



Maurice Magre

**Every man and woman is more or less of a philosopher.**

Those who come under the heading of "more" rather than "less" are having the thrill of their lives reading

## The Kingdom of Lu by Maurice Magre

In Paris, London and New York, critics are hailing Maurice Magre and his irresistibly droll story of how Confucius, the father of all reformers, came, saw and was conquered in

## The Kingdom of Lu

Reformers have their trials and a rival philosopher, a girl, a yellow dog and a tramp cramped the great man's style. . . . And that terrible night when the edifice of propriety came toppling down in

## The Kingdom of Lu

"Maurice Magre has had the wit and grace to penetrate the facade of mediaeval China to the humanity behind it."—*N. Y. Times*.

"A vignette of philosophy and a beautiful piece of prose," writes Irwin Edman.

Ernest Rhys, distinguished editor of *Everyman Library* says: "In *The Kingdom of Lu* M. Magre has cast one of the great spiritual fables of the world into a satire, gay and sad, kind and cruel, whose like there has not been this many a long day."

Illustrated, \$2.50

## An Elizabethan Journal by G. B. Harrison



(The Amorous Heifer)

"A grand book," says Carl Van Doren. And it is.

A foul wizard, outwitted, finds a heifer on his doorstep instead of a languishing maiden and news-hungry London eats up the story. Elizabeth censoring a poem but ordering a complete collection, Marlowe accused of atheism, Raleigh disgraced, Essex on his high horse; witchcraft, grotesque cures for the plague, court scandal, popular executions.

"An Elizabethan Journal is an extremely vivid panorama of that quick and cruel, baleful and brilliant England in which Shakespeare painted his garden of laughter and wilderness of pain."—*London Observer*.  
Illustrated in photogravure, \$5.00.

Cosmopolitan Book Corporation

## The Wits' Weekly

Conducted by EDWARD DAVISON

**Competition No. 57.** A prize of fifteen dollars is offered for the best short song for May Day, 1929. (Entries should reach the *Saturday Review* office, 25 West 45th Street, New York City, not later than the morning of April 22.)

**Competition No. 58.** "What song the sirens sang," said Sir Thomas Browne, "is a matter not altogether beyond conjecture." A prize of fifteen dollars is offered for the best conjectured song or fragment of the song not exceeding twenty-four lines. (Entries should reach the *Saturday Review* office not later than the morning of May 6.)

Attention is called to the Rules printed below.

### COMPETITIONS Nos. 52 AND 55.

The first of these two competitions offered a prize of fifteen dollars for the best short rhymed poem called "Still Life." The seven outstanding entries were later printed on this page and a further prize was offered for the best critical review of them.

The prize for the poem called "Still Life" is awarded to Homer M. Parsons for the verses signed "Quince." These were printed in our issue of March 2.

Arthur Davison Ficke wins the prize for the best review of the "Still Life" poems. His entry follows.

### THE WINNING REVIEW

THERE were four possible ways of handling the problem:

(a) To describe a painting of fruit, flowers, or the like, seeking to convey only what the artist has put down.

(b) To describe, from life, a grouping of similar objects, without comment.

(c) The addition to either methods (a) or (b) of an element of human significance—a comment, a moral, or a symbolic meaning.

(d) The entire departure from the use of "Still Life" as a painter's phrase, and the use of it in some fresh meaning.

Method (b) would be the hardest to use supremely well; we had rather hoped to see some adventurous experiments along these lines. Not a single one, however, is included in our group. There were four (c)s, two (d)s, and one (a).

The award goes to "Apple," who uses Method (d), as follows:

"Still Life!" says youth. "And must we face again

This confused mixture of delight and pain?"

(Youth, that makes play with thoughts of suicide,  
Knows not how bitterly the old men died.)

It was quite legitimate for "Apple" to use the words "Still Life" in this sense. We like the way he at once makes the reader aware of their meaning. The poem is a good poem, expressing an illuminating intuition with brevity and precision.

"Grape Fruit," using Method (c), is second choice. His octave is so good that, had the writer ended the poem there, it would have been hard to decide between him and "Apple." But he goes on, with ever-diminishing emotional power—until his last two lines break down into a rather prosaic piece of intellectualization.

"Orange" employs Method (c); but his use of words is blurred, as when he refers to apples as a "vintage," and says that

Within a gilded frame lies pent  
The magic wine of love's content.

That is very clumsy writing; and I would not give it third place were it not that none of the remaining poems have any reality of feeling. This one has.

"Peach," starting with Method (a), spoils it at the end by smearing a little (c) on, and suddenly becoming witty, at the expense of her subject.

"Quince" tells a good tale of Kentucky mountaineers; but his use of Method (d) is bad, in that the obligatory title, "Still Life," applies to it only in a superficial manner; it is clever enough, but it is a mere charade.

"Nectarine," using Method (c), falls into sentimentality, and gets drowned. "Cherry," with the same method, produces a conventional picture that seems like an under-devel-

oped plate; the human element is introduced, but is not made effective.

ARTHUR DAVISON FICKE.

It is impossible to comment satisfactorily on the results of this reviewing contest because space does not allow the reprinting of the seven poems reviewed. These can be consulted in our issue of March 2. The competitors gave Cherry 17 votes, Quince 16, Peach 15, Grape and Orange 13 each, Nectarine 10, and Apple 5. Quince had already been earmarked as the winner; and the popular vote would have confirmed my choice of him but for the votes of one or two reviewers who, narrowly, I think, declined to interpret "Still Life" in any but the most obvious way.

Arthur Davison Ficke's kind words for Apple's somewhat didactic lines were badly needed. Too many reviewers seemed to miss their point. Perhaps they were right to recoil from the unnatural stress on the *con* in "This confused mixture of delight and pain." This does not appear to worry Mr. Ficke. But I think he is unfair in not allowing Quince the same liberty to twist the meaning of the title that he so freely allows to Apple. One interpretation is as justifiable as the other.

Ruth Mary Weeks, David Heathstone, and P. S. C. all wrote good reviews. Mr. Heathstone began by letting us into a secret—"The temptation has been strong to clip out Orange, Peach, Cherry, and Grape, cast them from the garret window, and award the prize to the one that floats farthest. In the days when Dr. Canby was our beloved professor it was said in some quarters that this method was in high favor with him, and used with notable success." This is a tip I shall learn to profit by. But Mr. Heathstone's choice of Orange does not do justice to that better taste which appears in the final paragraph of his review.

"Quince" cannot be discussed in the same vertical column as the others. It is too different. The truth is, a moonshine dialect song and

A blue eye squintin' down a long  
squirrel rifle

are irresistible to me, if well done, and this is. For days I could see no escape from giving it the prize. But I suspect Homer Parsons of being the Quince, who "does this sort of thing too often and too easily." For envy I couldn't award him another first. But I could and will give him "cum laude," and hope he will do the same sort of thing oftener and yet more easily, for it is delightful.

This is much the same thing that I felt myself, except that I didn't weaken. Mr. Parsons' poem was easily the most original of the batch; moreover, he had succeeded, more than the others, in doing what he set out to do.

Marshall Brice found Nectarine's poem the least imperfect of the seven. Others, rightly, objected to the drowned man "beholding things that are yet blind to us." It is the seer who is blind, not the thing he fails to see. John A. L. Odde was really unkind to Nectarine.

### RULES

Competitors failing to comply with the following rules will be disqualified. Envelopes should be addressed to Edward Davison, *The Saturday Review of Literature*, 25 West 45th Street, New York City. All MSS. must be legible—type-written if possible—and should bear the name or pseudonym of the author. Competitors may offer more than one entry. MSS. cannot be returned. The Editor's decision is final and *The Saturday Review* reserves the right to print the whole or part of any entry.

## New Crowell Books

### TWELVE BAD MEN

By Sidney Dark

A new point of view on some of the famous "villains" of history—Louis XI, Cesare Borgia, Cellini, Thomas Cromwell, Mazarin, Jeffreys, Marlborough, Frederick the Great, Casanova, Talleyrand, Fouche, Robespierre.

Illustrated \$3.00

### FAMOUS COMPOSERS

By Nathan Haskell Dole

Revised and Enlarged Edition

To this edition has been added a new chapter on Sullivan, 18 new portraits and a new index.

Illustrated \$3.75

### FAMOUS AMERICAN DUELS

By Don C. Seitz

Author of "The Also Rans"

A series of sharp vignettes which afford an illuminating study of the times in which honor asserted itself upon the field.

Illustrated \$3.50

### CHINA YESTERDAY AND TODAY

By E. T. Williams

(University of California)

Fourth Revised Edition

The standard work on China now brought down to the close of 1928.

Illustrated \$3.75

### THE NEW CITIZENSHIP

By Seba Eldridge

(University of Kansas)

A study of American politics, indifference to the ballot, the weakness of democracy, etc.

\$2.50

### PROTESTANTISM IN THE UNITED STATES

By Archer B. Bass, Th.D.

A history of denominationalism and a study of interdenominational co-operation. The only adequate book on the subject.

\$3.00

### AGELESS YOUTH

A Book on Beauty for Women

By Charlotte C. West, M.D.

"How to be beautiful" is an age-old question, answered by a physician and popular writer.

\$3.00

Send for Spring List

THOMAS Y. CROWELL CO.  
393 Fourth Avenue, New York



## 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.

### Belles Lettres

THE ENGLISH NOVEL. By FORD MADOX FORD. Lippincott. 1929. \$1.

This is the first volume of the "One Hour Series," which is to be a summing up of progress in various fields—medicine, psychology, music, the movies, as well as literature. If the series maintains the standard as set by Mr. Ford, it will be more ambitious than the general title indicates. Mr. Ford demands more than an hour. He is in no hurry to leave the mark, and all the way is leisurely in manner. In his own style there is a quality which he himself disparages—the author's personality distracts us a little, and we tend to admire his cleverness rather than attend to the next. But though this may be delaying, it does not mean that we are not going to get somewhere with him. His is a three-hour volume, and the last hour is the best. Two-thirds of the way through he catches sight of a winning post, strikes a new pace, and holds it. Those who desert before this will miss an amusing discussion of the Nuvvle and the Novel. The Nuvvle delighted Mr. Ford's grand-aunt Eliza, who made the famous saying: "Sooner than be idle I'd take a book and read." The Nuvvle is produced mainly by people "intent on proving they are gentlemen or on improving the ungente world." The Nuvvelist has little of the detachment and aloofness of the Novelist, who knows "that the story is the thing, and the story, and then the story, and that there is nothing else that matters in the world."

Mr. Ford hints that this is hardly the end of the distinction, and that discussion could go on a long time. Perhaps the introduction to it could have been shortened if some of the tempting sidepaths have been avoided. But it is certainly a ramble in the right direction, and nobody minds collecting a few burrs by the way.

### Biography

STEALING THROUGH LIFE. By ERNEST BOOTH. Knopf. 1929. \$3.

There is at present a vogue for the life stories of gunmen, slavers, fanatics, prostitutes, seamen, adventurers, and other such dubious characters. A topical, sensational interest is the most that can attach to them. Blurbs and ecstatic journalists to the contrary, they are never "epics," never "sagas," because, being written by untutored hands, they are never literature. Mr. Booth's narrative is no better or worse than its kind—except for the last chapter (published in *The American Mercury* as "We Rob a Bank"), which is so brilliant, original, and true that it seems the work of another writer. Stephen Crane never approached it in giving a fresh, vivid sense of reality.

### Fiction

DREAM BOAT. By NORVAL RICHARDSON. Little, Brown. 1929. \$2.

The events of this novel of adventure are either implausible or conventional. We have practically no interest in the sea-going love nest, in the exotic young lady's struggle with her hot gypsy blood, in the ultimate embrace of the lovers. Mr. Richardson does better with his backgrounds—Marseilles and adjacent rural France—than with character or plot. But those pleasant backgrounds are not enough to save the novel. Although written with genteel skill, "Dream Boat" is quite unimportant.

LOVE IN CHICAGO. By CHARLES WALT. Harcourt, Brace. 1929. \$2.50.

Presumably anything may happen in Chicago. Even so, this story of an underworld czar who forces his detestable attentions on a pure girl, murders her father, gets her lover convicted of the crime, and finally forces her to submit to his loathesome embrace in order to save her true love from the gallows—all this would be more convincing if it had been set to music by the earlier Verdi. Mr. Walt tells his story in diary form—the racketeer's diary. This gives opportunity for the exposition of an almost paranoiac character which would be highly valuable, if he had kept in character. Unfortunately the underworld slang of his diary is sprinkled with frequent phrases which are obviously the author's, not the narrator's; and the illusion is further shattered by the occasional intrusion of Mr. Walt's editorial opinions on the relation of crime and politics in Chicago, and the cure of both, which are hardly in character.

HAPPY EVER AFTER. By H. R. WAKEFIELD. Appleton. 1929. \$2.

We have found nothing to arouse enthusiasm in this exceedingly garrulous, tiresome, unsubstantial story of svelte Britishers pleasuring luxuriously at home and at smart Continental resorts. The boy hero, Cyril, musical genius of nineteen, who seems to us a perfect little lady, the inheritor of a vast fortune, is taken under the benign wing of an eminent barrister who proceeds to keep off the vultures and supervise the guileless lad's introduction to the world of wealth, art, and fashion. Mr. Wakefield should leave this kind of thing alone, and perhaps stick to his ghost stories, an excellent collection of which, "They Return at Evening," appeared a year or two ago.

THE INTELLECT IS A BRUTE. By SAMUEL H. ORDWAY, JR. Duffield. 1929. \$2.

This book is miscalled a novel; but in his allegory designed to prove the vanity of an intellectual approach to life, Mr. Ordway displays talents that suggest that he could write good novels. What can be done, he wonders, with a generation "whose heritage is romanticism, revolt, Victorianism, science, decadence, individualism, realism, and disillusion?" Well, what can be done with it is to take it, in the person of a young man named Lilan, through all these stages and a few more, each illustrated by copious quotations from the leading author-

ities. With Lilan goes Ariad, his sweetheart and then his wife; and here Mr. Ordway has created a living and engaging character. When Lilan finally settles down with a program which includes children, cocktails, dances at the Country Club, "faith in everything that thought does not show to be false, and thought about everything even though it be a faith"—a program not so different from the Victorian good-citizen philosophy of the late T. H. Green—Ariad is just setting off on some intellectual quests of her own, in the intervals between child-bearing and prettifying herself for parties. *Das ewig-Weibliche zieht sich hinan.* Mr. Ordway gives her three cheers, does not quite know where she is going, but feels confident that she will get there. The long and incessant dissections of ideas becomes wearisome; Mr. Ordway has sufficient talent to have done what he was trying to do in a novel of more conventional, and more readable, pattern.

THE PATIENT IN ROOM 18. By M. G. Eberhart. Crime Club. \$2 net.

THE CLUNY PROBLEM. By A. Fielding. Knopf. \$2.

THE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF MARY YOUNG. By Milton M. Propper. Harpers. \$2.

SIX MRS. GREENES. By Lorna Rea. Harpers. \$2.50.

BAD BOY: MODEL 1929. By Harold W. Brecht. Harpers. \$2.50.

THE YELLOW PIGEON. By Carmel Haden Guest. Dial. \$2.

THE MAYFAIR MURDER. By Henry Holt. Dial. \$2.

MIDWINTER. By John Buchan. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

LIV. By Kathleen Coyle. Dutton.

PASTEL. By Georgette Meyer. Longmans. \$2.

### Foreign

DE LA VIDA NORTE AMERICANA. By Antonio Heras. Scribners. 96 cents.

POÈMES D'AMÉRIQUE. By Jacques-Henri Pillonnel. Paris: Messin.

L'ARCHITECTURE LOMBARDE DE LA RENAISSANCE. By Charles Terrasse. Paris: Vanoest.

LE MOBILIER FRANÇAIS D'AUJOURD'HUI. By Pierre Olmer. Paris: Vanoest.

LA CÉRAMIQUE DU PAYS D'AUGE. By Etienne Deville. Paris: Vanoest.

LA MANUFACTURE DE JOUY ET LA TOILE IMPRIMÉE AU XVIII<sup>e</sup> SIÈCLE. By Heuri Clouet. Paris: Vanoest.

LE GOÛT DU MOYEN ÂGE EN FRANCE AU XVIII<sup>e</sup> SIÈCLE. By René Lanson. Paris: Vanoest.

LA DÉCORATION BYZANTINE. By André Grabar. Paris: Vanoest.

L'ART DÉCORATIF AU TEMPS DU ROMANTISME. By P. Schommer. Paris: Vanoest.

LES LAQUES D'EXTRÊME-ORIENT. By M. J. Ballot. Paris: Vanoest.

LA VERRERIE FRANÇAISE. By Léon Rosenthal. Paris: Vanoest.

LA RENAISSANCE DU MOBILIER FRANÇAIS. By Pierre Olmer. Paris: Vanoest.

DER KAMPF UMS MATTERHORN. By Carl Haemsel. Stuttgart: Gogeldorn Nachfolger.

WAHRHEIT UND WIRKLICHKEIT. By Otto Rank. Leipzig: Denticke.

LE PÈRE GORIOT. By Honoré de Balzac. Scribners. \$1.

HENRY FORD. By Roy del Ray. Detroit: Fodor Gyula Konyvin and Yomdajanah Myomasa.

DEUTSCHLAND'S GESUNDHEITSVERHÄLTNISSE UNTER DEM EINFLUSS DES WELTKRIEGS. By Dr. F. Bumm. 2 vols. Leipzig: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt. Yale University Press.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. By David Hutchinson. Grafton.

HOW ENGLAND IS GOVERNED. By Sir John A. R. Marriott. Oxford University Press.

(Continued on next page)

## NEW MACMILLAN BOOKS

### A Romance of the Northwoods PETER GOOD for NOTHING

By Darragh Aldrich

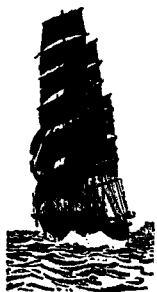
This story of the big lumber camps will hold you by its strength and atmosphere, its suspense and romantic moods. It is a thumping yarn in the vein and spirit of the logging camps. \$2.00



### A Novel with an Unusual Theme TREADMILL

By Lola Jean Simpson

School-teaching and the educational foundry in which America's children are molded or broken is the background of this dramatic story. Every parent should read it. \$2.00



### INTO THE WIND

By Richard Warren Hatch

"The story of a picturesque community and of one strong personality... although it carries as much physical action as you're likely to find in the more glamorous of thrillers, the novel remains a novel of character... a man's novel which women might very easily take to their hearts." *Walter Yust in Philadelphia Ledger.* \$2.00

### THE NATURE OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD

By A. S. Eddington FOURTH LARGE PRINTING

"There could scarcely be a more admirable exposition of the content of recent physical science... Too much cannot be said of the lucidity, the grace and humor... an incredibly intelligent account... a luminous and beautiful book." *New York Times.* \$3.75

### Evolution of Art By Ruth de Rochemont

"A book for the layman as well as a book full of much valuable information for the artist and art expert... a thing of art itself." *Washington Post.* \$6.00



### Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria

By Joseph Redlich  
SECOND LARGE PRINTING

"Easily one of the most important contributions to permanent and substantial biographical literature which has appeared in recent years." *Harry Elmer Barnes.* \$5.00

### Important Books on Public Affairs

### The Mighty Medicine

By Franklin H. Giddings

One of America's foremost sociologists examines the role of the "medicine man" in ancient cultures and our modern educational systems and theories. It is a fearless, provocative discussion for every thinking American citizen. \$2.00

### Aims of Education

By Alfred North Whitehead

Author of *Science and the Modern World* Professor Whitehead cuts a clean path through the modern educational scene for the reader who is bewildered by conflicting opinions and theories. He covers, in this stimulating book, both the purpose of education and the place of various subjects in the curriculum. \$2.50

### America's Naval Challenge

By Frederick Moore

A dispassionate and revelatory account of America's naval policy and where it is taking us in international affairs. \$1.50

### The Balkan Pivot Yugoslavia

By Charles A. Beard and George Radin

"A study... of the region which for generations has been fruitful of the seeds of international conflict has a special value at this time." *New York Evening Post.* \$2.50

### The Litany of Washington Street

VACHEL LINDSAY'S New Book

"Deliciously different from anything published in a thousand years... Somebody should offer a prize to the person who can find one dull paragraph in this book—it won't cost a cent." *St. Louis Globe Democrat.* \$3.00



### A SAGA of the SWORD

By F. Britten Austin

Mars marches through the ages in this exciting story of warfare from prehistoric cavemen to the tanks of 1917. There is a thread of strong human interest through these tales of conquest, intrigue and adventure. \$2.50

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

60 Fifth Avenue

New York