

## Two Timely Books

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THE MOST HIGHLY PRAISED NOVEL OF THE SEASON

## The New Books

### Miscellaneous

(Continued from preceding page)

the excellent commonsense in evidence not only in the writing, but in the oil cloth format and workable index. For those of us who come in hungry on a wet winter night, and have only a hot plate and a window icebox and a little skill, this book is worth all the cans on the shelf.

### \$PORT\$, HEROICS AND HYSTERICS.

By JOHN TUNIS. Drawings by JOHAN BULL. Introduction by GRANTLAND RICE. Day. 1928. \$2.50.

The pregnant, gloomy rumblings of discontent that have been audible in the last few years within and around the body of amateur sport at last have produced a book dealing with the trouble openly. Fortunately the author is a man with a sense of humor.

"Sports"—we need not repeat the typesetter's wretched pun—is a highly-amusing, highly-instructive paroxysm of feeling from the engaging pen of the *Evening Post's* tennis expert. Its aim is to lay bare what goes on in the locker-rooms at Olympic Games and Tennis Tournaments. Is something rotten in amateur sport? Are those who sit on sports committees men of dark and difficult character? Are champions venal? Mr. Tunis evidently suspects the worst and makes no bones about saying so. And this reviewer wishes to number himself among the many readers who will feel that Mr. Tunis has done a good job in airing his views.

The book has faults, but the faults certainly are not lack of sincerity, or lack of vigor, or pusillanimity, or lack of information; the outstanding trouble with it is that at times Mr. Tunis talks his information so rapidly and shouts so vigorously that neither he nor the reader is able to hear himself think. The horrors of the situation are flung out in a merciless bombardment; and the resulting effect, although diverting always, is frequently confusing. In the maelstrom the reader is tempted to take shelter by saying: "Oh, Olympic Games can't really be as bad as this!" It would seem that Mr. Grantland Rice felt the impulse to take shelter when he wrote so cautiously in his introduction, "No one can say just how many of Mr. Tunis's conclusions are correct. But in the main they are sound."

In spite of the confusion, however, the book carries conviction. It is, of course, not a book for those who look for literature in their reading. It is rather for the reader who reads sports or plays sports or who has children who do those things. For such people Mr. Tunis's cruel and amusing outburst against the present equivocal state of amateur sport could not possibly be a waste of time. If you want to know the worst about your heroes, says Tunis, here it is. We may add that anyone who honestly believes that Tilden, Cochet, Red Grange, and Devereaux Milburn will go to Olympus when they die will hate the book.

Honorable mention may be made of Johan Bull's clever black and white drawings.

### CURIOUS TRIALS AND CRIMINAL CASES.

By EDWARD HALE BIERSTADT.  
Coward-McCann, Inc. 1928.

The sub-title of Mr. Bierstadt's book (probably supplied by the ingenious publishers), "From Socrates to Scopes," gives a just idea of its plan. Such comprehensiveness is a little dizzying to the old-fashioned reader. To be sure, there is an affinity between the trials of Socrates in 399 B.C. and young John Thomas Scopes of Dayton, Tennessee, in 1925 A.D., but what comes between ranges all over the map of human emotions. There is nothing common to the component parts except that each comes to a head in a trial. We have here martyrs, adulterers, a would-be regicide, abductors, and murderers of every degree—each act laid in a different time and place. In its way it is a brave show; the difficulty of conveying a single impression of it is extreme.

For those who like short pieces the book is strongly to be recommended. Mr. Bierstadt's plan being what it is, his book is very well done indeed. He has a *flair* for the curious and strange. He gives you his amazing stories straight without any attempt to fictionize them. He relishes the real better than cooked-up effects. Though he exploits criminals, his own heart is in the right place. He makes everything clear without obtruding himself, and his own restrained sly comment on the scene is often delightful. In fact, the only objection that

can be raised to the book is that there is too much in it. The different rich courses are whisked on and off the table before one has been able fully to savor them.

However, there are two stories which seem to this reader to have been fully told—and well told. Both deal with the American *milieu*; the trial of the Hon. Daniel E. Sickles in 1859, and the Scopes trial. After reading these accounts one feels that one has been told everything necessary. One can completely enter into what happened. Both cases are highly characteristic. Some of those who are old enough to remember the doughty one-legged General swinging in and out of his carriage on lower Fifth Avenue may be surprised to learn that he pumped a son of Francis Scott Key full of lead in Lafayette Square, Washington. He did and he got away with it, too. Like Niobe, the Hon. Daniel E. was all tears. Mr. Bierstadt is rightly indignant, still it is hard to see what else could have happened, popular opinion being what it was. As for the Dayton trial, it has passed into our consciousness; however, it is a very good thing to be reminded of. Ridiculous as it was, it marked a milestone in the road of human progress. All honor to the men who provoked it. At the time it seemed as if the cause of enlightenment was defeated, but upon reading it over in cold blood it becomes plain that this was not so. Particularly in the sequel. It is extraordinarily funny—and significant, too. One might wish that the champion of truth had kept his temper better, but it was *very* hot in the courtroom.

THIS ADVERTISING BUSINESS. By Roy L. Dursline. Scribners. \$3.

A BOOK OF WORDS. By Rudyard Kipling. Doubleday, Doran.

A MAP OF NEW YORK IN THE AIR. By Melanie Elizabeth Leonard. Coward-McCann.

LETTERS. By S. R. S. Stauffer. Minneapolis: S. R. Stauffer, 601 Wilmac Building.

PIRATES OLD AND NEW. By Joseph Gollomb. \$2.50.

SOCIAL WORK AND THE TRAINING OF SOCIAL WORKERS. By Sydnor H. Walker. University of North Carolina. \$2.

SOVIET UNION YEAR-BOOK. 1928. London: Allen & Unwin.

SPY AND COUNTER-SPY. By Richard Wilmer Rowan. Viking. \$3.50.

THE MARRIAGE CRISIS. By Ernest R. Groves. Longmans. \$2.

THE ROSICRUCIANS. By Hargrave Jennings. Dutton. \$4.

SHIPS AND SAILORS. By Stanley Rogers. Little, Brown. \$2.50 net.

THE SCRAP BOOK: European; American. Wise. 2 vols.

THE REMAKING OF MODERN ARMIES. By Capt. B. H. Liddell Hart. Little, Brown. \$3.50 net.

GOOD AMERICAN SPEECH. By Margaret Prendergast McLean. Dutton. \$2.

OUR ORAL WORD. By W. E. DeWitt. Dutton. \$2.25.

AL. SMITH, THE POPE AND THE PRESIDENCY. By Theodore Schroder. Published by the author, 18 East 10th St., New York.

## Philosophy

COLORED THINKING AND OTHER STUDIES IN SCIENCE AND LITERATURE. By D. F. FRASER-HARRIS. Brentano. 1928. \$2.50.

If you like to browse, this is a good book for your bedside table. The author is versatile, as his personal titles as well as those of his chapters show. His main interest is in spreading the gospel of the place of science in the scheme of life; and he does it well, by that meaning judiciously, interestingly, not always deeply. The title essay is just a summary of the well-known fact that some persons get color-impressions when they hear tones, and others associate colors with days of the week, vowels, numbers, months, and what you will. It is just an excursion into a fanciful chapter in psychology with nothing much in the way of a clue. "Childishness in Adult Life" and "From Thoughts to Things" are good samples of Dr. Fraser-Harris's ability to invest an inviting theme with an interesting setting of facts and principles. Or you can take up "Joy in Discovery," "Poetry and Science," or "Biology in Shakespeare," and still have half-a-dozen other essays for more browsings when the mood is on.

THE BASIS OF MEMORY. By W. R. BOUSFIELD. (The New Science Series.) Norton. 1928. \$1.

The reader will readily understand the data which make remembering and forgetting a puzzle, but not so readily share the satisfaction which one or another psychologist finds in conjecturing an "engram" or a "psychogram" as an explanation of the difficulty. The "engram" theory is that it is impressed on the brain-cells; the theory



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of psychic structure or disposition is that it is a matter of organization. Mr. Bousfield holds the latter and makes a strong case for it, yet thinks he gets back to earth—or at least to something as real as ether—when he supposes that there is an actual substance which he calls "psychoplasm" on the basis of which the whole process works. All this is an attempt to go down below the surface in answering the question: What is Memory? and the ordinary reader gets beyond his depth in the submerged area.

But he is definitely interested in such facts as these: When you read a paragraph, you don't remember the words but only their meaning; if the words are jumbled you remember nothing; the sermon strikes your ear, but your attention is elsewhere, and there is no impression; one thing calls up so many things that the problem what it may call up, or of how to retrace a lost name when you are trying all sorts of clues, leaves you without a solution; emotion, like the hypnotized mind, fixes things in memory; in a fall from a horse the physical shock may blot out the memories of the preceding week; according to Freud, you forget the unpleasant, and much of the supposedly forgotten is buried in the subconscious, but may be resurrected; learning a speech by heart may cause a breakdown because you put your mind on the words and not on the ideas; and so on through the highways and by-ways of memory, making of it a maze with a plan, but never a complete one; and "engrams" and "psychograms" are only psychologists' guesses to serve for lack of a better clue. We must be content to organize our memories to do our business in ignorance of the precise nature in brain-terms or mind-terms, of what we are organizing,—judging only by results.

PHILOSOPHY TODAY. Essays on Recent Developments in the Field of Philosophy. Collected and edited by EDWARD LEROY SCHAUB. The Open Court. 1928. \$3.75.

Philosophy, however much its followers may have fallen into particular groups dominated by racial viewpoints, has always profited almost as much as science from an international exchange of ideas. Just prior to the world war this interchange of thought was particularly fruitful and full of promise for the future. During and immediately after the struggle, British and American philosophy kept in touch, but contact with the Continent was largely lost. The remarkably successful Sixth International Congress at Harvard in 1926, however, definitely marked the resumption of relations on a pre-war scale, and now comes "Philosophy Today" as a further reknitting of the war-torn web. A number of the thirty articles composing this volume were previously published in the *Monist*, beginning in 1926, but their appearance in book form should give them a larger circulation. Arranged according to locality, Anglo-American philosophy is represented by eight articles, France by ten, Germany by nine, while Russia, Scandinavia, and South America are allotted one each. The most serious defect in the volume is the lack of inclusion of Italy, for which, however, the editor was not responsible. In all the countries represented, even in Germany, there is a general drift away from Kantianism and epistemology towards ontology, an effort to formulate a theory of reality as prior to a theory of knowledge. While this effort takes many forms, there is everywhere a tendency—first emphasized as long ago as Frege and Husserl—to reinstate Platonic realism, along with a further endeavor to establish a synthesis of science, logic, ethics, and, less universally, religion. Naturally, the articles in "Philosophy Today" are of very diverse value; probably the ablest are "Current Realism," by Roy Sellars, and "Logic and Epistemology," by Paul F. Linke. There is, however, one extraordinary contribution which is certainly either the most important or the most foolish thing in the book; this is "Metaphysics and Philosophy" by Eugene Osty, in which the author gravely maintains that telepathy, clairvoyance, and the foretelling of the future are facts already established by laboratory experiment.

RACE AND CIVILIZATION. By Felix Hertz. Macmillan. \$7.50.

THE GLANDS REGULATING PERSONALITY. By Louis Berman. Macmillan. \$3.50.

INFANCY AND HUMAN GROWTH. By Arnold Gesell. Macmillan.

### Poetry

THE ANSWERING VOICE. New Edition. With a Foreword and Fifty Recent Poems Added. Selected by SARA TEASDALE. Macmillan. 1928.

The first section of "The Answering Voice" (originally published in 1917) is a

cruel instance of literary archaeology. It seems incredible that the passage of eleven years could "date" so many of the poems; it is equally hard to believe that Miss Teasdale should wish to preserve the moist sentimentalities of Edna Wählert McCourt, Julia C. R. Dorr, Grace Fallow Norton, Josephine Preston Peabody, Florence Earle Coates, and a dozen other more or less nameable names. It is still more perturbing to find that Miss Teasdale has kept her first errors in proportion, which led her to include only two brief examples of Emily Dickinson against three of Edith M. Thomas, the same number by Zoë Akins, and four by A. Mary F. Robinson! That Miss Teasdale herself realizes these changes of taste as well as mood is evident from Part Two of her collection, where the difference of tone is so striking.

What this collection needed—and still needs—is not a mere addendum but a drastic revision. The two parts, as they stand, do not really represent Yesterday and Today, since there is considerable overlapping in period and authors. Nor has Miss Teasdale applied her critical faculty to the greater portion of the volume—she is even inaccurate in her statement that "those in the first part who also appear in the second, I have regretfully restricted to one poem each." (In the case of Edna St. Vincent Millay, at least, this inaccuracy is a fortunate error.) But Miss Teasdale, who knows that this collection expresses neither her nor her times, should not have been content with a compromise that is scarcely more than a makeshift. She should have rearranged her material, ruthlessly rejected much of Part One, decided on new and logical divisions or none at all. A lesser poet might offer "The Answering Voice" in its present form, but not one from whom readers have a right to expect more.

This is not to say the collection is either flat or unprofitable. Within the self-imposed limitations of "love lyrics by women" there are a handful that bear the breath of permanence. Among these are Emily Dickinson's much-quoted but magnificent "Choice," Léonie Adam's illuminated "Twilight Revelation," Anna Wickham's terse "The Tired Woman," Adelaide Crapsey's "Dirge," the two sonnets by Edna Millay, Louise Bogan's "Men Loved Beyond Wisdom," Charlotte Mew's unforgettable agony, Jean Untermyer's concluding "Lake Song." For these, at least, we should be thankful. And when, eleven years from now, Miss Teasdale re-revises her collection, one hopes it will contain still more of her selective quality—and something by Sara Teasdale.

THE TINKER'S ROAD. By MARION ANGUS. London: Gowan's & Grey. 1928.

SUN AND CANDLELIGHT. By MARION ANGUS. Edinburgh: Porpoise Press.

Miss Marion Angus's volumes give poetry matured under Scotch mists, stout emotions, and eerie fancies, arrestingly held out from the heart of a woman peculiarly sensitized for folk articulation. Miss Angus is infallibly the poet of her own idiom—light words sing deeply her locality. In this period of self-conscious sophisticated poetry, these two distinctive volumes will come home to many natural poetry lovers.

POEMS. By S. R. Lysaght. Macmillan.

THE TURQUOISE TRAIL. By Alice Corbin Henderson. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.25.

LA FONTAINE'S FABLES. By Radcliffe Carter. Oxford University Press. \$1.50.

THE MASTER NATION AND OTHER POEMS. By Arthur Orison Dillon. Dillon Book Co., 102½ West A Street, Ontario, Calif.

KEATS AND MARY TIGHE. Edited by Earle Vonard Weller. Century. \$3.50.

ENGLISH VERSE. Chosen and arranged by W. Peacock. Vol. I (World's Classics). Oxford University Press. 80 cents.

NOCTURNES AND AUTUMNALS. By David Morton. Putnam. \$1.75.

BHIKSUGITA or THE MENDICANT'S SONG. Translated by Justin E. Abbott.

TRAVELING STANDING STILL. By Genevieve Taggard. Knopf. \$2.

CURSORY RHYMES. By Humbert Wolfe. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

FRENCH POETRY. Edited by Frances R. Angus. Scribners. \$1.25.

STONE DUST. By Frank Ernest Hill. Longmans, Green. \$2.

A SECOND BOOK OF POEMS INVOLVING LOVE. By S. H. Samuels. Published by the author.

THE LOST LYRIST. By Elizabeth Hollister Frost. Harpers. \$2.

HAFIZ. Translated by Clarence K. Seif. Viking. \$2.

RETREAT. By Edmund Blunden. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.75.

THE TRAVELLER'S BOOK OF VERSE. Edited by Frederick E. Simmons. Holt.

MAY HARVEST. By William Wharton. St. Louis, 551 Paul Brown Building.

(Continued on next page)