Book Note from Chapel Hill

John Livingston Lowes Explodes a Fallacy

In his stimulating foreword to LIBERTY IN THE MODERN WORLD by the late George Bryan Logan, Jr.,* Mr. Lowes declares that this author's experiences should disprove the fallacy that the life of adventure and the world of books belong apart. George Logan lived and breathed adventure and excitement, but he also lived and breathed in the world of books, and his full, but brief career proves how "the two may go hand in hand." It was natural that after years of service in the War (long before America entered it), he should have turned to an appraisal of the things he fought for and of the status of freedom in a world apparently trying to crush it. It was natural, too, that he should write his conclusions with point and zest.

*LIBERTY IN THE MODERN WORLD will be published December 1. Put it on your gift list by the names of your libertyloving friends. \$2.00.

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VIRGINIA WOOLF'S fantasy, "Orlando," has been printed in two editions—one for the trade, and issued by Harcourt, Brace & Co., and a limited, autographed edition of eight hundred copies by Crosby Gaige. The autographing of eight hundred copies is a tedious gesture, but the limited edition is admirably printed by Rudge, the typography being by Frederic Warde. Mr. Warde has made a very pleasing and easily read page, well suited to the purpose. There are eight interesting if slightly puzzling illustrations. The binding is of black cloth, with an elaborate design in gold on the shelf-back.

ISAIAH THOMAS

ROM Douglas McMurtrie, Chicago, came four small pamphlets dealing with minor items extracted from the Isaiah Thomas papers in the collection of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester. The most interesting of these deals with Thomas's pocket Bible of 1797, which was set in type (newly cast for the purpose by Fry) in London, and the pages shipped to Thomas at Worcester. Fry's estimate of the expense as given in a hitherto unpublished letter was £1444, a considerable sum to invest in one book. But the advantage of having the type standing is apparent, as the Bible was reprinted in 1798, 1799, and 1800. Two other titles are concerned with two of Thomas's early abortive attempts to set up printing offices, at Wilmington, N.C., in 1766, and in Bermuda in 1772. The fourth pamphlet is a reprint of a Philadelphia price-list of printing of 1752.

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JOHN LANE.

NOTES

THE September number of the Hound and Horn, issued by a group of Harvard men, continues into volume two an interesting publishing venture begun last year. In "Notes on Printing," which have formed a readable part of each issue, Mr. David T. Pottinger of the Harvard University Press writes sympathetically of the work of Daniel Berkeley Updike of the Merrymount Press.

T seems extraordinary that following directly upon the first illustrated edition of "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," recently mentioned in these columns, there now comes to hand another edition which attempts to do much the same thing, and to picture the torment of that poem in much the same modernistic way. This volume, published by E. P. Dutton & Co., contains sixteen "conceptions" (a disarming phrase!) by John Vassos, reproduced with success by photo-lithography. It would seem as if Oscar Wilde's verses had been given sufficient pictorial attention in these two recent issues, but, remarkable as the pictures are, especially Mr. Vassos's, it is questionable if the poem gains from pictorial embellish-

"A ROD for the Back of the Binder," issued by the Lakeside Press at Chicago, to advertise its department of extra binding, is a useful and readable exposition of some of the best practices. This handbook is well illustrated—in fact I do not know of any small manual which so adequately sets forth the details of book-binding.

"THE Life and Death of the Admirable Crichton," from the original text of "The Discoverey of a Most Exquisite Jewel," 1652, has been printed for the Pleiad, the typography by Frederic Warde, and issued in this country by Harper & Brothers. As a piece of book-making the

volume is a disappointment. The type—what is supposed to be the original Basker-ville—is excellent, and the plan of the book good. But I think that an admirable typographical Crichton would never print a small quarto page with the grain of the paper (not to mention the laid marks) running the wrong way, so that each leaf stands out like a sore thumb. It is a readable page—but the stiffness of the paper negatives much of the charm of the book.

THE indefatigable editor of the News Letter of the LXIVmos has evolved a scheme for keeping interest in that bulletin at fever-heat. Each number is printed at a different place, and following a number from France, comes the most recent issue from the press of G. Hess, Munich. We congratulate Mr. Henderson, the Scrivener of the Sixty-four-mos, on producing so readable a bulletin.

THE industrious Mr. McMurtrie has added to his numerous monographs on printing a folio pamphlet on "The First Printing in the Province of Quebec." I wish that the author had a higher sense of historical writing than to make such statements as "a resident of Paris who referred to them [the beginning of Canadian printing] in a volume printed and published in France." This is really a little too casual.

THE postage-stamp collector will be interested in six suggestions—in bright colors and shameless designs—for "Stamps to Be Issued after March 4th Commemorating the Victory of Tammany Hall." These have been issued by the Salt House Press of Baltimore, presumably in the usual very small edition of Mr. Turner's items. They are worth having if you can get a set!

THE MOSHER CATALOGUE

T was one of the thrills of youth to welcome the Mosher Catalogue each year. To me at least it opened treasure chests which I had never dreamed of, and even if there had been no Mosher books or monthly Bibelot, the annual catalogue, with its admirably chosen verses and prose passages in lieu of typographic decoration, would have served to cheer up many a mean day. As Lamb lived with "Rose Aylmer," so did I with the little blue-paper covered catalogues. They deteriorated with time, I regret to say; when the war came, and prices of printing rose, the covers changed to slippery machine-made paper, and the increasing bulk forced other economics. But possibly Mosher thought that it was better to save on the catalogue while keeping the books up in quality and down in price. For it is one of the astonishing merits of Mosher as a publisher that his books were modest in price, even the largest and most elaborate of them. He never lived long enough into the days of prosperity to yield to the insidious lure of high prices. His delectable little books-sometimes without much grace of typography, but always with charm-were really low in price, and worth every cent of that price. We know more about typography now, but I doubt if we about typography now, but have know more about sanity in publishing.
R.

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November 8. Catalogue No. 1420. Americana—First Editions and Bibliography.

G. M. T.

A T the Anderson Galleries, sale on Octor ber 23 of modern first editions from the library of Mr. Alfred A. Knopf, the

34 34

highest price, \$390, was paid by James F. Drake for the London, 1906, edition of John Galsworthy's "Man of Property." Another Galsworthy book, "A Man of Devon," Edinburgh, 1901, published under his pseudonym of "John Sinjohn," brought \$270. Stephen Crane's "The Black Riders and Other Lines," Boston, 1895, one of fifty copies printed in green on Japan Vellum, went to R. B. Honeyman for \$220, while the same author's "Red Badge of Courage," New York, 1896, with an autograph inscription laid in, brought \$150. The Phoenix Book Shop paid \$150 for thirty-

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ABBE ERNEST DIMNET

Apostle of that "noblest pleasure the joy of understanding," author of the ART OF THINKING

In this column The Inner Sanctum has made much discourse of its open door policy toward unsolicited manuscripts and authors unheralded . . . A book just published vindicates and rewards this editorial attitude, and imbues The Inner Sanctum with the same glow it experienced on launching The Story of Philosophy.

The Art of Thinking, and the book justifies it.

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The Inner Sanctum got such a big kick from making Florenz Ziegfeld write his first piece of literary criticism, that it decided to continue its raid on the producers, and captured the following critique from Winthrop Ames and De Wolf Hopper:

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DE WOLF HOPPER

If this be log-rolling, make the most of it, but *The Inner Sanctum* must record its applause for the following shows, which recently turned your staid and monastic correspondents into a pair of cheering first-nighters:

The Four Marx Brothers
Ups-A-Daisy
All the shows and the ALT HEIDELBERG spirit dt
the RIALTO THEATRE, Hoboken
J. P. McEvoy's Americana

The Inner Sanctum erred in its recent manifesto about the new ROLAND DORGELE'S novel Departure to the effect that two hundred thousand Frenchmen can't be wrong. A cable from the French publishers announces that this exotic novel of mystery and travel in the orient has already been bought by 250,000 persons.

-Essandess

Harry Hansen goes Winnie-ther-Pooh

"If ever we can overcome sleep, presses will never a stop when they start printinganything about Winnie-the-Pooh."

THE HOUSE

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THE two matters that have excited us most this past week have been The Outlook's published investigation of the Bridgewater murder of which Vanzetti was convicted prior to the Braintree one, with is monumental proof of his innocence, due to the work of Silas Bent and Jack Callahan upon the case,—and the publication of Joseph Moncure March's second narrative poem, "The Set-Up."...

All we can say in regard to the former is—beg, borrow, or steal a copy of *The Outlook* for October 31st and a copy of *The Outlook* for November 7th, and then go to see the current play, "Gods of the Lightning," by *Maxwell Anderson* and *Harold Hickerson*...

In regard to Mr. March's new opus, you are compelled to read it through at a sitting. This hard-boiled narrative in staccato verse is as compact and deadly as an automatic. It is a triumph of its kind. "The Wild Party," which was not for general circulation, moved as fast, created an atmosphere as true to the sordid. Both poems are for those who-not necessarily hardboiled themselves-like, once in a while to look without blinkers upon unfamiliar ways of living, and can stand the impact of tragedy, none the less tragedy because the folk involved are primitive types. Mr. March's intensely kinetic method, entirely stripped of all sentimentality, or even of sentiment, is worthy of praise. In the case of "The Set-Up" the tragedy of Pansy Jones hits the heart a shrewder and heavier blow for that very reason. And in photographic reproduction of such scenes as that in the unspeakably squalid dressing-room of the lower-stratum fight-club, and the almost phonographic recording of the discourse therein, the accuracy of Mr. March's eye and ear are startling. Hemingway could have written "The Set-Up" no better as a short story. In it is all the pith of a novel. The thing is extraordinary reporting. The facts underlying such stories appear in the papers every day. Mr. March's greatest success is the vividness with which he makes you see and hear his group of characters, pitches you head-first into scenes that rivet your attention. His economy of means, as before, is most extraordinary. He has been said to remind of Vachel Lindsay, of Masefield, of others. As a matter of fact he has invented a form of rapid-fire narration of his own. It is adaptable only to certain subjects, to certain scenes, but it fits like a glove the particular themes and the episodes he chooses from out the city's large store of striking raw material. He has established himself in his own niche, definitely. Within his own squared circle he is a fine per-

A subscriber informs us that he first heard of the Columbian monthly, through our columns. Later he submitted several translations to the Columbian. One was accepted and printed, a later one was lost—the Columbian wrote the translator that the manuscript had disappeared. "Inasmuch," says our correspondent, "as they never paid me for the one they did use, I think I was lucky that they did lose it." We had mentioned the Columbian in good faith, and it is now obvious that that periodical deals in a singular fashion with its contributors. . . .

Coward-McCann have brought out the new Thornton Wilder book, "The Angel that Troubled the Waters." Mr. Wilder reveals in his introduction that this notebook of dramatic moments is salvage from the work of earlier years. In fact, if we are not mistaken, some of these brief presentations in play form originally appeared in the Yale Literary Magazine. Mr. Wilder alludes to himself as an author of sixteen when they were coming into being. For a boy of sixteen they are certainly most remarkable. And they shadow forth the greater writer to-be. Instinct for style is apparent, subtlety and secrecy of meditation. Mr. Wilder's interest in the stage has been of long standing. Some day he may give us a full-length play for production. We have a confidence in his technical dexterity as well as in the beauty and delicacy of his conceptions,—and prophesy that such a play, if it ever emerges, will be an event

We have been much shocked to note the death of Thomas Walsh, one of the assistant editors of The Commonweal for a number of years, a delightful American poet and a distinguished Hispanic scholar and translator. Walsh was one of the older generation in American letters who retained a keen interest in contemporary poetry. He was also familiar with the best literary work being done in Central and South America. He was one of the pleasantest conversational companions we have ever encountered, firm in certain opinions, but always genial and entertaining in his comments. Many an entertaining walk and talk we had with him in the old days, and we recall long poems of his on certain painters, notably on El Greco, that well illustrated the cultivation and distinction of his mind. We met him casually last winter in a restaurant of an evening, and that was to be for the last time. A lovable man, a sound Catholic, a charitable though witty personality. His latest work was a notable anthology of Catholic poetry. We feel his

Now that the "talkies" seem to have come to stay and, indeed, to be put upon the threshold of a new and astonishing development of the moving picture, we see that the moving picture powers-that-be are beginning to enlist the services of well-known writers to prepare dialogue. John V. A. Weaver, whom we ran into the other evening, is one of the first to go to Hollywood to lend a hand. He left last Wednesday, in the services of Paramount. Dorothy Parker is to go out a little later for Metro-Goldwyn, and we understand that Bob Benchley will also soon be on the way. Each, of course, is excellent in his or her own vein. New screen comedy in which the characters no longer act in dumb show should greatly profit by the "quick lines" of these three star performers in colloquy. . . .

W. E. Woodward now comes forward with "Meet General Grant," after having interpreted for us George Washington. The present is a large, full volume with twenty interesting illustrations. The copy of the photograph of Lincoln made on April 10, 1865, is especially interesting. It was Lincoln's last picture, and the negative was accidentally broken, so that only one print was made from it. The face repays long study. It is full of such extreme suffering, gentleness, strength, even humor. . . .

We have just been reading Aldous Hux-ley's "Point Counterpoint," and the recent review of it by Joseph Wood Krutch in the Nation strikes us as excellent. It is to us the richest and strongest of the Huxley novels we have read. It seems to be having a remarkable sale, aided of course by its selection by the Literary Guild. But it should be widely read. Huxley's intelligence is particularly keen in this his latest work. His insight is sometimes almost annihilatingly true. . . .

We should think, to judge by the opinions of her work cited in the large folder concerning her which we have received, that it would be well worth your while witnessing the "Episodes and Compositions in Dance Form" presented by Angna Enters on the next three Sunday evenings, November 11th, 18th, and 25th, at the Plymouth Theatre, 236 West 45th Street. The present series will constitute Miss Enters's only New York appearances until she concludes a transcontinental tour of thirty American cities, and fulfils her European engagements. Seats are on sale at the box office of the Plymouth Theatre, telephone Lackawanna 6720, or by mail from H. Stylow, 52 West 57th Street, this city. . . .

H. G. Wells and Professor Julian Huxley are said to be collaborating on a volume dealing with "The Science of Life." A talking moving-picture is to be made of them discussing in a garden the scope of their projected work. . . .

Harper & Brothers are bringing out a popular explanation of psychoanalysis by James Oppenheim, entitled "Behind Your Front." In the course of the volume Mr. Oppenheim analyzes a number of persons in the public eye. By means of questions, charts and drawings of typical faces he enables the reader to classify himself. . . .

THE PHOENICIAN.

SEARS SOLILOQUIES

SOME publishers of books have been crying for "fewer and better books." Some booksellers have been crying about the "terrible flood of books" and "no room to put them on our shelves." Such people will not last long. They have a disease called Chronic Inertia. It is a serious malady.

Fortunately other publishers and other booksellers have adopted the slogan "more and better books," and these are thinking, always looking ahead all the time. They say: "If every family in the country (25,-000,000 altogether) acquired one good book a week, this nation would never permit war, or riots, or strikes, or much crime again, because each family would know that all of them are waste and that none of them pay. The cost of 1,300,000,000 books a year—that is, one a week for each family—would amount to less than is spent by many of us for a single meal. It would pay to eat a little less and read a book a week. Some day we shall do it.

Not so many years ago there were less than a thousand titles issued a year. Now there are nearly 9,000. In twenty years—or less—there will be 25,000. When there are 25,000 some of them will be better than any of the books issued in all history.

Only a few years ago the people who have this serious malady Chronic Inertia, wept because a few hundred automobiles would ruin everything and scare all the horses. It's done already. They have scared all the horses off the streets and everybody is delighted. Now these patients say that 25,000,000 of these cars are ruining our cities and our country. In twenty years—or less—there will be 50,000,000 automobiles and we shall still muddle along happier than ever. Some publishers and some booksellers say "there are plenty of well known writers to go around. Why put out books by unknown authors?" Chronic Inertia again. It is youth that originates and age that judges. A good combination. You who are old examine the new work of those who are young, and thus keep from senile degeneration for a little while longer.

You shall read of a work of a young man, Gorham B. Munson, who has analyzed in his Destinations a group of these new writers; the novel of a young woman named Eleanor Chase who has drawn a living picture in her book Pennagan Place of a middle western family of the type that has made this country; the novel of Robert Collyer Washburn who has taken in his Samson the old biblical story and made it 20th Century with a vigor, a humor and a satire that are startling, amusing, suggestive; the tale of James G. Dunton of Massachusetts who has in A Maid and a Million Men given a smart criticism of our social structure by dressing a girl (posing as her twin brother) in khaki and putting her (or him) in the Army; the novel of Elizabeth Alexander, who in her Second Choice satirizes with a keen yet gentle wit the strange impulses that lead to matrimony; the adventures of Dr. Arthur Torrance, tropical diseases shark, who gives a romantic picture of the work his kind is carrying on in the gallant search for the cause and cure of the devastating plagues that come from flies, mosquitos and other insects in his Tracking Down the Enemies of Man; the autobiography of the man who calls himself Jack Callahan (for evident reasons) who in his Man's Grim Justice, tells his own story of how he was educated to be a pick-pocket. then to become a bank robber, who then went to States Prison where he had ample time to read books from which he first discovered that he could be happier and get more of this world's goods by running straight.

There are many more, some better, some worse, but all suggestive—little units fighting the great malady Chronic Inertia.

There is Elsa Barker, who for the first time has written a detective mystery novel, The Cobra Candlestick, accepted by the new Detective Story Book of the Month Club as their first selection; H. Du Coudray, a girl undergraduate of Lady Margaret Hall College Oxford, who has written in "Another Country" the Oxford-Cambridge Universities Prize Novel, a singularly mature character study; Ethel Pettit, whose novel, "Move Over" is still selling merrily on as it has been selling for over a year; and Frederick Arnold Kummer, the well known playwright, who in his Ladies in Hades has turned to humor and sophisticated satire that has already helped to cure many a despondent mind.

And thus even the great biblical invocation can be amended to "let us pray and read." We shall then think and move onwards toward better things. Let us have ever "more and better books" and book shops as big as department stores.

Better a piece of bread, a single robe and a book than an indigestible paté, a wardrobe and Chronic Inertia.

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