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## The New Books Biography

(Continued from page 380)

MY STUDIO WINDOW. By MARIETTA MINNIGERODE ANDREWS. Dutton. 1928. \$5.

Mrs. Andrews gazes with the eye of the mind as well as the physical eye upon the procession of notabilities who pass through her pages, for among those who go by in review under her studio window are some of the great dead before she was born. Her book is a lively chronicle, never very searching, always animated, that flits from one figure to another, stops now to discourse on hats and again to recount the satisfactions of good descent, passes kindly judgment on most, and revealing light on a few, of the figures that have made Washington society, and is consistently good-humored and generally self-satisfied.

An F.F.V. herself, Mrs. Andrews, as the wife of an artist of high standing and herself a miniaturist of no mean ability, came in contact during the years of a happy marriage with the distinguished in various walks of life. Presidents, First Ladies of the Land, cabinet ministers, diplomats, and resident Washingtonians whose lives were laid in political circles, came within her orbit, and of them she speaks as one might gossip of and with friends in the easy informality of a fireside talk. Her narrative marches rapidly, taking incidents, personalities, historic happenings, public celebrations, hats (Mrs. Andrews seems to have a special attachment to millinery), luncheons, teas in its generous stride. It is all very pleasant and all very unimportant. The book is charmingly illustrated with silhouettes.

JOSEPH WARREN FORDNEY. By John Andrew Russell. Stratford. \$3.

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER. By Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed. University of Chicago Press. \$3.

MONTAIGNE GRAVE AND GAY. By André Lamandé. Holt. \$3.

THE HEART OF BURROUGHS'S JOURNALS. Edited by Clara Barrus. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.

OLD BUDDHA. By Princess der Ling. Dodd, Mead. \$3.50.

## Fiction

RACE, a Novel of Marriage. By MARY GRACE ASHTON. Stokes. 1928. \$2.50.

The title of the new English novel, "Race," is perforce inadequate to indicate the problem that it raises—that of the marriage of a Jew to a Catholic girl. For the conflict of forces in such a case is between religion and religion plus race. Thus the situation differs sharply from that arising when a Protestant marries a Catholic. It is a situation that in fiction is often handled with the gloves on. Not so here. Though the author is concerned to do the utmost justice to the wealthy, complacent, urbane London Jews of the Shenstein's circle, the very telling of Ivan's and Anne's story inevitably brings out, in such of its members as old Solomon Shenstein and Mrs. Weinher and Monty, many of their less admirable racial traits. On these the light is thrown unsparingly. The result is a group of portraits, and an analysis of family relationships, that in clarity and delicate irony is hardly surpassed by anything of G. B. Stern's.

Ivan's problem is this: His mother had been a Catholic, who forsook her religion

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for the sake of peace with the Jew whom she married to escape poverty. (And the characterization of Mrs. Shenstein is, by the way, one of the most satisfying in the book.) Ivan has been brought up by his mother to love beauty and leisure, and himself has learned to despise his father. The latter is determined that his son shall marry his cousin Sadie to keep the tribe intact and to carry on the tradition. But Ivan falls in love with Sadie's friend, Anne, a devout Catholic. Her religion to him seems unimportant; it can be hidden or disguised. But to Anne her religion is the most important thing in life, to be worn openly and proudly. She realizes that they simply do not speak the same language, for all their love of each other.

As they arrive at this *impasse*, Ivan's mother dies, leaving to him a diary that reveals her own torment through the years since her marriage. She has loved Anne, and hopes for their marriage, if it can be effected with no such terrible sacrifice of spiritual peace on Anne's part as on hers many years ago. This revelation from the mother he has so adored starts the change in Ivan's character that enables him, at last, to conquer his selfish indolence, strike out for himself, and win Anne.

But we feel that their story is not yet all told. Its ending seems but a beginning. How will this mating of indifferentist and pietist succeed? True, Ivan's mixed blood disinclines him to the ancient tribal tradition; he has never been orthodox. But is this negative quality in him enough to immunize him to the inevitable consequences of living with a devout Catholic and seeing his children brought up Catholics? It is to be doubted.

THE INSTRUMENT OF DESTINY. By J. D. BERESFORD. Bobbs-Merrill. 1928. \$2.

Mr. Beresford made a mistake when he wrote this detective story. The esteemed English novelist here placed himself (temporarily, we hope) about eighteen rungs below his accustomed position on the literary ladder. "The Instrument of Destiny" is not the equal of the average detective novel in conception or in development. The necessary murder comes wearily late in the plot, and its solution is as laborious as it is unsatisfactory. There is considerable doubt whether either Mr. Beresford's friends or the discriminating followers of detective fiction will find any pleasure in these pages.

BLADES. By GEORGE BARR MCCUTCHEON. Dodd, Mead. 1928. \$2.

This novel will irritate many readers by its superior attitude and stupid moralizing. Mr. McCutcheon seems to believe that he can find zealots to shudder with him at the wickedness of the city and gloat with him over the beautiful serenities of a primitive, Puritan civilization. He describes the conversion of a young man from a life of urban sin. The method of this conversion is quaint, consisting of exposure to a kind of second cousin to the Brook Farm experiment. Although Mr. McCutcheon has been ingenious in describing the operations of this colony, mere ingenuity is not enough to make the situation credible. The characters are stiff and the action is often silly. Altogether, "Blades" does not command serious attention.

MIRROR OF DREAMS. By "GANPAT." Doubleday, Doran. 1928. \$2.

This tale of Oriental mystery receives its original impetus from a strange mirror, found in Central Asia by the hero. This mirror has a quality not often found in mirrors. If the gazer is of the elect he may see into the future. Tom Carruthers gazed into the mirror and saw therein visions which disturbed him. Hence he needs must hide himself into the wilds of Asia. The party finds its way to the stronghold of the apostles of Super-Theosophy. There they find, to their astonishment, but not the reader's, a white girl held prisoner. The reader may guess the rest. However, the events which lead to her rescue are slightly more improbable than those found in most mystery books.

The first few chapters of the novel promised much. The author in those chapters seemed to have his sense of humor actively at work. A deft ironic touch here and there seemed to indicate that he was ridiculing the convention in which he was working. But, alas, he is soon carried away by situations of his own invention and he finishes by writing a stereotyped mystery story.

BEGGARS CAN CHOOSE. By MARGARET WEYMOUTH JACKSON. Bobbs-Merrill. 1928. \$2.

In the recent world of fiction, the Other Man and the Other Woman have lost con-

siderable of their prestige as the *ne plus ultra* of matrimonial disturbers. Poverty, relatives, business, and art may be less romantic as marital hazards, but they furnish a wealth of possibilities for the realistic novelist who finds that the daily grind is more attractive than the occasional flight. Margaret Weymouth Jackson makes use of most of these hazards in her contra-maximistic "Beggars Can Choose." A young heiress, in the face of family disapproval, marries the son of her father's former gardener. Most of the commonplace vicissitudes of life are visited upon them, and eventually both come to realize that each is keeping the other from dear desires. They quarrel and they hate spasmodically under the irritation and frustration of their poverty inflicted limitations, but they love steadily in spite of this. Money comes and threatens to sweep from them their ability to "choose," which as beggars they had valiantly maintained. Money goes and with it their danger of ceasing to be free agents. The scene of the novel is Chicago, and Mrs. Jackson takes advantage of her material, including in her book everything from the old guard social set to the not totally unheard of Chicago gangster at his task.

FALL FLIGHT. By ELEANOR GIZYCKA. Minton, Balch. 1928. \$2.

Eleanor Gizycka's first novel, "Glass Houses," enjoyed that large measure of popularity granted to books that tell, or gain a reputation for telling, some sort of "inside story" of society. In the case of "Glass Houses," the beau monde of Washington's diplomatic circles was revealed with sufficient intimacy to interest those within and intrigue those outside the pale. "Fall Flight," the second novel by the Countess Gizycka, will depend more upon its intrinsic qualities for its success, although from the present sale it is evident that any novel following "Glass Houses" was sure of an extensive hearing.

"Fall Flight" tells the story of an international marriage; it also tells a moving story of one young American girl's lack of education for life; but primarily it is a study of character. This same young

American, Daisy Shawn, is the figure by which the novel must stand or fall, for, realistic as the book is in presentation, it remains, aside from Daisy, fairly artificial both as to character and action. One can easily guess in advance what Daisy's mother or stepfather or husband will do in fore-shadowed circumstances, but Daisy remains to the end capable of the unexpected. Where the other people in the book succeed only in being types—types, however, very fully and recognizably delineated—Daisy stands out as an individual. At the close of "Fall Flight," after her Russian marriage, Daisy is on her way to America again, having fled the arrogance and debauchery of her princely husband, fleeing her own dips into unclean waters. Here the novel ends, and one wishes it might begin again. What sort of Daisy will this be, taking up life anew in the land of her birth? It is only now that she emerges from a chrysalis of outside influences, only now that she will try life on her own terms. Perhaps the author, too, will feel that Daisy cannot be left on her fall flight and another novel will take up her story after the flight is over.

THE MOUNTAIN SINGER. By HARRY HARRISON KROLL. Morrow. 1928. \$2. The Tennessee mountains, the mountain folk, and the Tennessee dialect form the warp and woof of Harry Harrison Kroll's "The Mountain Singer." There is a vibrant spontaneity in the simple telling of the routine life of these mountaineers that has something akin to folk lore in it, but when Mr. Kroll elaborates into individual characters the spell is at once broken. The gentle, idealistic Danny, and the affirmative dynamic Shoon have been met too often in books and too seldom in life to measure up to the reality of "The Mountain Singer's" background. The plot, too, is labored; but the hills and valleys and scents and sounds of Tennessee lurk in the pages, for the most part elbowing the artificialities aside. HOW THE OLD WOMAN GOT HOME. By M. P. Shiel. Macy-Masius. \$2.50. THE MAN WHO LAUGHED. By Gerald Fairlie. Little, Brown. \$2 net. PILGRIMS OF ADVERSITY. By William McFee. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50 net.

THE SILVER THORN. By Hugh Walpole. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50 net. PREVAILING WINDS. By Margaret Ayer Barnes. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50. A BROOD OF DUCKLINGS. By Frank Swinnerton. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50. THE HOUNDS OF GOD. By Rafael Sabatini. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50. SURVIVAL. By Evelyn Campbell. Dial. \$2. THE WHITE CROW. By Philip MacDonald. Dial. \$2. UNDERGROUND. By Jefferson Farjeon. Dial. THE WRIST MARK. By J. S. Fletcher. Knopf. \$2. THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE. By M. A. Aldam. Knopf. IDA BRANDT. By Herman Bang. Knopf. \$2.50. TREASURE ISLAND. By Robert Louis Stevenson. Sears. AGAINST THE SUN. By Godfrey Elton. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50. TIGER CLAWS. By Frank L. Packard. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net. ROCKBOUND. By Frank Parker Day. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50 net. WAY FOR A SAILOR. By Albert Richard Wetson. Century. \$2.50. TWO GENTLEMEN AND A LADY. By Alexander Woolcott. Coward-McCann. \$2.50. ANTIQUARIANISM. Edited by Kennet L. Roberts. Doubleday, Doran. \$3 net. SWAG. By Charles Francis Coe. Putnam's. \$2. THE GATE MARKED PRIVATE. By Ethel M. Dell. Putnam. \$2. PENNAGAN PLACE. By Eleanor Chase. Sears. \$2.50. FIRE DOWN BELOW. By Margaret Irwin. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50. THE CROUCHING BEAST. By Valentine Williams. Houghton Mifflin. \$2. HEDYLUS. By H. D. Houghton Mifflin. \$4.50. THE REA BRANCH. By Charles Morris Purdy. McBride. \$2 net. WILD HORSE MESA. By Zane Grey. Harpers. \$2. SENTRY. By Heyward Emerson Canney. Harpers. CHERIQUE. By Mary F. Wickham Porcher. Appleton. \$1.75. JUDGMENT DAY. By Norman Davey. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50. THE WORKS OF JAMES BRANCH CABELL. Vols. VII, VIII, IX. The Line of Love. The High Place. Gallantry. McBride. LEAN TWILIGHT. By Edward Sherton. Scribners. \$2.

(Continued on next page)

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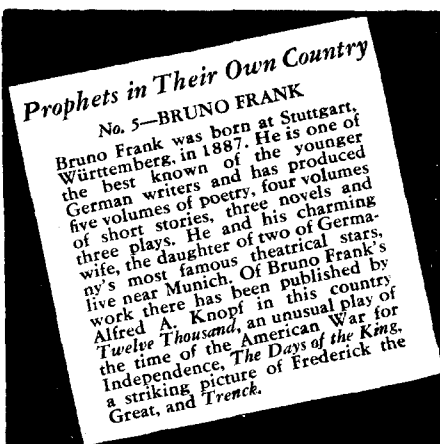
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Juvenile

(The Children's Bookshop will appear next week)

DRUMS. By JAMES BOYD. Pictures by N. C. WYETH. Scribner's. 1928. \$2.50.

Scribner's series of illustrated classics for younger readers includes many famous titles, and their greatest illustrator is Wyeth. The latest addition of a contemporary novel, "Drums," to a series so eminent is a high distinction for a writer of our day. But Boyd's historical novel of the American revolution is authentic and distinguished, as adult readers have ere this been able to determine. And again Mr. Wyeth has beautifully and stirringly interpreted a fine text. So forthright and exciting a narrative as this should be read eagerly by children fond of books. It is a book rich enough in atmosphere and characterization to enable a child to "lose himself" in it, and no greater pleasure exists in childhood.

CONSTRUCTIVE SPELLING. By CORNELIA R. TROWBRIDGE. Macmillan. 1928.

One can certainly become absorbed without any effort in Cornelia Trowbridge's "Constructive Spelling." It is not only a comprehensive and careful work, full of information and suggestion, but so arranged that it is also very interesting reading. Almost unconsciously one absorbs rules (though one is never unconscious of the exceptions!) and the list of test words at the end is as much fun as a cross-word puzzle. The patient and meditative student could work by himself successfully with such a book, but as most high school students are not, by nature, patient and meditative, it will find its best use in the hands of the teacher. As a friendly, capable, and sympathetic assistant it should prove indispensable in every high school.

PLEASANT PATHWAYS. By WILHEMINA HARPER and AYMER JAY HAMILTON. Macmillan. 1928.

These "Pleasant Pathways" are too long. First and second grade children (this book will probably serve for second) get tired reading one book, and teachers like to change often. There is a thrill and quickened interest in beginning a new book.

The stories are in the main good, but we find a tendency in some toward repetition which is always tiresome and unnecessary. "Topsy had nothing to do and he was bored. Yes, Topsy was very bored indeed."

On the whole, however, this is a very good and unusual collection of stories, and teachers will like to use it for the school. But they will wish that two books had been made of it instead of one, with appropriate groupings of the stories.

Maud and Miska Petersham always give us delightful pictures, but here their children are better than their animals, which seems an unfair discrimination!

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ANNE SHAW. By Augusta Huiell Seaman. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.75 net.

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN. By George Macdonald. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50 net.

THE BOY WHO FOUND OUT. By Mary Hazelton Wade. Appleton. \$1.75.

WHERE IT ALL COMES TRUE. By Clara E. Laughlin. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

THE SANTA CLAUS BROWNIES. By Ethel Culveret Phillips. Houghton Mifflin. \$1.50.

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ALL ABOUT ME. By John Drinkwater. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

THE BOY SCOUTS' YEAR BOOK. Edited by Franklin K. Mathews. Appleton. \$2.50 net.

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## Miscellaneous

FAMILY LIFE TODAY. Edited by Margaret E. Rich. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

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CHINESE RUGS. By Gordon B. Leitch. Dodd, Mead. \$4.

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MAN AND HIS POWERS. By Richard Lynch. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

## Pamphlets

LEWIS HUGHES. By George Watson Cole. Worcester, Mass.: American Antiquarian Society.

AMERICAN PRONUNCIATION. By H. Kurath. Oxford University Press. 85 Cents.

## Philosophy

OUR MINDS AND OUR MOTIVES. By Paul D. Hugon. Putnams. \$3.

THE BAHAI WORLD. Vol. II. New York: Baha'i Publishing Committee.

PLATO: THE REPUBLIC. With an Introduction by Charles M. Bakewell. Scribners. \$1.

COLOURED THINKING. By D. F. Fraser-Harris. Brentanos. \$2.50 net.

(Continued on page 391)

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MARGERY BAILEY, Editor

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