

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.

Art

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SCULPTURE. California Palace of the Legion of Honor. ART AND EDUCATION. By a Group of Authors. Barnes Foundation.

Belles Lettres

ART AND CIVILIZATION. Edited by F. S. Marion and A. F. Clutton-Brock. Oxford. \$4.75. CREATIVE WRITING. By William Wekter Ellisworth. Funk & Wagnalls. \$2. COLLECTED ESSAYS. By W. H. Hadow. Oxford University Press. SHAKESPEARE AND HIS FELLOW DRAMATISTS. Edited by E. H. C. Oliphant. Prentice-Hall. 2 vols. \$4 each. IMPERISHABLE DREAMS. By Lynn Harold Hough. Abingdon. \$1.75. ALEXANDER POPE AS CRITIC AND HUMANIST. By Austin Warren. Princeton University Press. CONTEMPORARY ESSAYS. Edited by Odell Shepard. Scribners. \$1. LABELS AND LIBELS. By Dean Inge. Harpers. \$2.

Biography

THE DIARY OF DOSTOIEVSKY'S WIFE. Edited by RENÉ FÜLÖP-MILLER and DR. F. R. ECKSTEIN. Translated from the German by MADGE PEMBERTON. Macmillan. 1928. \$7.

Madame Dostoevsky's diary covers the period from April 14, 1867, when she and her husband left St. Petersburg for a tour abroad, to August 13 of that year, when they were in Geneva. They stayed from May to June in Dresden and from June to August in Baden-Baden, the trip being a sort of wedding journey, for they had but recently contracted their marriage—the second for Dostoevsky. Originally written in shorthand, as a record for her mother, Madame Dostoevsky's notes of the honeymoon were transcribed almost thirty years later. Enough of their freshness remains to make fascinating reading.

Through the diary stalks Dostoevsky, now raging, now kissing, no hero, but mere husband to his wife. Only once does she mention his work. On the whole she is occupied with the price of tea, and cheese, and dinner, with the "stupidity and dishonesty of the Germans," and with "Fiodor" as a companion.

A very prosaic and practical young person she was, this twenty-year-old wife of the author of "Crime and Punishment," but she had intelligence and she had mettle. In the fourteen years of their marriage she grew to take her place by her husband's side as helpmate in the true sense of the word, and his last years were softened by her loving kindness and practical helpfulness. In this chronicle of the first few months of their relationship is foreshadowed the development of the plastic young girl under the influence of her husband into the strong woman.

The rôle of Dostoevsky's wife was not an easy one. She had to be patient with the extreme irritability which would take place after her husband had suffered an epileptic fit, and she had to bear with a veritable fever of gambling, which took hold of him for ten years. He was in such need of money that it seemed to him that only in roulette could he see his way out. He lost his last penny and hers, he pawned his watch and overcoat, he pawned her earrings and brooch and scarf, he called himself miserable and wretched, he fell at her feet and begged for forgiveness, and then took her last penny again. And she had, in addition, to bear with the discovery of a lively correspondence with the one love of his life, Pauline Souslova, yet through it all she behaved with dignity and love. After fifty years of struggle and difficulties she could write, "Lord! why hast Thou given me such a happy life? Lord, how shall I thank Thee for it?"

Drama

STAGE LIGHTING. By THEODORE FUCHS. Little, Brown. 1928. \$10.

Adolph Appia was the first of the modern stage designers to interpret in terms of light changing mood values in theatrical performance. Today subtle and atmospheric lighting is expected in all of our better theatrical productions. For over three decades, since Appia's innovations, lighting experts abroad and in this country have been perfecting, not only the lighting instruments themselves, but also a more facile control of these instruments, and at the same time increasing their flexibility to meet the growing demands of designers and producers. Until this book, "Stage Lighting," by Theodore Fuchs, appeared, little of genuine significance or value had been written on this

important element in theatrical productions today. The book is designed to fill a dual rôle—to serve the designer and technician in the theater. "The more technical the artist, and the more artistic the technician, the more reasonable will be the demands of the former and the more satisfactory will be the execution of the latter."

"Stage Lighting" should serve as a text book in all schools of the theatre, and as a handbook for every technician in the amateur and professional theatre. Mr. Fuchs, unlike many who write of and for the amateur in the theatre, never questions his reader's capacity to comprehend a clear-cut scientific definition when his material demands it. Consequently there remains no mystery, for instance, at the outset as to the identity of a watt, a volt, or an ampere, and where words might not always clarify, the author relies on copious, well-drawn illustrations. The material is arranged in a convenient, natural order, and well augmented with original lists and bibliographies. Such objects as electricity, light, color, equipment, and control are analyzed vividly (Continued on next page)



OUR REVOLUTIONARY FOREFATHERS

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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY ~ 60 FIFTH AVENUE ~ NEW YORK

UNDERSTANDING WOMEN

A letter to the Publisher, from the former editor of "Life"

Dear Mr. Holt:

I congratulate you on the publication of UNDERSTANDING WOMEN, by Dr. Wieth-Knudsen. I am reading it with the most intense interest and pleasure. It is by far the best book on woman published since Schopenhauer, and he did not get her. I have read most of the literature on this subject, I have two daughters of my own and have been surrounded by and have studied women all my life. This book is very keen. It has humor of the right sort. It is splendidly translated, a book of very clear intelligence. These Norwegians have it over on us in so many ways. It is a great book.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS L. MASSON
(Signed)

For Men Who Would Like To Know The Facts - and Women Who Can Stand Hearing Them

IS the high degree of respect and deference that American and European men pay to women absurd—and a bad thing for women, for society and for civilization? An eminent Danish scientist, Dr. K. A. Wieth-Knudsen, who has devoted years to the study of women, believes it is. And he believes that an honest, frank, unsentimental understanding of women based on the findings of biology, psychology, and anthropology is the only means by which men can recover a natural, reasonable outlook on the female of the species.

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DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, 449 Fourth Avenue, New York

The New Books

Drama

(Continued from preceding page)

and with authoritative conviction—"which makes the nature of the volume essentially that of a hand book—a practical manual of application"—all of which is exactly what those who work in the theatre need most.

THE MISANTHROPE OF MOLIÈRE.
Translated by WILLIAM F. GIESE.
Houghton Mifflin. 1928.

IT may fairly be doubted whether Professor Giese has translated "Le Misanthrope," but at least he has succeeded in bridging the abyss which separates lovers of Shakespeare and lovers of Molière. By adding a dash of Elizabethan fancy to Gallic reason he has given English readers the opportunity to enjoy thoroughly a play which has always seemed lifeless in our language. When he pleases, he can render Molière's lines in spirited Queen Anne style, a trifle more scintillating than the original. Here, for example, is Célimène's reply to Alceste, who has discovered complete evidence of her double dealing:

What means this rhapsody on tides and treason?

Good sir—I half suspect you've lost your reason.

Molière wrote:

D'où vient donc, je vous prie, un tel emportement?

Avez-vous, dites-moi, perdu le jugement?

At times, without warning, Professor Giese takes flight on Elizabethan wings. It is something of a surprise to hear Philinte, who in the original is good sense incarnate, blossom out in lines like these:

*Her nature's gentle, and slow moving time
Has smoothed it to perfection. What sweet rhyme*

Could rhyme her sweetness, or what tongue recite

That patient love that would outwatch the night

And sing the stars to sleep. . . .

Of this, of course, there is no suggestion in Molière. Even in the prose letters of the last act, a similar tendency appears: "Notre grand flandrin de vicomte, par qui vous commencez vos plaintes . . ." is rendered, "As for our lubberly viscount, whom you make the head and front of my offending. . . ." But enough! It would be churlish indeed to berate a maker or remaker through whose skill a masterpiece has become a source of delight to new readers. Doubtless, in the Elysian Fields, Molière and Shakespeare are congratulating each other on this fusion of their muses.

AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS OF TODAY. By Burns

Manile. Dodd, Mead. \$3.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC. By Edmond Rostand.

Done into English Verse by Brian Hooker.

Modern Library. 95 cents.

FANTASIO. By Alfred de Musset. Translated

by Maurice Baring. Pleiad.

Education

SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF CHILDHOOD.

By PAUL HANLY FURFEY. Macmillan. 1929. \$2.25.

The purpose of this book as set forth in the preface is "to give an account of the community's attack on the social problems of childhood." Its purpose has been adequately and accurately fulfilled, without partisanship. The author reviews critically the scientifically developed methods of meeting problems which have arisen as the result of our shifting civilization for the preschool child, for the older child at home, in the schools, at work, or at play, and for delinquent, defective, and dependent children. The book will undoubtedly be useful not only as a textbook for students interested in children from the sociological aspect (to whom the bibliographies should be of special interest) but also to community officers who are interested in reviewing local facilities for meeting children's social problems.

SELECTIONS FROM ALEXANDER POPE. Edited by George Sherburn. Nelson.

AN OUTLINE OF WORLD LITERATURE. By Edgar C. Knowlton. Nelson.

GATEWAY TO ENGLISH LITERATURE. By Benjamin A. Heydrich. Noble & Noble. \$1.35.

Fiction

THE LADDER OF FOLLY. By MURIEL HINE. Appleton. 1929. \$2.

The gracefully written story of a young English girl's transition, by experiences both happy and disillusioning, from immaturity to a full consciousness of life, this novel is

one of the few by Miss Hine which approaches distinction. Its demure heroine, Ann Massingby, gently-born daughter of a British India official, had been carefully reared in England, apart from her parents, by two elderly aunts. When still profoundly ignorant of the world, she goes to London under the chaperonage of a dissolute cousin, and there, after a hectic season spent with a fast young set, is saved from the smirch of scandal by her older relatives' intervention. Though all this while in love with an American college professor, Ann's affections vacillate to an Armenian adventurer whom she trusts implicitly. But this smooth blackguard entices her into a compromising situation, nearly contrives her forcible seduction, brutally robs her, and causes the girl a prolonged illness which is nearly fatal. A seriously conceived, admirably executed, and restrained novel, it is one which should prove particularly attractive to feminine readers.

THE DEVIL BEATS HIS WIFE. By BEN WASSON. Harcourt, Brace. 1929. \$2.

This first novel by Mr. Wasson, a story of the South, is not successful. The trouble is not hard to find, for as we read we are conscious that the material is thin, the characterization superficial, the flow of the story a mere trickle. So many effective novels of the South have been written recently that we sense the weakness of "The Devil Beats His Wife" all the more acutely. Mr. Wasson usually concerns himself with conventional material, and when he is a trifle original he is uninteresting. The narrative tells of a Southern woman who commits adultery with a passing Yankee; the old negro servant, Aunt Ann, is disgusted at the fact that the adultery was with a Yankee, not at the fact of the adultery itself. This Aunt Ann is the central character of the novel; we feel that the portrait of her is that of almost any conventional family servant. Mr. Wasson has not written here anything that will either interest or satisfy an intelligent modern reader.

KIF: AN UNVARNISHED HISTORY.
By GORDON DAVIOT. Appleton. 1929. \$2.50.

When Archibald Vicar (Kif to his friends) returned to civil life after four years in the army he was not yet twenty. His enlistment in December of 1914 was not due to patriotic fervor, but to a boyish revolt against the unutterable tedium of a farm hand's life whose only high lights were rare trips to the neighboring market town on errands for the farmer's wife and the devouring of threepenny "thrillers." An orphan, never having experienced the humanizing influences or the discipline of family life, meagerly educated, and thrown into close association with men of every conceivable background in early adolescence—here is material for a soul analysis, and for tragedy.

London first cast its spell on the boy who had never, before his first leave, seen a city. A trip to Kempton Park with a brother in arms and Kif discovered that horse racing gave him a thrill beyond all others. He placed money with a countryman's shrewdness and knowledge of horse-flesh on a long shot, and won. Paradoxically enough, Kif's contact with women in the army was limited to a charming, idealistic episode in France. It was only afterward in the prosaic world of affairs that he stumbled. Though in the Army he had never risen above the grade of private, after demobilization with his hundred pounds gratuity he was able to purchase a partnership in a bookmaking establishment, indulge his love of the races to the full, and enjoy several months of affluence. When the inevitable crooked partner absconded Kif was left penniless.

To call this a picaresque novel, though its hero lapses into crime and the record of his criminal operations fills the latter half of the book, would be to strain the term. The author manages to convey the essential fineness of a very young man ruined by circumstances. The 353 pages might with advantage have been considerably compressed.

SURRENDER. By J. C. SNAITH. Appleton. 1928. \$2.

Young Dorland and a wandering Englishman whom we know only as "Jimsmit," desert one dark night from *la légion étrangère* in Sidi-bel-Abbès, beat their way across the Sahara to Cairo, and finally drag back to England on a freighter. But the battle is then only half won. The two men had grown into a strange dependence on each other that was far from comfortable in England, no matter how useful it had been