department a quotation from Mr. Thomas J. Wise's bibliography of Joseph Conrad in which Mr. Wise, forgetting for the moment his customary restraint, expressed himself with particular freedom on the subject of a pamphlet called, "To My Brethren of the Pen," a privately printed, limited issue of a letter Conrad had written to a person

who, for his own personal advantage, was obviously attempting to draw him out. G. A. Parker, 247 Park Avenue, has now in his possession the original typed letter signed by Conrad, bound with a copy of the printed version. It is perhaps unfair to the Baker Company to emphasize this single item to the exclusion of the other more interesting items in its hands, but as a curiosity, it seemed worth mentioning.

G. M. T.

The James F. Drake catalogue number 202 is more than usually interesting. The chief item is unquestionably the small, black limp leather notebook kept by Thackeray in the year 1853, with every engagement noted in his precise, upright handwriting, and with two original pencil sketches on the inner back cover. It is one of the most fascinating records imaginable. The other items in the catalogue include the first issue of Beaumont and Fletcher's "Wit without Money," 1639; the genuine 1913 "Chance"; the corrected proof-sheets of Landor's "Dry Sticks, Fagoted," Edinburgh, 1858; a presentation copy of Sheridan's "The Critic"; and the copy of his first novel, "The Macdermots of Ballycloran," given by Anthony Trollope to his mother. The entire catalogue is excellent in every way.

Mr. Ernest Dressel North's catalogue number 40 contains a presentation copy of Browning's "Sordello," 1840; Galsworthy's "Silver Spoon," in the original wrapper with the silver spoon design almost instantly suppressed by Mr. Galsworthy; "Paradise Lost," with the first title-page; and Tennyson's "Poems by Two Brothers," 1827. The descriptive notes throughout are most informative and carefully done.

The English dealers' catalogues are equally worth reading. The books belonging to the late Everard Meynell, including the most interesting items from his Serendipity Shop, are now offered by J. and E. Bumpus in a manner that would not have failed to please their former owner. The prefatory note to the catalogue describes these books in Mr. Meynell's own words: "Here is an odd lot, containing, it is true, a few unique books, and a large number that are more difficult to find than the 'stars' of many a great gathering. But I have spent nothing on modern gilt and morocco; and some of the rarest books are obscure as the general public counts (there are no Burns, Byron, or Shakespeare), and even a little dowdy to look at." To anyone interested in the singularly gifted Meynell family, and in their especial friends, the entire work seems a kind of memorial.

The Myers & Company catalogue, number 268, has Coleridge's copy of the "Annual Anthology" with his autograph additions and revisions to two of his own contributions. It is somewhat startling to find that, in this firm's estimation at least, William Wordsworth is undergoing a decided increase in value.

THE GOBBLER OF GOD. By PERCY MACKAYE. New York: Longmans, Green, 1928.

R. MacKAYE'S new book of verse, a poem of the Southern Appalachians, has been wretchedly printed by Longmans (who have not apparently realized that the linotype slugs of 1900 are quite below the 1928 standard of typography), but is distinguished by wood blocks or linoleum cuts by Arvia MacKaye. These seem to me vigorous and well-drawn, if at times too bold in execution to fit into any probable type page. R.

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This is not an ideal book for Christmas. All copies of the technique of the love affair are bought at the customers' own risk and peril.

The Inner Sanctum's favorite treatise on the initiation, conduct and conclusion of the amatory relationship [NOTE: yes, the type for this paragraph is kept standing] is going better every day. but its sales are tranquil, discreet, almost mysteriously furtive.

Only yesterday the outer guardians of The Inner Sanctum reported that a young lady of quality came up to the eighth floor of Thirty Seven West 57th Street and without announcing her presence to the luckless editors inside bought and paid for THREE copies of the perfumed and anonymous handbook.

(20/20/20) Last week's outburst of columnar roman candles to signalize the sale of 2541 copies in six days of Bambi, A Life In The Woods, by FELIX SALTEN, was a bit premature. The joke is on The Inner Sanctum. As a matter of fact, last week's total was really 4351—with an order for an extra thousand copies coming in after the ballots had closed.

Garden City papers please copy: Bambi qualifies for five memberships in the thousand-copies-a-week club.

There is one other item on last week's sales chart that is so succulent that it is going to be listed in this paragraph thirteen times, so that all who run may

That figure 1976, by all the sacred deities of Ernst and Ernst, and Commissioner of Deeds and Notary Public Certificate Number 84398 [my commission expires March 31, 1929] is the actual number of copies sold last week of Cross Word Puzzle Book, Series Eleven.

Since the clientele seems to relish these specific and unadorned sales figures, here are a few others, from the weekly summary:

The Story of Philosophy The Art of Thinking Trader Horn I Trader Horn II Show Girl

The other thrills of the week were a trip to Hoboken to see After Dark, Neither Maid, Nor Wife, Nor Widow, produced with the Oxonian flourish of Christopher Morley and his Hofbrau cohorts The welcome home celebration for the roving Inner Sanctum, back from Chicago and Cleveland with recordbreaking orders and the latest trade gossip ... and the beginning of The Case of Sergeant Grischa and Elizabeth and Essex, two books that are practically keeping The Inner Sanctum bare-headed with continuous hat-doffing.

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THE 'Nineties return to us again in two recent publications. The first is a new edition of the "Poems of Ernest Dowson," boxed neatly in purple, crowsfooted with gold, bound in deep lavendar, illustrated by Elinore Blaisdell, and published by The Medusa Head. To-day, much of Dowson seems, to be frank, hardly worth preserving, though the famous poem of Cynara and a few others give this statement the lie. Lavendar is a good color for the cover of Dowson's verses. Much of what he wrote should be laid away in it. The illustrations to this volume are not first-rate either. Their style is bad, they do not properly accompany the poems, they reveal lack of imagination and complete lack of really fine draughtsmanship. Dowson is the poet for youth's despairs or for the heavy drinker late in the evening. Yet he was once considered a comet. And, perhaps, after all, rightly; for there remain, as we have said, one or two or three of his poems that will not fade. .

"The Yellow Book: A Selection," edited by Cedric Ellsworth Smith, has been published by Edwin Valentine Mitchell in Hart-We have not forgotten Dowson, Beardsley, Symons, Le Gallienne, even, perhaps, Ella d'Arcy, as contributors to the old Yellow Book. But have we not forgotten that such names as those of Henry James, Enoch Arnold Bennett, Richard Garnett, George Saintsbury, Edmund Gosse, Lionel Johnson, and H. G. Wells also appeared there? Of course, there was always the in-comparable "Max." And, among poets, there were the early Yeats and the striking John Davidson. Mr. Smith's selections from the long shelf of butter-colored volumes show discrimination, display variety. This is a fine précis of the period to add to one's library. .

Covici-Friede have now published Radclyffe Hall's "The Well of Loneliness" in the United States, and a fine and dignifiedlooking book they have made of it.

We have been interested in "Stalky's Reminiscences" by Major General L. C. Dunsterville, the original "Stalky" of Kipling's famous book. We were particularly interested in the early part that concerned "Westward Ho!" and the young Kipling. Kipling was compelled to wear very strong glasses when at school, and his only nickname there was, we are interested to find, the same as that of the immortal Verdant Green, "Giglamps." . .

Father Will Whalen, who is the author of "The Golden Squaw," which is his version of the story of Mary Jemison, the Irish girl who was stolen by the Indians from Buchanan Valley, Adams County, Pennsylvania, in 1758, is very desirious that some sage of fine printing, like Elmer Adler of the Pynson Printers Incorporated, publish "Mary's original little lamb of an autobiography," in the nature of a reprint of the first edition, without cluttering the volume up with footnotes and all that. He also comments upon the fact that the Catholic Book-of-the-month Club having chosen Peadar O'Donnell's "The Way it Was With Them," G. P. Putnam's Sons, the original publishers, have carefully refrained from mention of the fact in their advertising of the book, whereas in the case of a lay bookof-the-month club or Guild choice, the fortunate book's publishers sound forth the fact on loud trumpets. Perhaps the publishers thought the general public would get the idea that because of the award the book must be too parochial, forgetting that the best Catholic minds are quite as capable of keen discrimination and the recognition of the touch of great talent in literature as are other minds. The choice of Peadar O'Donnell's book is one immediate proof of that fact.

Miss Dorothy (we decipher the signature as) Balscom, of Blakely, Georgia, wants us to tell her "what it is about Mr. Heywood Broun that gets his photographers all up in the air. In every picture I see of him, it seems as if the camera was on a higher plane than the subject." We don't know just what she means by that last remark. We think the likeness that appears daily in the New York Telegram is a pretty fair representation of Broun's head and visage, though the drawing from the same photograph that appears much magnified on Saturday in the

same paper is a libel. Grim, malign, and cruel is that last countenance. Perhaps it is Broun as he may on occasion wish to appear, his actual face being bland, goodnatured, and amused. It is true that he forgets to comb his hair, and that gets into his pictures. Miss Dorothy finds it dash-She has, however, been looking at the Book-of-the-month Club picture of Broun, and most of the pictures such clubs display of their judges are perfectly terrible. We have (to digress) noted and filed for reference the facts that (1.) She wishes more "Mr. Moon's Notebook" in the Saturday Review (2.) that she enjoys the Phoenix Nest (3.) that she wants more play reviews, but not by George Jean Nathan, whose only virtue she regards as his admiration for Eugene O'Neill (Not that the Review has ever been able to benefit by G. J. N.-try and get him!-or that this is likely to break him all up, or down) (4.) that she wants more articles by C. É. Montague and Charles A. Bennett, and some more poetry by Theodore Maynard (5.) and why don't we print some of Ezra Pound's poetry, and, by the way, what does that man do that keeps him so busy?

As to what Mr. Pound does that keeps him so busy, he edits The Exile, for one thing, occasionally, from Rapallo, Italy. He also keeps on writing poems and indulging in intense interest in ultra-modern music. We don't doubt that he does quite a little thinking. That keeps one fairly busy. . . .

In connection with the recent publication of Konrad Bercovici's "Alexander," a biography of Alexander the Great, the biographer was asked how he came to learn English, as, when he first came to America as an organist in 1916 he had never previously spoken it. His answer was, "I got a copy of 'The Way of All Flesh,' by Samuel Butler, and memorized it word for word." "But how did you come to pick out 'The Way of All Flesh'?" "Why," returned Bercovici simply, "Somebody told me it was a good book."....

The Junior Book-of-the-Month Club of the Junior League Magazine is now an accomplished fact. It is open to everyone, Junior League Membership is not necessary. The reading committee is composed of Padraic Colum, Anne Lyon Haight, Lydia Chapin Kirk, and Louise Hunting Seaman. This committee will choose books brought out by various publishers for children of the following ages: pre-school, six to nine years, nine to twelve years. In each group one book will be selected as the book-ofthe-month, with an alternative. New books and new editions of the classics will be offered. Every month a list of books for the next month is to be sent to all subscribers. For further information you should write the Junior Book-of-the-Month Club at 140 East 63rd Street. . .

Cornelius Weygandt, Professor of English in the University of Pennsylvania, treats, in "Tuesdays at Ten," published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, of several writers that have been old favorites of ours. Our best friends all know us as still a profound admirer of the work both in poetry and prose of the late Francis Thompson. At one time we admired Stephen Phillips enormously. Our admiration of Lionel Johnson has ever grown with the years. Yeats seems to us to-day the world's greatest living poet. James Stephens is a great favorite of ours and so still is Dunsany. Therefore we grabbed Professor Weygandt's book off the shelf the moment we perceived it. Alas, in what we have read, scrappily, we admit, concerning the poets above mentioned, we have not been impressed. What inspiring subjects they seem to us, how pedestrian this treatment of them. But we shall have another go at the book before we put it utterly aside. Yet, open Thompson's own "A Renegade Poet and Other Essays," and what superb sentences leap from the page to your eye, what arresting estimates and comparisons. We have been dipping into books for years, and first-glancing has, to us, proved a pretty good touchstone after all. If we are not impressed by a book at the first glance the chances have always been all in favor of our continuing unimpressed by it on a thorough examination. . . .

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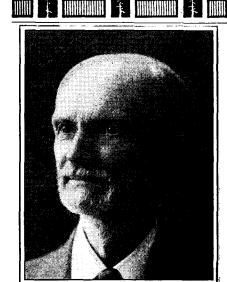
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