

## 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.

### Biography

THE GIRL IN WHITE ARMOR. By ALBERT BIGELOW PAINE. Macmillan. 1927. \$2.50.

There are some stories that cannot be told too often. To each generation they bring a new meaning and a new inspiration and each generation has the right to shape them after its own heart. The life of the immortal maid of France is one of these stories that must perpetually challenge the best efforts of the artist. Albert Bigelow Paine has told the story twice, first in a two-volume life published in 1925, and now in this shorter book, which is more suited to the young and casual reader. Adolescent and adult may both read this story with much enjoyment and it is not, strictly speaking, a children's book.

The exposition of the first two or three chapters falters a little because of the author's anxiety to keep well within the authentic record, but from the moment that Joan sets forth on that strange, mad ride to seek a King, her story gathers strength and purpose, and mounts steadily in interest and impressiveness to the final days in Rouen.

Perhaps as affecting as anything in the book is the final chapter called "Footprints of Joan" in which the author takes us at the present time back over the routes followed by Joan and tells us just what may now be seen along that fatal highway.

The tone of the book is reverent and understanding. Sentimentality is kept at a minimum. No attempt is made to romanticize a story that needs no ornamentation to appear as one of the most moving of our legends.

MARCHING ALONG. By John Philip Sousa. Boston: Hale, Cushman & Flint.

THE EMPIRE BUILDER. By Oscar M. Sullivan. Century Co. \$2.50.

JAY GOULD: THE STORY OF A FORTUNE. By Robert Irving Warshaw. Greenberg. \$4.

JOHN STEVENS: AN AMERICAN RECORD. By Archibald Douglas Turnbull. Century. \$5.

MEMOIRS OF A WHITE CROW INDIAN. By Thomas B. Marquis. Century. \$3.

### Fiction

DUST. By ARMINE VON TEMPSKI. Stokes. 1928. \$2.

Miss von Tempski, it should be known, is a very young lady. And much must be forgiven very young ladies. Her first novel was about Hula, who "grew like a hibiscus-flower," and this, her second, preserves the same exotic, Hawaiian setting, the same spontaneous, overflowing, romantic young style. Dedicated to "my beloved dad," among others, it tells a romantic tale of a strong, handsome man on the wind-tossed island of Kahoolawe, his love for a girl kept apart by wealth and by family, his fight against opium smugglers and "the relentless forces of nature," native superstition, and "the men who want him to fail."

THE TIRED CAPTAINS. By KENT CURTIS. Appleton. 1928. \$2.

It is almost a decade since the World War ended, and we have not yet seen the last of war stories, war diaries, or novels in which war somehow figures. "The Tired Captains" is one more to add to that great number of perishable war books that have gone before. Miles Gloriosus Dwight, a poor Kansas lad, seemed destined never to know happiness. At school or college he did not belong; and, later, he found his position as instructor in a military school so irksome that he entered the war as a means of escape. He became an intimate friend of Tristram Gore, and wrote poetry, which he permitted Gore to claim as his own work, to satisfy Gore's uncle. The poetry became famous; but Gore was killed during the last days of the war, without having revealed the real author of "The Celestial Patrol." Dwight's father, who had suddenly become wealthy by discovering oil on his farm, died shortly before Armistice day. With the money he inherited Dwight bought a beautiful home, surrounded himself with luxuries, and married Gore's sweetheart. But he did not find happiness. "The song ran itself out first," he complained, "the wine and women are losing their kick." And Dwight's problems are ended by having a hurricane come up in the Bahamas, whither he had gone, still searching for happiness. A very thin story, whose characters refuse to come alive.

ECOLA! By JACLAND MARMUR. Doubleday, Doran. 1928. \$2.

This book of three novelettes presents a disappointing phenomenon. The author is

described as the master of a ship, hence he cannot be a very young man, and hence he must have lived much alone and have had ample time to brood. Under such circumstances one would expect a man to develop his own individuality to the fullest, yet these stories reveal the most complete imitation of Joseph Conrad that has come to this reviewer's attention. In theme, in mental attitude, in phrase and word, it is almost uncanny, and it is dreadfully hollow. It is a great pity that Captain Marmur should have fallen under the spell of the great wizard, for it is evident that he has qualities of his own; he has imagination and sensibility and an abounding love of a ship. And what a glorious name for a writer of romantic tales! If Conrad had never written, these would be first rate stories; as it is, the illusion fails, for, as one reads, the subconsciousness whispers: Captain Marmur never got this out of life; he got it out of Conrad. There will be many,

(Continued on next page)

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## The New Books Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

though, who will not be grieved by the echo, but will be grateful for tales of the sea by one who knows. They can be safely recommended. Captain Marmur knows and loves his ship; loves and dreads his sea; and what is more, he gets all this across. On shore, as he frankly confesses, he is a little less happy. Only one reservation must be made. He indulges in endless

comment (like Conrad, but with a difference!) and one sometimes longs that he would get on with his story a little faster.

**QUICKSAND.** By NELLA LARSEN. Knopf. 1928. \$2.50.

Put together to a large extent from autobiographical materials, Miss Larsen's story of the life and struggles of a mulatto woman, the daughter of a negro man and a Scandinavian woman, is no more than mildly interesting. It has a distinctly cosmopolitan touch, as its principal character moves from Tuskegee, called Naxos in the book, to the upper circles of Copenhagen society, from Copenhagen to New York, and from New York back to a little Alabama town as the wife of a typical negro minister of the revivalistic type.

Miss Larsen is herself the daughter of a negro by a Danish woman, and most of the important incidents of the book follow her own life closely. She herself is married to a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Michigan, however, and it is in her one direct departure from her own life story as the framework of her book that she becomes wholly unconvincing. She would have us believe that her young and attractive mulatto woman, after life has failed to please her, could fall in love with and marry a man far beneath her in every respect and be willing to bear his children—one a year—and to endure the unutterable stupidity of an Alabama village.

A great love even between two people so different as her Helga Crane and the Reverend Mr. Pleasant Green might account for such strange behavior, but there is nothing to indicate that any such feeling exists.

The silly assertion on the jacket of the book that "it is almost the only Negro novel of recent years which is wholly free from the curse of propaganda" indicates, it appears to this reviewer, that the jacketer has not read much of the new fiction dealing with the negro. Most of it is altogether free from propaganda, freer indeed, than Miss Larsen's book.

The style of the book is well-mannered and touched here and there with beauty. But its chief interest lies in the fact that its principal character is a person of a quite unusual mixture of blood rather than in what she does or says or what happens to her.

**THE VIRGIN QUEENE.** By HARFORD POWELL, JR. Little, Brown. 1928. \$2.

This novel begins, happily enough, with a quotation from Sheridan and gracious acknowledgments to such personages, real and imagined, as Mr. M. A. De Wolfe Howe, Mr. Ellery Sedgwick, and Barnham Dunn. Mr. Howe and Mr. Sedgwick give the book an air of scholarship and authority, and Barnham Dunn gives it a central figure. He is the hero, a successful advertising man who goes to England on a sort of sabbatical year and writes a play about Queen Elizabeth in blank verse so beautiful and true to the time and manner of Shakespeare that Dunn and a British coadjutor perpetrate a gigantic hoax. The whole world, from Oxford to Broadway, swallows "The Virgin Queene" as a lost masterpiece of Shakespeare.

The misadventures consequent upon the hoax are not less probable than that such a play could be written and palmed off on the experts, by so complete a modern as the author of optimistic little essays on Progress, and Radio, and Owning Your Own Home. But Mr. Powell does not seek very hard for credibility. He just asks us to go along with him and see what happens.

"The Virgin Queene" is not a pretentious novel. It is distinctly "light," hitting off national traits, British and American, by bringing into juxtaposition such characteristic specimens of the two civilizations as Dunn, the high priest of American optimism, and Oxford scholars with bad manners and unfathomable erudition.

Mr. Powell has made his hero, Dunn, incredibly naive, which is the conventional way of treating the American innocent abroad. To this convention he has added the refinement of making Dunn an advertising man and popular journalist, a facile inspirational writer brewing strong magic for the masses, sometimes cynical, sometimes victimized by his own unctious. Now an editor, Mr. Powell himself has been in advertising, associated with the advertising firm of Barton, Durstine & Osborn. His book, "The Virgin Queene," is an amusing and whimsical tale told rapidly and with considerable urbanity.

**THE THREE DAYS' TERROR.** By J. S. Fletcher. Clode. \$2 net.

**WHAT WOMEN FEAR.** By Florence Riddell. Lippincott. \$2.

**BLUE MURDER.** By Edmund Snell. Lippincott. \$2.

**FLAME OF THE DESERT.** By Joseph B. Ames. Duffield. \$2 net.

**PIRATE'S FACE.** By Norval Richardson. Little, Brown. \$2.50 net.

**THE MAGIC SKIN.** By Honoré de Balzac. (Beacon Library.) Little, Brown. \$2 net.

**FLORIAN SLAPPEY GOES ABROAD.** By Octavius Roy Cohen. Little, Brown.

**COUSIN BETTE.** By Honoré de Balzac. (Beacon Library.) Little, Brown. \$2 net.

**NINETY-THREE.** By Victor Hugo. (Beacon Library.) Little, Brown. \$2 net.

**BUSINESS THE CIVILIZER.** By Earnest Elmo Calkins. Little, Brown. \$3 net.

**IN SEARCH OF OUR ANCESTORS.** By Mary E. Boyle. Little, Brown. \$3.50 net.

**THE BONCHURCH EDITION OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE.** Vol. XIX, Life; Vol. XX, Bibliography; Gabriel Wells.

**POLITICIANS AND MORALISTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.** By Emile Faguet. Little, Brown. \$4.50 net.

**THE STUMP FARM.** By Hilda Rose. Little, Brown. \$2 net.

**CROMWELL.** By G. R. Stirling Taylor. Little, Brown. \$4 net.

**LETTERS FROM MY MILL.** By Alphonse Daudet. (Beacon Library.) Little, Brown. \$2 net.

**OSTRICH EYES.** By Hilton Brown. London. Allen & Unwin.

**GREAT SHORT NOVELS OF THE WORLD.** Edited by Barrett H. Clark. McBride. \$5 net.

**THE DESERT MOON MYSTERY.** By Kay Cleaver Strahan. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

**THAT GAY NINETIES MURDER.** By Foxhall Daingerfield. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

**SHANGHAI INN.** By Frank L. Packard. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

**THE MIND BEHIND THE UNIVERSE.** By Theodore A. Miller. Stokes. \$1.50.

**ALICE IN THE DELIGHTED STATES.** By Edward Hope. Dial. \$2.50.

**THE GREEN SHADOW.** By Herman Landon. Dial. \$2.

**THE GOLDEN SPUR.** By J. S. Fletcher. Dial. \$2.

**BIRD OF FREEDOM.** By Hugh Pendexter. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.

## Miscellaneous

**EDUCATION IN UTOPIAS.** By GILDO MASSO. Teachers College, Columbia Univ., N. Y. 1927. \$1.50.

This volume is easily the most important work on Utopias which has yet appeared, being not, like most of the others, a mere history of the subject, but a thorough study of Utopian principles. The term "education," used as broadly as Mr. Masso uses it, covers not only the function of the school, but those of the home, the church, the state, and the community as a whole, however organized. None of the main issues of Utopianism is ignored. The striking result of Mr. Masso's study is that he finds, in all the leading Utopian schemes from Plato to Wells, an unquestionable tendency toward a substantial agreement on fundamental theses.

These theses may be summarized as the idea of the subordination of the individual to society, the active as opposed to the passive theory of government, belief in education as the main agency of social improvement, the doctrines of equality of opportunity and of equality of the sexes, eugenics, and, finally, the social theory of property whereby property rights are vested ultimately in the State. Furthermore, Mr. Masso has no difficulty in showing that all these main Utopian contentions are now generally accepted in theory and are being to an increasing degree adopted in practice.

**METEOROLOGY.** By D. Brunt. Oxford Press. \$1.

**A BOOK OF FRENCH WINES.** By P. Morton Shand. Knopf.

**FOREIGN ADVERTISING METHODS.** By Charles S. Hart. New York: The De Bower Publishing Co., Inc.

**COLLECTOR'S CHOICE.** By John T. Winterich. Greenberg. \$2.

**THE STORY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.** By Edward Hungerford. Putnam.

**I GO A-FISHING.** By J. Brunton Blaikie. London: Arnold.

## Travel

**TAMBO.** By JAMES JENKINS. McBride. 1928. \$2.

"Tambo" is Spanish-American for way-side inn, and Mr. Jenkins attaches it to his Peruvian impressions because part of them are strung along a mule-back journey up into the high Sierras where *tambos* are few, but welcome when they come.

His aim appears to be to give the "feel" of Peru, both that of frivolous, sad old Lima, and of the provincial town and Indian country, and to do this he chooses a form which is neither "travel book" nor fiction, but a hybrid between the two, in which things are seen and felt through the senses of a young American named Joel.

Joel is sensitive to a good deal, and often rather intelligently, but for a gentleman with a Down East name he slings English at a great rate ("the green yet nostalgic

(Continued on page 900)

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